



Ms. Chantal Charles
Edward Ingersoll Browne Fund
City of Boston Treasury Department's Trust Program
Treasury Department
City Hall Room M-36
Boston, MA 02201

June 20, 2017

Dear Ms. Charles;

Members of the Friends of Peters Park (FoPP) and the Old Dover Neighborhood Association (ODNA) are seeking your support to remove LandWave from Peters Park. When the artwork is removed, we propose to work with the Parks Department, neighbors, and other interested parties on a plan for comprehensive improvements to the Park.

LandWave, a public artwork in Peters Park that was designed to mark the historic neck to the Shawmut Peninsula, was dedicated in spring 2011. It was beautiful and fully deserving of the praise it received. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of the artist, the City, and neighbors, the sculpture is now degraded beyond conservation or repair. Several factors—the artwork's location, design and materials as well as vandalism—contribute to the ongoing maintenance of LandWave is no longer workable.

LandWave sits between the Washington Street sidewalk and the baseball field's first base line. This location, along with its height and slopes, make it irresistible to young ballplayers eager to climb for a better view of the field. As a result, its plantings were never fully established, the slopes are now bare dirt, and the irrigation system is broken beyond repair.

Materials and fabrication have also resulted in problems. The light element along the spine of the sculpture failed soon after LandWave was completed. Because the lights were made on site with unique parts, FoPP and ODNA have been unable to repair them.

Glass tiles proved to be the wrong material. They are easily broken and too easy to pry off, possibly a result of poor installation. Skateboarders and freestyle bicyclists were tempted by the tiled sides and curved crest; vandals have also taken their hand to the artwork. A recent attempt to replace the glass with metal tiles was not successful.

The need for significant ongoing maintenance results in costs that the community—including neighbors, FoPP, ODNA and the City—cannot sustain. The Edward Ingersoll Browne Fund, a major donor to the artwork that is responsible for overseeing the long-term conservation of any artwork it has funded, is not responsible for ongoing maintenance and will not commit any additional funds to its repair.

Health and safety issues are of even greater concern. The slopes, exposed irrigation tubes, glass shards and sharp edges create a dangerous situation. To date, there have been relatively minor cuts and bruises, but the degraded condition of the artwork tempts fate.



Representatives of the Friends of Peters Park and the Old Dover Neighborhood Association hope to meet with you in the near future. Within the next few days, Old Dover board member Sarah Hutt will call to discuss your schedule; if you think it's appropriate to include other City officials, we're happy to work with their calendars as well. We look forward to working with you to resolve this situation and remove LandWave so that we can proceed with comprehensive improvements to Peters Park.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Pietras". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Ted Pietras
President
Friends of Peters Park

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie Matthews". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Laurie Matthews
Friends of Peters Park

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Smith". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ken Smith
President
Old Dover Neighborhood Assoc.

cc: Christopher Cook, Commission, Boston Parks & Recreation Department
Julie S. Burros, Chief of Arts and Culture
Karin Goodfellow, Director, Art Commission
Richard DePiano, City of Boston Treasury Department