



THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
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# ADVISORY REPORT

<b>ISSUE DATE:</b> 06/14/24	<b>EXPIRATION DATE:</b> 6/14/2030	<b>DOCKET #:</b> LPC-24-05546	<b>SRA</b> SRA-24-05546
<b>ADDRESS:</b> CENTRAL PARK		<b>BOROUGH:</b> Manhattan	<b>BLOCK/LOT:</b> 1111 / 1
GRAND ARMY PLAZA, PULITZER FOUNTAIN Grand Army Plaza, Scenic Landmark Grand Army Plaza, Scenic Landmark			

To the Mayor, the Council, and the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation,

This report is issued pursuant to Section 25-318 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, which requires a report from the Landmarks Preservation Commission for plans for the construction, reconstruction, alteration, or demolition of any improvement or proposed improvement which is owned by the City or is to be constructed upon property owned by the City and is or is to be located on a landmark site or in a historic district or which contains an interior landmark.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission has reviewed a proposal for exterior work at a fountain (Pulitzer Fountain) located within Grand Army Plaza between West 58th Street and West 59th Street, including, selectively temporarily removing and reinstalling granite components (i.e. veneer, copings, side walls, spouts) at the fountain basins and side channels ("troughs"), and limestone bollards on top of the side wall at southern portion of the fountain in conjunction with removing concrete cladding at the inboard sides of select fountain basin walls, concrete topping at the bottom of the basins, and the underlying modern waterproofing, unspecified modern infill, and waterlogged limestone remnants of the original basin floor; excavating below a portion of the fountain, creating a maintenance tunnel, in conjunction with installing a metal access hatch at bluestone paving at the section of the terrace to the south of the fountain; replacing plumbing equipment, concealed within and beneath the fountain, with new plumbing equipment; and installing concrete cladding at the inboard sides of select basin walls and concrete topping at the bottom of the basins and side channels, tinted to match the granite, in conjunction with replacing existing modern up-lights within the concrete coping with smaller brushed stainless steel lights; slightly shaving back portions of granite spouts, associated with improving the water flow; temporarily removing and reinstalling the bronze sculpture ("Pomona") at the top of the fountain in conjunction with stripping existing paint and coatings using chemical strippers, hand tools, and water rinses; re-patinating, with chemicals; and re-applying lacquer and wax finish coats, as well as restorative work throughout the

salvaged/reinstalled and existing in-situ elements at the fountain, the raised terrace/landing at the southern side of the fountain, and adjoining steps, including repointing masonry joints; cleaning masonry using chemical cleaners and low pressure water rinses; repairing limestone, granite, and bluestone with patching compounds and hand tools to smooth out minor chips, as needed; selectively replacing limestone, granite, and bluestone units in-kind, as needed; temporarily removing and reinstalling the iron chains between the limestone bollards on the south end of the fountain in conjunction with repairing the chains by replacing fasteners and gaskets and repainting them black; and selectively lifting and resetting granite steps and/or replacing them in-kind in conjunction with installing concealed waterproofing under the steps, as described and shown in existing condition and historic photographs; product specifications sheets; written specifications for materials and methods; a conservation treatment proposal document dated November 2023 and prepared by Building Conservation Associates Inc. and Fluidity; a cleaning test report dated March 2024 and prepared by Building Conservation Associates; a letter dated February 26, 2024 and prepared by Central Park Conservancy; e-mails dated May 28, 2024, June 5, 2024, and June 6, 2024 and prepared by Diane Jackier Kestenbaum; and drawings labeled T-001.00, G-001.00, V-001.0.0, V-002.00, V-003.00, L-201.00, L-501.00, L-502.00, FO-001.00, FO-012.00, FO-111.00, FO-211.00, FO-311.00, FO-312.00, FO-321.00, FO-322.00, FO-511.00, FO-512.00, SOE-001.00, SOE-002.00, SOE-003.00, SOE-004.00, SOE-005.00, SOE-006.00, SOE-201.00, SOE-301.00, SOE-501.00, E-001.00, E-002.00, E-003.00, E-102.00, E-103.00, E-203.00, E-204.00, E-205.00, E-206.00, E-501.00, E-601.00, P-001.00, P-002.00, P-003.00, P-101.00, P-102.00, P-103.00, P-201.00, P-202.00, P-203.00, P-204.00, W-001.00, W-201.00, W-202.00, W-203.00, W-204.00, W-301.00, W-302.00, W-303.00, W-501.00, W-502.00, W-503.00, W-505.00, R-000.00, R-101.00, R-102.00, R-103.00, R-201.00, R-301.00, R-302.00, R-501.00, R-502.00, R-503.00, and R-600.00, dated June 5, 2024, and prepared by Central Park Conservancy, Liro Engineers, Inc., Building Conservation Associates, Inc., Fluidity Design Consultants, Irrigation Consulting, Inc., and Cline Bettridge Bernstein Lighting, all submitted as components of the application.

