

The Freedom Sculpture, a Statue of Liberty for the West Coast, was installed on July 4, 2017. Gifted by the Farhang Foundation to celebrate freedom, inclusiveness and tolerance, the sculpture symbolizes the promotion of cultural diversity in Los Angeles. The art piece is an inspiring gift from the Iranian-American community to the community-at-large here in Los Angeles, honoring "Freedom" as a shared cultural value that forms an enlightening bridge between nations and cultures.

The winning design of the Freedom Sculpture was created by renowned artist and architect Cecil Balmond. It is themed on the Cyrus Cylinder from 2,500 years ago. The sculpture is made of two finely crafted 100% stainless steel cylinders, one within the other. The interior cylinder is gold, and the outer element is silver - both interacting with each other in an exchange of strength and vulnerability. The two rings are linked internally to form a strong and robust structure. In the daytime, the sculpture will sparkle with natural sunlight, and at night, the gold interior cylinder is illuminated by LED lights.

The sculpture has been permitted and installed on the median at the intersection of Santa Monica Blvd and Century Park East and has been appraised at \$450,000.

On August 10, 2017, the Cultural Affairs Commission accepted the sculpture into the City Art Collection for placement on Santa Monica Blvd. pending final approval of the City Council.

Action is needed to accept this donation and to thank the donor.

I THEREFORE MOVE that City Council accept the donation of artwork gifted by Farhang Foundation, entitled "Freedom Sculpture", by artist Cecil Balmond which has been installed at the intersection of Santa Monica Blvd. and Century Park East, and authorize the Councilmember of the Fifth District to thank the donor on behalf of the City.

PRESENTED BY:

PAUL KORETZ

Councilmember, 5th District

SEP - 1 2017 -

SECONDED BY:

