CAPITOL SQUARE PRESERVATION COUNCIL

2017 Annual Report

BACKGROUND ON THE CAPITOL SQUARE PRESERVATION COUNCIL

A legislative agency established by an act of the General Assembly in 1999, the Capitol Square Preservation Council (CSPC) consists of thirteen individuals with expertise relevant to the management, stewardship and interpretation of the Capitol and the remarkable assemblage of historic and cultural resources within the legally defined boundaries of Capitol Square. These resources include more than a dozen distinguished historic buildings, many listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Three of those are also designated as National Historic Landmarks, the nation's highest level of recognition, which has been granted to the Capitol, Old City Hall and the Executive Mansion. Recently, the Capitol itself was formally enshrined on the tentative list of World Heritage Sites for its outstanding universal significance. The resources of Capitol Square also include a nationally significant designed cultural landscape, distinguished smaller gardens designed by Charles Gillette, archaeological remains from prehistory to the 19th century, and a collection of varied artistic sculptural objects.

These public resources lie within the fenced area delineated by Bank, Broad, Ninth and Governor Streets. State-owned buildings on the opposite sides of these boundary streets that are 50 years or older are also under the oversight of the Council. Council members include the Clerks of the House and Senate and the Secretary of Administration, who each serve ex officio, and individuals appointed by the House, Senate and Governor with professional or avocational experience in art, architecture, architectural history, landscape architecture, history, public history and historic preservation.

As stated by the Code of Virginia, the Council oversees the "architectural, historical, archaeological and landscape features of Capitol Square" by recommending actions for "the enhancement of their historical and architectural integrity" and strategies "that will enhance interpretive and educational opportunities." The Council reviews "all plans or proposals for alterations, improvements, additions, renovations or other disposition that is structural or architectural in nature." Furthermore, "no implementation of such plans or proposals shall take place prior to review by the Council."

In 2016, the Council entered into an operating agreement with the Virginia Capitol Foundation (VCF), the non-profit 501(c)(3) organization tasked with supporting the restoration and preservation of Capitol Square, its buildings, monuments, and grounds. This new framework gives CSPC and VCF the opportunity to work more closely together to fulfill their respective missions, to advance common goals, and achieve certain economies in activities common to both. Colleen Dugan Messick was hired to serve in a joint role as the VCF's Executive Director and CSPC's Chief Administrative Officer. A new position of Architectural Historian was created to carry out the responsibilities of curator of Capitol Square's architectural, archaeological and landscape features, and Justin Gunther was hired to fill that position in April 2017. Mr. Gunther was previously a professor of historic preservation at the Savannah College of Art and Design and held curatorial positions at Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater and George Washington's Mount Vernon.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

SENATE APPOINTEES

David B. Bradley, *Chairman*
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Term expires: 6/30/2018

Edward J. Gillikin, Jr., *Vice Chairman*
Virginia Society, American Institute of Architects
Term expires: 6/30/2018

HOUSE APPOINTEES

Robert T. Baratta
Preservation Virginia
Term expires: 6/30/2018

Madge Bemiss
Historic Richmond Foundation
Term expires: 6/30/2019

Cabell Goolsby West
Garden Club of Virginia
Term expires: 6/30/2017

GOVERNOR'S APPOINTEES

Annie Kasper
Member At-Large
Term expires: 6/30/2017

Dr. Lauranett Lee
Citizens Advisory Council on Furnishing and Interpreting the Executive Mansion
Term expires: 6/30/2018

GOVERNOR'S APPOINTEES CONT.

Robert M. McGinnis
Virginia Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects
Term expires: 6/30/2019

Danielle Simms
Member At-Large
Term expires: 6/30/2018

Andrew H. Talkov
Virginia Historical Society
Term expires: 6/30/2019

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

The Honorable G. Paul Nardo
Clerk, House of Delegates

The Honorable Nancy Rodrigues
Secretary of Administration

The Honorable Susan Clarke Schaar
Clerk, Senate of Virginia

STAFF

Colleen Dugan Messick
Chief Administrative Officer

Justin Gunther
Architectural Historian

COUNCIL COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

A committee structure within the Council membership encourages ongoing engagement with Council staff to advise on the development and implementation of initiatives.

Council members are appointed to serve on a minimum of one committee and a maximum of two committees. Ex Officio Council Members and the Chair automatically serve on the Personnel Committee but can serve on other committees at their discretion. Board members of the Virginia Capitol Foundation also serve on committees as ex officio, non-voting members.

BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

This committee advises on projects related to the preservation of buildings within the Square, and the exterior of all state buildings bordering the boundary streets that are at least 50 years old. This does not include the interiors of the GAB, Washington Building, Jefferson Building or the Governor's Mansion.

Committee Chair:
Edward J. Gillikin, Jr.

Council Members:
Robert T. Baratta
Annie Kasper

Foundation Members:
Florence Lee Wellons
Patricia S. Loughridge

EDUCATION & EXHIBITIONS COMMITTEE

This committee advises on education and outreach initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacity and visibility of the Capitol as an educational, tourism and training resource. Members assist with the development of exhibitions and innovative interpretive experiences, as well as promotion of the Capitol through partnerships, collaborative opportunities, and targeted outreach.

Committee Chair:
Andrew H. Talkov

Council Members:
Dr. Lauranett Lee
Danielle Simms
Annie Kasper
Cabell Goolsby West

Foundation Members:
Adrienne G. Hines
Margaret Hager

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

This committee advises on the maintenance and preservation of Capitol Square's landscape, the ongoing implementation of the Landscape Master Plan, and the successful integration of any new features. In addition, the committee makes recommendations for design guidelines and the appropriate interpretation of those guidelines.

Committee Chair:
Robert M. McGinnis

Council Members:
Cabell Goolsby West
Madge Bemiss

Foundation Members:
Charles H. Seilheimer, Jr.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

This committee advises on the appropriate direction and decision-making for employee policies, compensation and benefits, legal compliance, and staff evaluation and training. Proposed projects and activities of the Council must be presented to and approved by the Personnel Committee. The Personnel Committee makes recommendations for committee assignments and nominations for new members. Personnel Committee membership is composed of the Clerk of the House of Delegates, Clerk of the Senate, the Secretary of Administration, and the Chair or their designees.

Committee Chair:
Council Chair, David B. Bradley

Members:
Clerk of the Senate, Susan Clarke Schaar
Clerk of the House, G. Paul Nardo
Secretary of Administration, Nancy Rodrigues

CARING FOR A NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN

Council staff carried out a thorough analysis of the Landscape Master Plan (2004, revised 2014) to identify recommendations that still need to be addressed. An implementation schedule was drafted to prioritize initiatives related to walkways, roads, site elements, and vegetation.

The repaving of North Drive, or the "Avenue" that connects the ceremonial entrance on 9th Street to the Executive Mansion, is one of the outstanding recommendations and a priority of the Landscape Master Plan. This feature is an important surviving element of Maximilian Godefroy's landscape design of 1816-1818. While North Drive retains its original alignment and a defining allée of canopy trees, its historic nature is not served by a grey asphalt surface. The appearance and character of North Drive would be greatly enhanced by resurfacing it in a more natural buff-tone color. Council staff met with Chris Beschler, Department of General Services Director, and Charles Kilpatrick, Virginia Department of Transportation Commissioner, over the summer to discuss the possibility of repaving of North Drive during the spring or summer of 2018. Along with a more aesthetically appropriate road surface, the Council is recommending the installation of bluestone curbing and simulated pea gravel sidewalks around the Washington Monument circle to the 9th Street entrance.

Building upon the Landscape Master Plan, Council staff is collaborating with Department of General Services (DGS) staff and Council members to draft an RFP for the creation of a Landscape Maintenance Plan and Design Guidelines to direct the ongoing preservation of Capitol Square. Ultimately, the goal is to create a historically-appropriate aesthetic for this significant cultural landscape, and such a plan would serve as a guide in making appropriate decisions for cyclical maintenance, repairs and alterations.

MANTLE: VIRGINIA INDIAN TRIBUTE

Construction of Mantle: Virginia Indian Tribute, fall 2017. Source: CSPC.

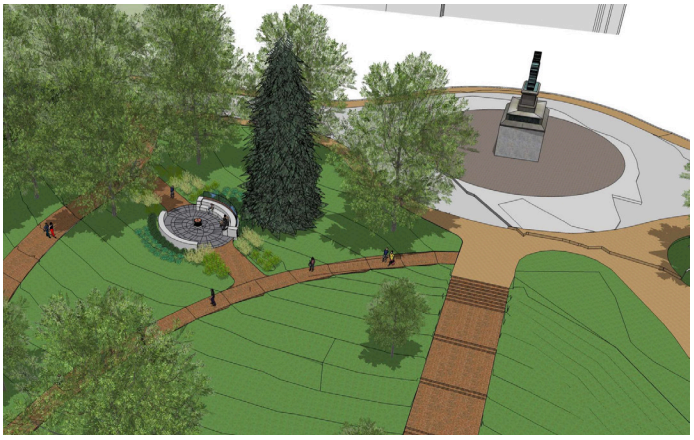
The groundbreaking for Mantle occurred on June 24, 2017, and Council staff has been involved throughout the planning, design review, and construction process in an advisory capacity. As part of site preparation, Council staff recommended vision screening be specified for all safety and construction fencing to minimize the visual impact of the construction site. In addition, Council staff requested DGS confirm appropriate steps be taken to protect existing trees during excavation.

An update to the design required the removal of two magnolia trees, likely planted in the early to mid-20th century, and the Council worked with DGS to confirm all appropriate approvals were received to address any citizen concerns. Furthermore, new shade trees will be planted to mitigate the loss of the two magnolias.

To explore the educational possibilities for Mantle, CSPC and VCF staff met with Karenne Wood, director of the Virginia Indian Heritage Program at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, in the spring. She discussed a multi-faceted approach that would include a web-based interactive site, teacher institutes, lecture programs and other creative strategies to engage visitors with Mantle and the richness of Virginia's Native American history. CSPC and VCF staff hope to implement many of

these ideas as part of the collaborative revamping of visitor interpretation over the next several years. Completion of Mantle is scheduled for the end of December 2017. During the construction phase, Council staff met biweekly with representatives of DGS, Commonwealth Architects, and Daniel & Company to receive construction updates and offer comments and reviews.

VOICES FROM THE GARDEN: VIRGINIA WOMEN'S MONUMENT



Rendering showing the revised location for the Virginia Women's Monument. Source: Commonwealth Architects and Cite Design.

Working drawings for the plaza prepared by Commonwealth Architects and Cite Design were submitted to Bureau of Capital Outlay Management (BCOM) at the end of August, and the Council reviewed these drawings at the September quarterly meeting. The proposed plans required substantial fill to accommodate the sloping site and provide accessibility meeting Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. To meet the grade of the existing walkway to the west of the monument's plaza, these plans called for the introduction of five steps. On the east side of the plaza, plans specified removal of the current brick path, the introduction of 3' of fill, and the replacement of the brick path at a new slope to create an accessible route to the monument. Due to the significant grade change, this replacement path would require approximately eight or nine steps further downhill to meet the existing grade of the hillside. The Council, Department of Historic Resources (DHR), and Art and Architectural Review Board (AARB) reviewed these plans in September and October, and all organizations expressed concern over the introduction of fill and alterations to existing grades.

As a result, the Virginia Women's Monument Commission requested a reconsideration of the monument's siting on the hillside. Commonwealth Architects and Cite Design proposed changes in October that positioned the monument's plaza further north and pivoted the orientation to align on a northwest-southeast axis. This new location will require the relocation of a memorial magnolia tree, but the existing brick walkway on the west can serve as an accessible path without any changes to walkways or grades.

In November, Council staff and DHR reviewed the impacts of this new location and offered their support of the change. However, placing the monument further north does have the potential to visually impact the character of the Washington Equestrian Monument by altering views around the circle. Both the Council and DHR recommended that the current coverage provided by the existing tree buffer between the Washington Monument and the new Virginia Women's Monument be maintained or enhanced.

POE STATUE

Fine Art Specialists moving the Poe Statue to its new location at the northwest corner of Capitol Square. Source: CSPC

The Virginia Indian Tribute and Virginia Women's Monument will be installed on the western side of Capitol Square to the south and north of Edgar Allan Poe, respectively. This will disrupt the current context for Poe and create an unsympathetic scale for the comparatively small size of the Poe statue. Council staff met with the Honorable Nancy Rodrigues, Secretary of Administration, to gain perspectives on past initiatives to address this issue, including David B. Bradley's resolution to relocate the statue

and DGS's analysis on costs related to relocation. A special meeting of Council members and staff, the Clerks, and DGS was organized in June to provide a formal Council recommendation for a new location. After careful consideration, the group agreed that the most respectful and sensitive location was at the northwest corner of Capitol Square, just west of the entry walk and in line with the other monuments along the northern edge of the Square.

The Governor's office approved the decision brief for relocation on August 12, 2017, and DGS contracted with Fine Art Specialists to relocate the statue on November 22, 2017.

LOVING V. VIRGINIA HISTORICAL MARKER

Unveiling of the Loving v. Virginia historical marker, June 12, 2017. Source: CSPC.

Council staff assisted DHR and DGS with the appropriate siting of the new Loving v. Virginia historical marker on Capitol Square. A location beside the Patrick Henry Building was selected to maximize visibility and create a link to the former Virginia Supreme Court, where this landmark civil rights case was heard on appeal before heading to the U.S. Supreme Court. On June 12, 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Virginia's ruling in a unanimous decision that invalidated laws prohibiting interracial marriage.

BANK STREET BIKE LANE

Throughout April and May 2017, several meetings took place to discuss the proposed sidewalk widening and addition of a bike lane to Bank Street, a federally-funded project subject to Section 106 review. Council staff met independently with city planners to learn about the project and subsequently participated in discussions with VDOT, DGS, Capitol Police and the Clerks of the House and Senate. Communicating directly with DHR, Council staff expressed concerns about the project's potential cumulative effects through the addition of wayfinding signage and other visual clutter to the streetscape. Capitol Police and the Clerks of the House and Senate also expressed safety and emergency response concerns related with the addition of a separate westbound bike lane.

In May 2017, DHR requested additional information from RK&K, the engineering firm consulting with the city on the project, during their Section 106 review of the project. RK&K and the city convened a meeting of all interested parties to fully address stakeholder concerns on May 25, 2017, with several subsequent meetings called throughout June, July and August to negotiate specific issues. As a result of these conversations, all potential adverse impacts to the historic character of Capitol Square were resolved. The project was revised to provide a bike lane on Bank Street only from 12th to 14th Streets, ending on the east side of the Bank Street/12th Street intersection. No bike lane or sharrow lane will be demarcated in front of Capitol Square between 9th Street and 12th Street. This revision was agreed upon by city officials, James Shepard (VDOT), Chris Beschler (DGS), Colonel Pike (DCP), and the Clerks of the House and Senate.

While no bike racks and additional street signage are currently proposed, Council staff expressed concern about their potential installation in the future and the cumulative visual effects their installation could have to Capitol Square. Council staff proactively recommended bike rack locations at the northwest and northeast corners of Governor and Bank Streets, and the city has agreed to involve the Council with any future discussions related to racks and street signage.

BANK STREET CLOSURE

Throughout the summer, Council staff advised on Commonwealth Architects' design proposals for the temporary closure of Bank Street during the 2018-2021 General Assembly sessions. Starting at 10th Street and moving west to the start of the Commonwealth Park Suites Hotel, Bank Street will be partially closed to create a pedestrian plaza protected by

round concrete bollards and vehicle barrier gates. In addition, temporary, custom-designed security entry points were proposed for the Bank Street entrance and the Capitol's west entrance. The two options were: 1.) a custom fabricated metal-and-glass pavilion made from shipping container components or 2.) a custom tent structure with high-load metal frame. Council staff consulted on the aesthetic impacts of these temporary additions and recommended the use of the tent structure due to minimal visual effects and cost savings.

Ultimately, the Clerks and Capitol Police abandoned the idea of a temporary security tent, and all entry to the Capitol for visitors and credentialed personnel will be coordinated through a reconfigured internal checkpoint at the existing Bank Street entrance. Group tours will be instructed to exit the Capitol's south entrance, or west entrance for those with accessibility concerns, and buses will pick up at the Washington Equestrian Monument circle. While buses have been instructed to queue off-site, this arrangement will produce additional traffic in the circle. The Council advises additional care be taken to help buses navigate the circle to prevent damage to the monument's cast-iron fence.