In reviewing this proposal, the Commission notes that the Grand Army Plaza Designation Report describes Grand Army Plaza as a plaza, designed by Carrere & Hastings, and constructed between 1913 and 1916. The Commission further notes that the Pulitzer Fountain, within the southern section of the plaza, was designed by the Architect Thomas Hastings and the sculptors Karl Bitter, Karl Gruppe, and Orazio Piccirilli, and completed in 1916; that the limestone floors and walls of the fountain basins were replaced with marble in 1933-35; that the limestone at the steps near the south side of the fountain, and at the taller central basin were replaced with granite circa 1970s-1980s; and that the remaining marble basin and channel components were replaced with granite components in the 1990s. Additionally, the Commission notes that Commission Report 86-0002 was issued on July 31, 1985, reviewing a proposal for repairing and/or replacing masonry at the fountain, installing up-lights at the fountain topping, recreating missing masonry architectural elements throughout the plaza, the replacement of plaza paving and site furnishings, and plumbing and planting work.

With regard to this proposal, the Commission finds that certain aspects of the work are in accordance with the provisions set forth in Title 63 of the Rules of the City of New York, Section 2-11 for Repair, Restoration, Replacement, and Re-creation of Building Facades and Related Exterior Elements, including Section 2-11(c)(1) for cleaning or removal of paint and coatings, Section 2-11(c)(3) for pointing mortar joints, and Section 2-11(c)(4) for repair of natural or cast stone; Section 2-11(c)(2)(i) for painting facades and features that were originally or historically painted, and Section 2-11(d)(1)(i) for in-kind material replacement; and Section 2-16(c) for Excavation Work. Furthermore, with regard to these or other aspects of the work, the Commission finds that the in-kind replacement of the concrete topping and cladding will maintain simply designed surfaces at the inboard sides and bottom of the fountain basins and channels in keeping with the original design; that the replacement up-lights will be small in size, simply designed, neutral in finish, and flush mounted with the topping, helping them to remain a discrete presence and not overwhelm or detract from the fountain; that the waterlogged limestone remnants are currently concealed

from view and their removal is necessary for the construction of a sound and waterproof base beneath the basins; and that the proposed finish for the sculpture will be compatible with the finish palette and hierarchical organization of the plaza and in keeping with finishes historically found at bronze sculptures of this age. Based on these findings, the Commission has determined that the work is appropriate to the site.

**SAMPLES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED:** The Commission's review of installed sample mockups at locations requiring repair, prior to the commencement of work, is requested. A new docket number will be provided by the Commission staff, and the following requested specific samples will be identified in a Materials Checklist: Limestone, granite, and bluestone patching and in-kind unit replacement, and repointing. Additionally, the Commission requests notification of the temporary storage location for the historic masonry as soon as this is finalized.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Paving and associated sitework, as previously reviewed under Commission Advisory Report 14-4721 (LPC 14-2592), issued on June 3, 2013, and subsequently modified per a binding review by the Public Design Commission (PDC), is also shown on the approved materials.

Please see Title 63 of the Rules of the City of New York for complete text of any cited Rule section(s): <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/lpc/applications/rules-guides.page>

This report is issued on the basis of the building and site conditions described in the application and disclosed during the review process. By accepting this permit, the applicant agrees to notify the Commission if the actual building or site conditions vary or if original or historic building fabric is discovered. The Commission reserves the right to amend or revoke this permit, upon written notice to the applicant, in the event that the actual building or site conditions are materially different from those described in the application or disclosed during the review process.

All approved drawings are marked approved by the Commission with a perforated seal indicating the date of approval. The work is limited to what is contained in the perforated documents. Other work or amendments to this filing must be reviewed and approved separately. This report constitutes the permit; a copy must be prominently displayed at the site while work is in progress. Please direct inquiries to Dina Posner.

Sarah Carroll  
Chair

**cc:** Bernadette Artus, Deputy Director; Diane Jackier Kestenbaum, Central Park Conservancy