



DATE: March 25, 2021

AGENDA ITEM # 3

**TO:** Public Arts Commission

**FROM:** William Wells, Staff Liaison

**SUBJECT:** Walter Singer Bust

**RECOMMENDATION:** Discuss Walter Singer Bust and corresponding subcommittee report

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## **BACKGROUND**

In 2015, the Walter Singer Bust was removed from Veterans Community Plaza at the recommendation of the Public Arts Commission.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Walter Singer Bust is currently being stored at the History Museum awaiting a new location. Funds have been set aside for construction of a new pedestal. It is recommended that the Public Arts Commission discuss potential locations for the Bust.

In summer 2019, the Commission recommended potentially placing the Bust in Lincoln Park, near the Chamber of Commerce building once a new base and descriptive plaque can be created.

Attachments:

1. Subcommittee report

David A. Horine 3/4/21

## INSPECTION OF THE WALTER SINGER BUST

On 3/4/2021 I inspected the bust of Walter Singer which resides in a store room at the Los Altos History Museum. I was hosted by a museum docent, Gary Heddon. The bust sits on its back on a plastic cart. Because of the weight involved, Gary was unwilling to raise the bust up so that the back could be inspected.

The bronze bust is the only part of the overall sculpture that is being stored at the History Museum. All three bronze I.D. plaques (3) and the original cement base are missing. Do they even exist now?

### OVERALL CONDITION:

The bust does not appear to have been damaged when it was uninstalled. As could be seen in the cart, the bust patina is intact. The top of the head has a few bird droppings that could be washed off. If the mounting studs are replaced, the bust may be ready for reinstallation, pending inspection of the backside.

### MOUNTING:

The bust contains two threaded holes. I estimate the thread size is 3/8 X 16. One of the threaded shafts is still in place, and it could be removed to identify the actual size and to obtain replacement parts. (We didn't have pliers to remove the stud.) Bust mounting was done by gluing the two threaded shafts into holes in the concrete base. New hole locations could be determined after the concrete base is made by sitting the bust on the base and making a close estimation and slightly oversized holes. The threaded holes are 11" apart, but the actual cement hole locations for the irregularly shaped bust will probably require an aesthetic judgement. From an old photo, there appears to be a plinth about 1" thick that is underneath the bust that is smaller than the original base. The plinth probably exists for aesthetics. The bust was also sealed to the base with some flexible mastic material. Sealing should be done again.

### ORIGINAL LOCATION:



INSPECTION PHOTOS:



PLAQUES:

Our thanks to these artists  
contributing to the plaza project:

Ingrid Jackson	Jon Daniels
Elster Haile	Linda Trusch
Diane Quinn	Ingeborg Larsen
Laine Rothwell	Alice Nashfield
Wm. Ellen Armstrong	Alan Osborne
Aaron Honaker	Darrell Phelps
Cherie Verbiest	Marco Cochran
Charles Halleck	Yvonne Starn
Jean Kluga	Pauline Woodruff
Carol Blake	Jean McCallister
Tove Overlander	Guy Porter
Jean-Pol Martin	Glenn Smith
Ann Drah	Susan Powell
Anna Teer	Diane Gough
Mary Delyle Stendi	Lothar Johnson
Beverly Jauch	Bruce Bennett
Robert Cameron	Raul Hance
Amira Kachakana	Lori Waterman
Christina Chan	Jan Walsh
Michael Wood	Kendra De Simone
William Bishop	Eric Kenna

WALTER A. SINGER  
1923 - 1992  
"MR. LOS ALTOS"  
- Benefactor & Supporter of Our Town -

BRONZE SCULPTURE  
Donated by  
MARIE A. SINGER  
Sculpted by  
Ingrid Jackson-MacDonald