PROVIDING EXPERTISE TO STEWARD THE HISTORIC BUILT ENVIRONMENT

CAPITOL

Over the past several years, the Council has worked with DHR to make a successful case for a name change and expansion of the period of significance for the Capitol's National Historic Landmark designation. First designated as a National Historic Landmark in the run up to the centennial of the Civil War in 1960, the Capitol was officially shown in U.S. Government records as the "Capitol of the Confederacy" and for the limited period of significance of 1861-1865. As a result of work undertaken by the Council and supported by the Register staff at the Department of Historic Resources, the Capitol has now been documented in broader aspects of national history, in the area of architecture, and for an expanded period of significance. Moreover, the Capitol is now documented under the proper name of "The Virginia State Capitol." These important changes were officially approved by the United States Department of the Interior on December 23, 2016, and announced to the public on January 11, 2017. Council staff worked closely with the Clerks of the House and the Senate to create the press release documenting these changes.

BELL TOWER

In anticipation of Old City Hall's rehabilitation, the CSPC and VCF relocated their offices from Old City Hall to the Bell Tower on September 8, 2017. Kevin Riley and Tom George of DGS coordinated the Bell Tower renovations, with input and specifications provided by CSPC and VCF staff throughout the design and construction process.

Alterations to the Bell Tower's interior were extensive and resulted in an accommodating and attractive environment for staff and visitors. On the first floor, Virginia Tourism's counter and rack card displays, fluorescent uplighting, and carpeting were all removed to reveal the brick floor underneath. On the second floor, the carpeting was removed and the tongue-and-groove pine floor refinished. The fluorescent ceiling lighting was taken down; the bathroom was completely remodeled with new fixtures, flooring and cabinetry; a small kitchenette was installed along the western shared wall with the bathroom; and old telecommunications and utility equipment was removed from the closet to accommodate storage needs. On the third floor, minor water damage at the junction of the north wall and ceiling was addressed. Throughout the building, wall surfaces were repainted off-white and all trim and windows were painted grayish-brown. A synthetic sisal runner was installed on the stairs, and new central ceiling light fixtures installed on each floor along with flush mount ceiling lights at each stair landing.

Coordinated with these interior renovations were the installation of new utility and water lines sourcing the Virginia Indian Tribute. To install these new lines, DGS dismantled and subsequently reconstructed a small area of the north foundation wall's brickwork to provide access into the foundation. Council staff also notified DGS of a significant step crack in the foundation, climbing in a southerly direction on the east-facing wall near the building's southeast corner; however, no action has yet been taken by DGS to monitor or address this issue.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING

Initial demolition and abatement of the General Assembly Building, Fall 2017. Source: CSPC.

The Council fully supports the replacement of the existing General Assembly Building with a new building as an appropriate approach to overcome space and programmatic inadequacies and systems failures. Council staff attended the April 2017 AARB meeting to comment on the building's demolition and the preservation of the 1912 façade. Primary concerns revolved around appropriate scaffolding to preserve the 1912 façade during demolition, structural seismic monitoring of nearby historic resources during demolition, and salvage of limestone and cast metal features from the 1923 annex.

Council staff then attended the September 2017 AARB meeting to view the schematic design work completed by Robert A.M. Stern and Associates (RAMSA) and hear the Board's comments. A special meeting of the Council's Building Committee followed on September 6, 2017, to discuss the schematic design and any concerns. DGS and RAMSA attended the Council's September 13, 2017, quarterly meeting to present the design to the full Council for comment. The Council unanimously passed a motion in support of the schematic design during its quarterly meeting with the following recommendations. As the building is refined and details further specified during the preliminary design and final design phases, the Council requested to be an active participant in the process. At the September 13, 2017, quarterly meeting, all parties agreed to provide the Council an opportunity to review and comment on future project phases in concurrence with other review agencies, namely DHR and the AARB. The Council also requested that due consideration be given to the following concerns: placement of the flagpoles; materiality of the exterior masonry; articulation of the east façade at its base; visual alignment of the fenestration between the base and tower masses; respectful arrangement or elimination of parking on 10th and Capitol Streets; salvage and reuse of the 1923 architectural fragments; and the hierarchy of architectural ornamentation across the facades. The Council commended the architecture team of RAMSA for creating a design that successfully fulfills the programmatic needs of the General Assembly while honoring the context of Capitol Square. The building's scale is large but respectful, with setbacks and massing that add visual interest, mitigate the height, and establish the building as a new landmark along Broad Street. With its Neoclassical and Art Deco inspirations, the building nods to neighboring historic buildings while being both contemporary and compatible.

