



## Heritage Vancouver

www.heritagevancouver.org  
info@heritagevancouver.org  
604 254 9411

309 - 268 Keefer Street,  
Vancouver, BC  
V6A 1X5

April 28, 2020

City of Vancouver  
Kaveh Imani, Project Facilitator  
453 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

### **Re: Angel of Victory at Waterfront Station**

Dear Kaveh Imani,

Cadillac Fairview Corp. Ltd. has submitted a revised redevelopment application for the parking area immediately east of Waterfront Station (555 West Cordova Street). The Angel of Victory, a World War I memorial, is located on this site and included in the design proposal of the redevelopment application. By means of this letter, Heritage Vancouver Society would like to share its perspective on the suggested relocation of the statue, as well as the monument's future conservation.

Designed by Montreal sculptor Coeur de Lion McCarthy, the Angel of Victory is a seven foot tall, bronze statue that depicts a fallen soldier who is carried up to heaven by an angel. The statue was installed in Vancouver on April 28, 1922, and two identical copies were placed in Winnipeg and Montreal. The Angel of Victory commemorates more than 1,100 Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) employees who died in World War I, and is part of the first wave of Canadian war memorials that were erected in communities across the country, following the end of the Great War. The 3,000 pound statue has become an important Vancouver landmark and an irreplaceable piece of public art within our city's urban landscape.

Unlike the two identical statues in Montreal and Winnipeg, Vancouver's Angel of Victory has been neglected and is not in good condition. The statue was relocated to face West Cordova Street, and lost its prominence due to later intrusions in an outdoor restaurant setting. The monument is covered in black soot, the wreath is broken, and scratch marks from a poorly performed cleaning in 1967 using wire brushes and detergent to scrub the "dirt" (patina), can still be seen.

The development application for 555 West Cordova Street proposes the relocation of the Angel of Victory to a "respectful setting in the public plaza, while heritage interpretation will be added to describe its heritage value and connection to the history of the CPR and Station." Heritage Vancouver Society supports the addition of a descriptive heritage interpretation, and further asks the Development Permit Board to:

- Restore the monument's broken wreath;
- Relocate the Angel of Victory into Waterfront Station to protect the monument from outdoor elements and vandalism, and provide it with a prominent location in a public space appropriate to its historic and commemorative importance;
- Ensure that proper heritage conservation techniques are used for the restoration of the statue according to a conservation plan that is written by a heritage consultant.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heritage Vancouver Society

**Appendices**

**Angel of Victory on our 2009 and 2014 Top10 Watch lists:**

**2009**

<http://heritagevancouver.org/top10-watch-list/2009/6-historic-monuments-angel-of-victory/>

**2014**

<http://heritagevancouver.org/top10-watch-list/2014/7-world-war-one-memorials/>



Angel of Victory (1922) at its original location at the western end of the station, and showing intact wreath. Unveiling of memorial for C.P.R Employees, April 28, 1922. (Image City of Vancouver Archives, A32739)