



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wooster Square Monument Committee

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The Wooster Square Monument Committee is pleased to announce the initiation of the fundraising phase of the project. The fundraising began March 1, 2023, and has already raised over \$200,000 in pledges and donations. “The response from the community has been overwhelmingly positive” said William Iovanne, Jr., co-chair of the Committee. We are also proud to announce that we are dedicating the brownstone path behind the sculpture and the garden plantings around the plinth in honor of our co-chair Laura Florio Luzzi, who passed away in September. “Laura was so very proud of her Italian heritage and keeping family traditions and our culture alive. She worked so hard, even through her illness, to see that this project received approval not only by the Boards and Commissions, but more importantly, by the community that she loved so much.”

The committee has been engaged, for the past two years, in a process to install a classic rendering of an immigrant family, “Indicando la via al Futuro” in Wooster Square Park in the heart of the original Italian enclave there. The sculpture, created by Branford artist Marc Anthony Massaro, is a representation of Italian immigration to New Haven and Wooster Square in the late 1890’s and honors the contributions these immigrants made to the City.

The statue, life sized, will be cast in bronze and will be placed in front of the existing pedestal which has been there since 1892, as a link between the past and present.

While we are pleased that this initial effort has already raised over \$200,000 in pledges and contributions, much more will need to be collected in order to complete the project that will honor the Italian experience in New Haven, and all others with immigrant experiences.

Contributions of \$5,000 and higher will be acknowledged on a plaque that will be mounted to the pedestal that supported the former Columbus statue. All other contributions will be recognized in a memorial booklet that will feature personal stories and photos of generations of immigrant families who settled in New Haven and Wooster Square. The committee seeks wide engagement with all who wish to acknowledge their links with this important period of New Haven’s history.

The committee is also interested in collecting personal ephemera and other memorabilia, and recollections from the greater community, to be shared on our website, www.woostersquaremonument.com, and our Facebook page. WSMC seeks to honor our ancestors and call attention to the important stories they tell.

Donations to the project should be made payable to the Wooster Square Conservancy, a local 501(c)3 non-profit that is acting as our fiduciary.

Stay connected with the project as it progresses by visiting our website www.woostersquaremonument.com.