

# Open letter to Ms Corine Mauch

– Mayor of the City Of Zurich –

## My life's work and cultural contribution to the City of Zürich

Dear Mayor Mauch

On the occasion of the handing over of the Heidi Weber Museum by Le Corbusier to the City of Zurich on 13 May 2014, you declared during your press conference: „(...) When one thinks that Ms Weber was a single mother, and had also taken on significant financial risk, she has earned our greatest respect. Ms Weber, you are truly what one calls a pioneer. (...)“

Up to today's date, you, and respectively the City of Zurich, have not adhered to the written agreements concerning the transfer of my museum to the city.

**1.** Already prior to the handover, I offered the City of Zurich in 2013 to bestow my privately financed, co-designed and constructed museum, Le Corbusier's last building, including my collection of Le Corbusier's art works, to the non-profit Foundation Heidi Weber - Centre Le Corbusier.

I could have thereby expressly waived the CHF 1.16 million compensation (70% of the construction costs in 1967, construction index and inflation updated today to CHF 11.2 m), from which the citizens of Zurich could have profited.

You rejected my proposal. Your counter-proposal and our agreement foresaw the creation by the City of Zurich of a Foundation under public law, into which the building should have been brought after the transfer. You openly made known this course of action in the name of the City of Zürich and confirmed it in writing after the drafting of the by-laws of the Foundation.

I approved the handover and the compensation under these terms only, as otherwise I had the right to dismantle the building and return the land to the city in its original state from 1964.

The establishment of the agreed Foundation under public law by the city of Zurich has not taken place to date due to the implausible argumentation that no more foundations under public law can be established after 2018.

Because the city did not comply with the agreements, and due to the cataloguing of 2013 and the subsequent placing of the building under protection through the Office for the Preservation of Historical Monuments, I could no longer dismantle it and I was de facto dispossessed. Independent appraisals currently value the building at a multiple of the amount of the compensation.

**2.** Moreover, your Cultural Director Peter Haerle spoke publicly about me in a derogatory way and spread untruths. This has consequences for him.

**3.** Additionally, the city has arbitrarily removed the name of the builder of the museum contrary to agreements and named it „Pavillon Le Corbusier“ („Gazebo Le Corbusier“). Practically all buildings around the world are named after the builder and not the architect. The ignorance regarding the actual builder is a gross falsification of the facts, and a scandalous denial of my 50-year cultural contribution for the City of Zürich.

I call upon you, as a public servant and a representative of the citizens of Zürich, to implement the mutually agreed arrangements and to name the building historically correctly and officially the „Heidi Weber Haus by Le Corbusier“, as has been world-famously inscribed on the entrance of the landmarked façade for more than 50 years.



The recognition of cultural contributions and the adherence to agreements are essential fundamentals of a society for me, and it would concern me greatly if these values were no longer valid in the City of Zürich.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Heidi Weber". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Heidi Weber

Zurich, in January 2017

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