The Council praised the Joint Rules Committee decision to maintain the original 1912 façade of the building designed by Clinton and Russell. Its preservation grounds the building in the past, providing the foundation for a successful dialogue with the surrounding historic context. RAMSA's use of the 1912 cornice as the defining datum line for the new building unifies the design and visually connects it to other buildings around the Square.

The Council was extremely pleased with the activation of the building's ground level on Broad Street and Darden Garden. Rather than turning its back on one of the city's primary streets, the building will engage pedestrians along Broad and provide opportunities for interaction with windows and entry points. The Council did recommend that the design team revisit the alignment, size, and proportions of the north façade bay windows to determine if these openings are the most effective and aesthetically

appropriate way to communicate with the sidewalk. As proposed these windows seem commercial rather than governmental in character, and perhaps a simplified arrangement would accomplish the same level of transparency. The handling of the raised entry off Darden Garden to accommodate ADA accessibility and provide security is well-conceived and appears to respect the building's relationship to the at-grade plaza and the public realm. Finally, reactivation of the monumental entry of the original 1912 building pays homage to this façade's significance and the importance of its preservation.

The schematic design illustrates a dignified building complementary to Capitol Square, and the Council looks forward to reviewing the building's evolution over the coming months.

OLD CITY HALL

DGS's Erich Thomas updated Council staff in the spring on the planned project for Old City Hall, which will include extensive repointing of the exterior stonework, addition of an accessibility ramp to the west entrance, replacement of the roof skylight and its structural system, removal of insensitive interior alterations, and some interior finish restoration. CSPC staff was pleased to learn of the selection of Quinn Evans, a noted preservation A & E firm, as the lead for the rehabilitation of this National Historic Landmark resource.

As further planning is undertaken, Council staff recommends a comprehensive preservation approach to the project that remains consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Treatment recommendations should be prioritized based on budget constraints as well as the need to balance long-term preservation with minimal impact to original building materials.

MORSON'S ROW

Front facades of the three adjoining houses of Morson's Row. Source: CSPC.

The Council has long had a strong interest in ensuring a future for the three State and National Register buildings known as Morson's Row (1853). Forming a dignified eastern terminus of Capitol Square, these rare surviving townhouses are architecturally and historically significant. They have long been in need of attention to protect them and fully utilize the Commonwealth's assets in the space-limited Square. Earlier efforts of Council staff with House Appropriations leadership and staff helped to secure funding in SFY 2017 for detailed planning for Morson's Row. DGS has prioritized the preservation of Morson's Row in their capital budget, and Council staff will participate in A & E procurement for the rehabilitation project in the coming months.

ENHANCING & EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

CAPITOL ART COLLECTION

HOBOS: Council staff introduced HOBOs, or wireless temperature and humidity monitors, to record the climatic conditions inside the Jefferson Room, Old Senate Chamber, Old House of Delegates Chamber, and Rotunda to inform conservation decisions related to the fine art on display in the Capitol.

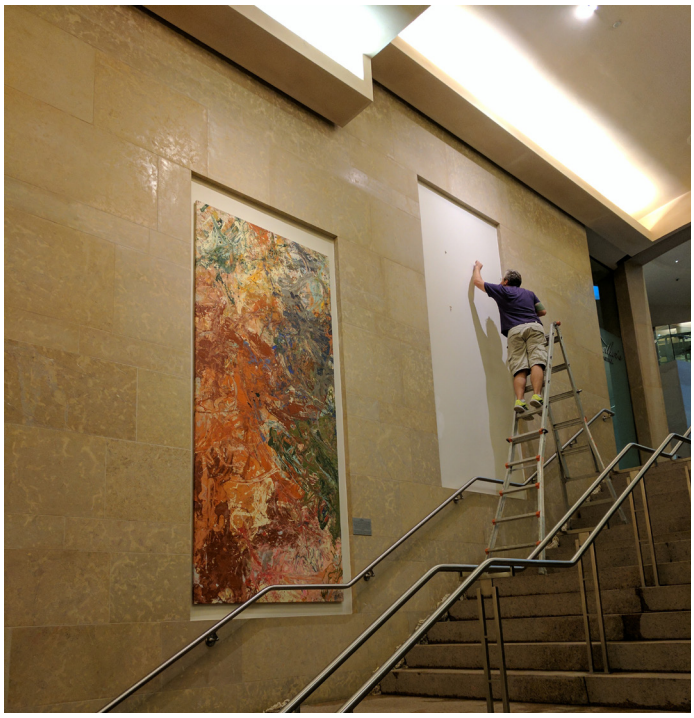
Donation Policy: Working with Meghan Townes, Visual Studies Collection Registrar, and John Metz, Deputy for Collections and Programs, at the Library of Virginia, Council staff drafted a policy for donations to the Capitol Art Collection. The policy recommends that all donations be handled by the Library of Virginia Foundation rather than CSPC or VCF. This streamlines the donation procedure and ensures appropriate and consolidated recordkeeping. This policy is currently under review by the Clerks of the House and Senate, and adoption is anticipated in early 2018.

