

FRIENDS of the BARNES FOUNDATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LONDON PLANE TREES TO BE CUT DOWN BY BARNES IN STEALTH MOVE

In a memo sent on Wednesday, the day before Thanksgiving, the Barnes Foundation notified all the major institutions on the Parkway that 28 of the beautiful old London Plane trees would be removed from the Parkway on Monday. This is contrary to the Barnes press release of October 7, 2009 which stated that "London plane trees on the site will be preserved and will serve as a buffer between the building and the busy city" <http://www.barnesfoundation.org/parkway/#press> *Falsus in unum, falsus in omnibus.*

In an obvious attempt to preempt any protest, while pretending to inform the public, they have once again slipped one over on Philadelphia.

"Who needs these 28 old trees when we will be planting so many more?"

"Who needs the old Barnes in Merion with all its historic resonances and its 12 acre arboretum when we will be creating a flashy new building with a blue glowing halo on top on the Parkway?"

And if anyone thinks this is a bad idea, not to worry the plane trees may be turned into tables by a 'certified' company. The hype is insulting. Perhaps they should have distributed golden chain saws along with the shovels at the ground breaking.

COPY OF LETTER TO PARKWAY INSTITUTIONS

Good Afternoon,

Derek Gillman and Bill McDowell want to inform you that a number of the London Plane trees along the Parkway are going to be removed from the site starting on Monday, November 30. The 4th row, the northernmost, must be removed to allow for the excavation and placement of the building. The other 3 rows of trees remain. In addition there are some diseased trees that cannot be saved which will also be removed. This work has been approved by Fairmount Park and they are aware that it is happening. We would like everyone to keep in mind that overall we adding over 100 new trees to the site. Signs are going to be posted along 20th and 21st Street as well as the Parkway to inform the public. A copy of this notice, including detailed numbers regarding the trees, is attached.

As we expect this to cause some alarm we wanted you to be informed in advance.

Please contact Bill McDowell if you have any questions or concerns. He can be reached via e-mail or telephone as follows:

wmcowell@barnesfoundation.org

215-640-0171 ext 20

Best,

Beth

Beth Lillis | Assistant to the Project Executive

Friends of the Barnes Foundation (www.barnesfriends.org) advocates permanent preservation of the Barnes Foundation, a school for art appreciation whose tools include one of the world's most valuable private art collections and a 130-year-old arboretum in Merion, Pennsylvania.

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