

February 3, 2016

Dear Mayor Walsh,

“If there is no struggle, there is no progress.”    -Frederick Douglass

A statue of Frederick Douglass should be built in the Frederick Douglass Peace Garden because it would help people follow in the footsteps of this great hero who helped black people be free.

Frederick Douglass is a type of person you can look up to. He fought for his education, and that really helped him escape from slavery, make inspiring speeches, and write his anti-slavery newspaper, “The North Star.” The children of color today need someone like Douglass to look up to. Learning about Frederick Douglass can help us try harder to get a better education, get a good job, and succeed with things we struggle with.

Other abolitionists have their own statues that represent who they are. For example, William Lloyd Garrison has his own statue. Frederick Douglass was as important as William Lloyd Garrison, so why not build a statue of him? It would be fair to put one in his Peace Garden so people who come to the garden can learn more about him.

Why a statue, you might ask? A statue can say a thousand words just by looking at it. When I look at Mario Chiodo’s powerful statue, I think it says: “Follow me, and struggle for freedom.”  It would really be important to have a statue in the Frederick Douglass Peace Garden. So please… Build It!

Sincerely,

Emmanuel DejeanLouis, Grade 7

Conservatory Lab Charter School

2120 Dorchester Ave.

Dorchester MA, 01210

cc:

Karin Goodfellow, Boston Art Commission

Ekua Holmes, Boston Art Commission

Chantal F. Charles, City of Boston, Trust Office

Louis Elisa, Frederick Douglass Selection Committee/Garrison Trotter Neighborhood Association

Dumas Lafontant, Frederick Douglass Selection Committee



February 3, 2016

Dear Editor,

*A little learning indeed may be a dangerous thing, but the want of learning is a calamity*

*to any people.*  -Frederick Douglass

Our community has been pushing for a monument of the abolitionist leader Frederick Douglass to be in our Peace Park, right here in Roxbury. We were upset to read in the Boston Globe that the the Boston Art Commission does not support the memorial becauseit wants a redesign of the sculpture, in addition to a new site.

I, along with my family, classmates and many people in Roxbury disagree with this choice.  The proposed statue by sculptor Mario Chiodo shows Douglass as a black hero rising from the broken chains of slavery and reaching for freedom. It is a beautiful statue that represents his fight to end slavery.

It’s not right to have a statue of William Lloyd Garrison and Wendell Phillips in Boston, when Frederick Douglass also played an important role in the movement to abolish slavery. I believe this has something to do with racism. Our urban communities need the inspiration of strong black leaders like Douglass. I agree with Chantal Charles of the Browne Fund who says, “*I just want to get this done. The park is already called Frederick Douglass Peace Park, it’s the perfect location. What’s stopping us right now is the Art Commission.”*

As Douglass said, learning can be a dangerous thing. It can change the views and beliefs of many young people. It is important to remember what happened in the past, so you can know what is happening now. Slavery is American history. Everyone should be taught the legacy of leaders like Frederick Douglass; everyone should know who he is and what he stood for. Not acknowledging Frederick Douglass is wrong and we should fight for his legacy.

Sincerely,

Ajarae Walcott, Grade 7

Conservatory Lab Charter School

2120 Dorchester Ave

Dorchester, MA 02124



The Frederick Douglass Statue   
  
February 3, 2016

Dear Mayor Walsh:

My name is Kayleen Guzman, and I attend Conservatory Lab Charter School. I want to fight for Frederick Douglass, a grand hero in our world. Frederick Douglass was an African American slave, writer, social reformer, orator, statesman, and lastly an abolitionist. I believe that Frederick Douglass should get his statue in the Frederick Douglass Peace Garden because the Peace Garden in Roxbury is named after him. Other abolitionists have a statue, why can’t Douglass?

“If there is no struggle, there is no progress,” said Douglass.  Frederick Douglass strived a lot in his life; he was an amazing person who overcame many obstacles. The extraordinary thing that makes Douglass unique is how he fought, got free, helped other African Americans get free, and ended slavery. That makes him important; he deserves a statue to acknowledge his accomplishments.

Personally, I have a connection to Frederick Douglass. I stand up for what’s right. If someone is getting bullied or isn’t getting the same rights because of their skin color, race, looks, or religion, I would stand up for them and myself because I strongly believe that everyone should be treated equally. Frederick Douglass thought the same; he fought his slave owner Edward Covey, fought for African Americans to get equal rights, and never gave up. Who knows, maybe Mr. Douglass’ statue can give the message to others to stand up, make changes, and make our world a better place.

Sincerely,

Kayleen Guzman, Grade 7

Conservatory Lab Charter School

2120 Dorchester Ave.

Dorchester, MA 02124



February 3, 2016

Dear Mayor Walsh,

My name Ezekiel G Freeman Fanfan, I'm a 7th-grade student at Conservatory Lab Charter School (CLCS). As 7th graders, we are writing this letter to persuade you to build a statue of Frederick Douglass in Roxbury. When I saw the statue of Mr. Douglass that Mario Chiodo sculpted, I had a powerful connection with it. In the statue, when Mr. Douglass is reaching to the sky, it looks like he is reaching for a change. I also want to make a change in this world. The way I will make a change is by becoming a lawyer. This connects to Mr. Douglass because he debated and stood up to help end slavery. So if I were to visit the statue, it would motivate me even more to become a lawyer.

Another example why Roxbury should have a Frederick Douglass statue is because Mr. Douglass was an amazing abolitionist in his era. Mr. Douglass worked with the abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, who has a statue in Boston to represent him. Mr. Douglass faced more and tougher obstacles than the other abolitionists because of his black skin. They all fought for the same thing. So it would be important, even necessary, to have a monument to remember this strong, brave, smart man who gave us so much. This would give a message to African Americans, Latinos, and Whites not to let anything get in the way of your dreams.

I’m writing this letter to show that not just adults want a change, but so do kids. All the students at CLCS have a big root in us that leads from Mr. Douglass’ hard work. The kids at CLCS love music, and so we practice all the time. We also want to learn. Mr. Douglass’ roots are in us because when he was a kid, he would do anything to get an education. Even when the masters tried to make sure couldn’t learn to read or write, that didn’t stop his motivation. So we would love to see a statue of this great man to inspire us to follow him and become leaders who change the world, just like Mr. Douglass.

Sincerely,

Ezekiel G Freeman Fanfan, Grade 7

Conservatory Lab Charter School

2120 Dorchester Ave.

Dorchester, MA 02124