



# Annie Stewart Fountain

2024 Recap of actions & next steps

# History of the Annie Stewart Memorial Fountain



- Designed by Frederick J. Clasgens
- Completed in 1925
- A gift from the Stewart family to the Madison Park and Pleasure Drive Association in memory of Annie who succumbed to suicide in 1905
- Located at what was once the entrance to the zoo, adjacent to catalogued Vilas Park Burial Mound Group (BDA-0270).

# Past Steps

- 2017 InSite Consulting Architects Report
- 2020 survey conducted by the Greenbush Neighborhood Association
- 2020 discussion with Bill Quackenbush, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
- 2021 survey conducted by the Greenbush Neighborhood Association
- 2022 Conservation of Sculpture & Objects Studio, inc. (CSOS) hired to produce a conservation report, which includes:
  - Laser scan
  - Ground penetrating radar report
  - Condition assessment
- 2023 Community Survey
- 2023 July Community Meeting, Staff Feedback

# Consensus from 2023 meetings

- MAC voted 8/30/2023 to Issue a Request for Proposals for a conservation team.
- The conservator would de-install, transport, and conserve the marble sculpture.
- The sculpture would then be stored until a purpose-built structure might be created, potentially at Vilas park (~10 years) with the goal of keeping the work connected to the zoo.
- When re-installed, a simple base or replica base would be created, pending funding and space.
- The City would demolish the material left behind on the site in coordination with the Ho-Chunk nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office to not further impact the adjacent mounds.

# 2024 Proposal from Neighborhood House

- Neighborhood House is planning to build a new facility at their existing location (29 S Mills St, Madison, WI 53715).
- Neighborhood House could wrap the costs of the necessary support structure into their capital campaign.
- Sculpture would be installed in a 1400 sqft room open to the public with exhibit space on Greenbush history.
- They would like to restore the fountain to be functional.
- They would like to loan the sculpture for a longer term (minimum 20 years).

# Process

- Madison Arts Commission (MAC) will review reports, survey results, public comments, etc. and make a recommendation at a public meeting.
- MAC recommendation will be reviewed by various commissions and committees, and ultimately voted on by Common Council.
- Staff will draft & issue an RFQ for a conservator to begin by retrieving, conserving, and storing the work until it is ready to be moved to its next home.
- Staff will coordinate efforts with Annie Stewart Fountain Working Group.

Email questions & comments to [madisonarts@cityofmadison.com](mailto:madisonarts@cityofmadison.com)

# Frequently Asked Questions

- **Has the decision already been made?**

*No. At this time, almost anything is possible. The public can provide input [via email](#) and by attending public meetings.*

- **What is non-negotiable at this time?**

*1) Doing nothing and leaving it to further deteriorate & 2) Returning it to a functional fountain*

- **Why didn't the survey ask about leaving it as is (doing nothing)?**

*CSOS determined that due to the condition of the sculpture leaving it to further deteriorate is not an option. The City has a responsibility to care for the public art collection, and there are concerns about it posing a safety hazard.*

- **Where did the idea for a replica come from (it is not in the matrix)?**

*The 2023 survey results revealed community interest in recreating the original and situating it near the entrance to the zoo, in order to retain this historical connection. This was not an option proposed on the original matrix.*

- **What will happen to the tritons in storage?**

*We do not have any components in storage. All the City has is what is on the site. The tritons that we know previously existed are missing, and presumed stolen/lost.*

- **What will happen with any material left behind on the site?**

*If the sculpture is moved, any concrete or limestone left above the foundation pad may be removed and disposed of following city policies & procedures. All ground disturbing activities will be determined in consultation with tribal leaders and the Wisconsin Historical Society.*

# CSOS Matrix & Recommendations

Based on feedback from community meetings, surveys, and conservation analysis, CSOS recommends:

1. Retain the original marble sculpture, conserve it, and move it to an interior location where it can be available to the public for viewing (est. \$175,000-\$305,000).
2. Create a replica using the provided laser scan information. Locate this replica at the entrance of the Henry Vilas Zoo at Vilas Park to reestablish this historical connection (est. \$697,000).

Annie Stewart Memorial Fountain - Repair Matrix			
	Repair In Place	Relocate Indoors	Relocate Outdoors
Minimal Repairs	Not, feasible, safety hazard	Remove marble, clean, simple base, install indoors  \$90k dismantle, transport marble \$10-15k cleaning \$25-35k new simple base No foundation if floor supports load \$50-70k reinstallation	Remove marble, clean, simple base, install outdoors  \$90k dismantle, transport marble \$10-15k cleaning \$25-35k new simple base \$15k new foundation \$50-70k reinstallation
		<b>Total: \$175-210k</b>	<b>Total: \$190-225k</b>
Moderate Repairs	Not, feasible, safety hazard	Remove marble, clean, <u>minimal recreations</u> , simple base, install indoors  \$90k dismantle, transport marble \$10-15k cleaning \$25-35k recreate marble loss \$25-35k new simple base No foundation if floor supports load \$50-70k reinstallation	Remove marble, clean, <u>minimal recreations</u> , <u>replicate stone base</u> , install outdoors  \$90k dismantle, transport marble \$10-15k cleaning \$25-35k recreate marble loss up to \$100k limestone base \$15-20k new foundation \$50-70k reinstallation
		<b>Total: \$200-245k</b>	<b>Total: \$290-330k</b>
Thorough Repairs*	"Repair" not feasible, would require rebuilding - see two cells to the right for cost.	Remove marble, clean, <u>all recreations</u> , <u>replicate stone base</u> , install indoors  \$90k dismantle, transport marble \$10-15k cleaning \$25-30k recreate marble loss up to \$100k limestone base no perimeter No foundation if floor supports load \$50-70k reinstallation	Remove marble, clean, <u>all recreations</u> , <u>replicate stone base and concrete perimeter wall</u> , install outdoors  \$90k dismantle, transport marble \$10-15k cleaning \$25-30k recreate marble loss up to \$100k limestone base \$50-70k concrete perimeter \$25-30k new foundation \$50-70k reinstallation
		<b>Total: \$275-305k</b>	<b>Total: \$350-405k</b>



# Proposed Funding Ideas & Locations

## Funding Ideas

- donors/donations/ private donors/go fund me/private donations/contributions/private funding/private fundraising: **253 mentions**
- city/tax/city funding/public funds: **170 mentions**
- grants: **70 mentions**
- Suicide prevention/mental health: **51 mentions**
- Attic Angels: **26 mentions**

## Locations

- Vilas Park/Vilas Zoo/zoo/within zoo/inside zoo/entrance zoo/zoo entrance: **286 mentions**
- public/park/public park: **122 mentions**
- Wisconsin Historical Society/Historical Society: **46 mentions**
- Olbrich Gardens: **39 mentions**
- + **Madison Municipal Building vestibule** (idea from staff)