



www.italianvillagesociety.org  
P.O.Box 8001, Columbus, Ohio 43201  
June 18, 2014

Betsy Pandora  
Short North Alliance  
21 E. Fifth Ave Columbus, Ohio 43201

Regarding: Italian Village Society support of the removal of the Limestone Sofa

Dear Betsy,

The Italian Village Society fully supports Short North Alliance's decision to remove the Limestone Sofa that is currently located on High Street in the Short North and have it repaired and placed in a location where it can be protected and still be viewed as public art. It is very unfortunate that this piece of art has become a focal point for loitering, public drinking and a cause for safety concerns. In addition the piece is being damaged and is continually covered in grime.

We would also like to reiterate our full support of appropriate public art projects and commend the Short North Alliance for its efforts in increasing public art in the Short North.

Sincerely,

Larry Totzke, President  
Italian Village Society

Betsy A. Pandora, Executive Director, Short North Association

June 17,2014

Dear Betsy,

After meeting with you last week and reviewing the current condition of the limestone sculpture I created for the Greenwood Park in the Short North District in 2004, I propose the following action be taken.

The sculpture (lets just call it the *Sofa*) should be removed from Greenwood Park until the social environment might change enough to allow it to be appreciated as originally intended. This move must be carried out by experienced professionals that will not cause any additional damage to the piece.

The Sofa could then be transported to the studio workspace available to me at Folk Hall, the Myers School of Art at the University of Akron.

I will contribute my time, knowledge and effort to make the best possible restoration of the surface of the Sofa to its original condition. The physical damage to the stone and the multiple stains created by unknown combinations of materials make total, perfect restoration impossible and make an estimate of the time that will be required difficult.

I would not undertake this work if I did not believe the Sofa can be saved and can be restored to near new condition. I can offer to send images of the restoration progress to the Short North Association and would recommend that someone from the association inspect the work before transporting it back to Columbus. If the restoration work reveals unforeseen damage or complications, I would communicate with the association before making any significant changes to the Sofa.

If possible I will complete the work this year. Because the work will be done outdoors under a protective canopy, it would need to be completed before the onset of winter. Cold temperatures might also make the use of solvents and cleaning materials impractical. If the work can not be completed this year, I would need to make August 2015 the deadline so that the work space in Akron can be cleared for other projects.

On completion of the restoration project, the Sofa will be transported back to Columbus for installation at an appropriate location.

I am willing to offer advice on the re-installation.

I am not requesting compensation for my work to restore the Sofa.

The cost of materials and supplies used in the restoration process should be covered by the association. I will provide documentation of any purchases.

I look forward to working with you to help make the most out of the investment you have made in my work and the Short North.

Thanks,  
Robert Huff



June 17, 2014

Betsy Pandora  
Short North Alliance  
21 E. Fifth Ave  
Columbus, Ohio 43201

Regarding: **SNCA support of the removal of the Limestone Sofa**

Dear Betsy,

The Short North Civic Association fully supports the removal of the Limestone Sofa that is currently located on High Street in the Short North. It is very unfortunate that a piece of art has become a detriment to the neighborhood but the current location encourages loitering, public drinking, and creates safety concerns. In addition the piece is being damaged and is continually covered in grime. We feel that a more suitable, less public location should be found for the piece if and when it can be repaired and cleaned.

We would also like to reiterate our full support of appropriate public art projects and commend the Short North Alliance for its efforts in increasing public art in the Short North.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Smith".

Jeff Smith  
President, Short North Civic Association



**SID**  
Short North  
Special Improvement  
District

June 17, 2014

Lori Baudro, AICP  
Project Coordinator  
Columbus Planning Division  
50 Gay Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Ms. Baudro:

The Short North Special Improvement District was responsible for the instillation of the piece known as The Limestone Sofa ten years ago. It holds a maintenance agreement for the piece and for Greenwood Park with the City of Columbus through 2016.

Over the last several years, the piece has become the collector point for panhandlers and others who continuously abuse the public artwork and intimidate visitors. As of late, we have seen an increase in particularly negative incidences and we feel that in order to save the art work and prevent something worse from happening, that the piece must be removed and the park augmented so as to discourage loitering.

We have directed the Short North Alliance to address the issue as quickly as possible and therefore are supportive of the temporary removal of the artwork, its restoration by the artist, and its relocation to an area where people may enjoy it for years to come off of High Street.

Sincerely,

Ricky Day  
President  
Short North Special Improvement District