

Monumental # Women

September 15, 2019

New York City Public Design Commission
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear PDC Members and Staff:

The National Collaborative for Women's History Sites (Collaborative) is a non-profit organization established to support and promote the preservation and interpretation of sites and locales that bear witness to women's participation in American history. On the behalf of the Collaborative I am writing to strongly support the immediate approval of the Monumental Women Statue to be placed in Central Park.

For the past six years, Monumental Women's Statue Fund, an all-volunteer, not-for-profit group, has fought to honor Women's Rights Pioneers by breaking the bronze ceiling to create the first statue of real women in the nearly 166-year history of Central Park. They are also fighting to promote the knowledge of women's vast and varied accomplishments.

Due to the significant media coverage of the Monumental Women Statue endeavor and the inspirational women they represent a tsunami is happening across the country as communities are enthusiastically erecting statues to honor their own local suffrage leaders in commemoration of the Suffrage Centennial. Additionally, as the word spreads more and more people are excited about actually coming to NYC for the unveiling of the Women's Rights Pioneers Monument. We all must understand how important it is for girls to have role models in order to imagine what might be possible for them. What does it say to little girls and little boys to walk through Central Park and not see even one real woman honored with a statue? Now Monumental Women is giving the City a chance to honor three extraordinary women who worked together to win for women the right to vote.

Thanks to Monumental Women, the Women's Rights Pioneers Monument honoring New Yorkers Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton must be

unveiled on August 26, 2020 in celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment when women won the constitutional right to vote. The powerful story this statue tells is how women of different races, religions, and economic status worked together to fight for justice and equality for all.

Monumental Women and sculptor Meredith Bergmann have deadlines and schedules for the completion of this historic monument that must be kept. The Collaborative strongly urges you to vote now to approve the Women's Rights Pioneers Monument and do everything you can to support Monumental Women's plan for a historic 2020 celebration. The nation is eagerly awaiting your decision!!

Sincerely,

Marsha Weinstein
President, National Collaborative for Women's History Sites

