

Your article "[Dispute brewing over city park site for Schenectady's Statue of Liberty](#)" needs clarification. Gateway Plaza is the expanded version of Liberty Park, where the Liberty replica stood since 1950. Mayor Gary McCarthy has decided to ignore the Plan, supported by the public and adopted in 2013 by City Council, to return "Lady Liberty" home from storage once construction was complete. I did say the reason for the decision to abort the planned return was "asinine". Your article did not give my explanation.

As of March 6, the only reason Gateway Plaza designer Mary Wallinger had given for the decision is that the statue is "quite small" and would look out of scale. Lady Liberty is 100 inches tall. The Stockade's Lawrence the Indian is 67 inches tall and easily commands his space, as does Liberty in Plan renderings.*

On March 7, Wallinger added the excuse the Plaza "is intended to have a more contemporary feel that celebrates the future of our great city". The Plaza Implementation Plan states it is meant to "celebrate the City's past, present and future." Our Statue of Liberty does that in style.

Too small and old-fashioned? Wallinger never raised either issue while she was designing Gateway Plaza and promoting its Plan. She showed the return of Lady Liberty in every alternative presented to the Steering Committee, Public Design Workshops, and City Council.

A Veterans' Park at Steinmetz Park is a fine idea, but making it the foster home for Lady Liberty is inappropriate.

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