



Center for Public Policy  
College of Arts & Sciences

March 1, 2011

Philadelphia Art Commission  
1515 Arch Street, 12th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

To the members of the Philadelphia Art Commission,

I am writing in support of the Center City District's proposed redesign and reconstruction of Dilworth Plaza, and in particular the relocation of the statue, Phoenix Rising, to the proposed new site in Society Hill.

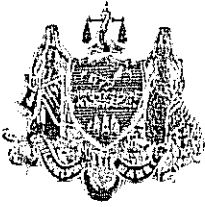
I have a personal connection, both to Dilworth Plaza, which is named after my grandfather, and to Phoenix Rising, which I as a nine-year-old had the honor of unveiling. This personal and family connection obviously provides me no privileged position to recommend or support changes to a public plaza and a piece of public art, but I do think it provides me at least a unique perspective that I thought worth sharing with the Art Commission and other interested parties.

I believe my grandfather would have preferred that Phoenix Rising be located in Society Hill (a neighborhood that he played some role in rehabilitating) rather than near City Hall (a building he recommended should be mostly demolished). I also believe he would have supported the reconstruction and redesign of Dilworth Plaza, which, in the conception of the Center City District, is I think "progressive" in the best sense of the word, as it hopes to realize a friendlier, livelier, and more civically-oriented public space.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Richardson Dilworth  
Director, Center for Public Policy  
Associate Professor of Political Science



# CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy  
City Hall, Room 116  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 686-3989  
FAX (215) 686-2555

Gary P. Steuer  
Chief Cultural Officer

March 1, 2011

Paul R. Levy  
President and CEO  
Center City District  
660 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia PA 19106

Dear Paul:

This letter is in support of the proposed public art project, by Janet Echelman, that is an integral component of the Center City District's plans for Dilworth Plaza.

The Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy fully supports the competition process through which the artist was selected and the engagement of stakeholders, public art experts, and the public in the selection (and in fact was invited to assist in the design of that process). Having participated on the selection panel, we were very pleased with CCD's execution of a thoughtful process to commission a work by Ms. Echelman, a major artist working in public art today, to this important site. The project will bring a new and interactive life to the plaza and will be a significant addition to Philadelphia's world-class public art collection. The proposal is layered with meaning, information, historical and geographical references, and opportunities for multi-sensory experiences. We are very pleased that the CCD heeded the call of the Art Commission, along with John Gallery of the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia, to incorporate a work of major public art into this important civic site.

Janet Echelman is an internationally recognized artist with a unique creative vision and approach, whose work fully achieves the goals of true site-specificity and multi-level accessibility by the public that can make for the most successful public art projects. I have no doubt that this project will be received with enormous excitement, interest, and attention.

As you know, we are happy to assist in any way that we can as this great project moves forward.

Sincerely,

Gary P. Steuer  
Chief Cultural Officer

Margot Berg  
Public Art Director