Capitol Statuary: After the tragic events in Charlottesville this summer, the Council felt it was necessary to develop appropriate messaging with respect to the interpretation of all statuary in the Capitol and Capitol Square. CSPC staff organized a special meeting with John Metz, Gregg Kimball, and Meghan Townes of the Library of Virginia to discuss this issue. The decision was made to first research all the monuments and statuary to determine their historical, legal and artistic significance to appropriately evaluate each work. This systematic evaluation would then inform any change to interpretation. Furthermore, with the upcoming revamping of the Capitol visitor experience, Council staff plans to incorporate significant study into the reinterpretation of all statuary into the Capitol's new educational programming to present a more representative history.

Washington Bust: The Washington bust in the Capitol Visitor Extension was originally loaned to the Council by Ed Snead. After Snead's death in 2015, his entire George Washington-related collection, including this bust, was donated to the George Washington Birthplace, a National Park Service (NPS) site, via the National Park Foundation. To reconcile outstanding loan concerns, CSPC staff contacted Amy Muraca and Deena Brown at the Birthplace. Since the Council would like to transfer management of the loan to the Library of Virginia, negotiations with the Birthplace are underway to continue NPS's loan of the bust to the Capitol.

Porthole Portrait: The VCF accepted the gift of a giclée copy of Rembrandt Peale's porthole portrait for display in the Lower Rotunda of the Capitol. The original Peale porthole portrait is in the Gilder Lehrman Collection, and this copy was a gift from Lewis Lehrman to Buford Scott. An unveiling event was organized by the VCF on May 31, and CSPC provided a special tour of the Capitol for the attendees.

Splatter Paintings: Torqueing stretchers and insufficient mounting hardware resulted in the twisting and lifting of the two large splatter paintings located alongside the stairs of the Capitol Extension. The Council coordinated their rehanging in June with ARTWORKrs, a fine art handling company in Richmond. Each painting was recentered in its respective niche and anchored to the wall using six T-lock hangers.



ARTWORKrs rehanging the splatter paintings in the Capitol Visitor Extension, June 2017. Source: CSPC.

Fouquet Model: Council staff and the Library of Virginia have coordinated two outgoing loans of the 2002 Fouquet model replica for upcoming exhibitions on Jefferson and Palladio. From January 26, 2018, to April 29, 2018, the model will be on display at UVA's Fralin Museum as part of Richard Guy Wilson's "From the Grounds Up: Thomas Jefferson's Architecture and Design." In 2019, the model will travel to Norfolk's Chrysler Museum to be part of an exhibition organized by Lloyd DeWitt, the museum's chief curator and Irene Leache Curator of European Art.

South Hallway Plaques: A bronze plaque documenting the 1904-1906 additions to the Capitol was previously mounted to the west wall of the House hallway on the Capitol's second floor. This plaque was relocated to the south hallway of the Capitol's second floor to join three other bronze plaques of similar design documenting other major renovations and expansions undertaken at the Capitol. This relocation consolidates these plaques to one location and enhances interpretation of the Capitol's major building campaigns.

EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

Working directly with the Clerks' offices, the Council embarked on an exciting initiative this fall by releasing an RFP to qualified design firms to revamp our entire visitor experience, both on-ground and online. The goal is to create a unified, comprehensive approach to the Capitol visitor experience that is educational, engaging, and innovative. This includes a rebranding of the complex, enhancement of virginiacapitol.gov as the online portal for visitation, creation of an interactive permanent orientation exhibition, redesigned wayfinding and visitor collateral, and other state-of-the-art digital applications to expand self-guided experiences.

Capitol Square is a remarkable collection of resources, including a distinguished assemblage of historic buildings, art, monuments and other objects. The Capitol itself is a world class architectural masterpiece designed by Thomas Jefferson, which set the model for governmental architecture throughout the nation and serves as home to the oldest elected lawmaking body in the Western Hemisphere. The Executive Mansion, designed by architect Alexander Parris in 1813, is the oldest executive mansion in the United States still serving its original purpose. And in 1818, the entire complex was enclosed with a cast- and wrought-iron fence designed by Paul-Alexis Sabbaton, making Capitol Square the oldest surviving public space in the country. Because of their significance, Jefferson's Capitol and its historic grounds offer an exemplary space for education, imparting to all types of audiences the powerful story of Virginia as the birthplace of American Democracy. Enhanced educational programming has the potential to educate, engage, and inspire people across the country, thus strengthening the capacity and visibility of the Capitol, while making it an educational and tourism centerpiece for Virginia.

The Council invited over a dozen noted design firms to submit proposals for this project, which is multi-phased over the next four years to coordinate with large-scale capital projects on and around the Square. Four firms responded with competitive proposals, and both the Council's Education and Exhibitions Committee and the Clerks' Offices evaluated the proposals to identify finalists. These finalists will present at the joint meeting of CSPC and VCF on December 13, 2017, at which point a recommendation will be made to the Clerks for final selection. The selected firm will then work closely with CSPC, VCF, and the Clerks during the first half of 2018 to create planning documents to guide fundraising efforts and the phasing of design and implementation.

PERMANENT EXHIBITIONS

The planning for a permanent orientation exhibition will be part of the long-term education campaign for revamping the Capitol visitor experience. The installation of the permanent exhibition is planned to coincide with the completion of the new General Assembly Building, and over the next couple of years Council staff will work closely with designers to plan the exhibition. In preparation, Council staff met with Robert Hancock, Senior Curator and Director of Collections at the American Civil War Museum, to discuss options for the Civil War-era Virginia flag on display in the permanent exhibition gallery space. One recommendation was to consider flat-mounting the flag and relocating the display to another location in the Capitol or Visitor Extension. The Council also had conversations with Meghan Townes, Visual Studies Collection Registrar, at the Library of Virginia about the flag, and flat storage at the Library is a possibility. The Council will continue to explore options for the flag to prepare this space for reinterpretation.

TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

Constitutional Convention of 1867-1868:
To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the 1867-1868 Constitutional Convention, Council staff worked with the Clerks, Library of Virginia, and Virginia's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission to create an exhibition for display during the 2018 General Assembly Session. Designed by Riggs Ward, this exhibition documents the importance of this convention and the constitution it created, which resulted in universal suffrage for men, the establishment of Virginia's first statewide system of public schools, veto power for the governor, and the creation of magisterial districts. With the new constitution in place, the Virginia General Assembly ratified the 14th and 15th amendments in 1869 and was readmitted to the Union in 1870.

Special events corresponding with this exhibition include a round table discussion on voting rights, a lecture by historian Brent Tarter on Reconstruction politics, and a lunchtime lecture by historian Greg Crawford on African American voting records during Reconstruction. The Library of Virginia has also agreed to a short-term display of the actual 1868 Constitution in the Old House Chamber for ten days in February, and special programming and educational opportunities will be coordinated to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

400th Anniversary of the Capitol Police:
Council staff has agreed to collaborate with Capitol Police on an exhibition to celebrate their 400th anniversary in 2018. This exhibition would highlight the Capitol Police's contributions over the past 400 years and include artifacts and historic uniform recreations. Council staff connected Capitol Police with Neal Hurst, a specialist in the recreation of period uniforms, to discuss options for recreating 17th, 18th and 19th-century period uniforms for the exhibition.

From the Grounds Up: Thomas Jefferson's Architecture and Design: UVA's Richard Guy Wilson is organizing an exhibition on Thomas Jefferson's contributions toward an American architectural identify that still endures today. The exhibition goes on display at UVA's Fralin Museum of Art during winter 2018. CSPC and VCF are in conversations with Wilson to organize a condensed version of this exhibition for the temporary exhibition space for 2019.

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