

CAPITOL SQUARE PRESERVATION COUNCIL

Annual Report—December 1st, 2008

Created by the Virginia General Assembly in 1999, the Capitol Square Preservation Council oversees “the architectural, historical, archaeological and landscape features of Capitol Square.” The fourteen-member Council recommends actions for “the enhancement of their historical and architectural integrity” and strategies “that will enhance interpretive and educational opportunities.” Council members “review all plans or proposals for alterations, improvements, additions, renovations or other disposition that is structural or architectural in nature. No implementation of such plans or proposals shall take place prior to review by the Council.” The Council is charged with making a report of its activities to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1st of each year.

2007-2008 Highlights:

- ❑ **Creation of opening ceremony and exhibit honoring the 150th anniversary of the unveiling of Virginia’s Washington Monument.**
- ❑ **Presentation to Virginia chapters, Daughters of the American Revolution, at the National Press Club, Washington, D.C. Receipt of \$25,000 raised by the DAR.**
- ❑ **Restoration of the exterior of the Bell Tower; repair and restoration of the 1818 Capitol Square fence. (Projects undertaken with the Department of Historic Resources and the Department of General Services.)**
- ❑ **Design and installation of exhibit on Meriwether Lewis.**
- ❑ **Implementation of gift acceptance and donor-recognition guidelines.**
- ❑ **Presentation of over 100 lectures/tours to academic classes, civic clubs, organizations, and groups.**

The Council's work has been coordinated by Executive Director James E. Wootton since June 2000. In 2008 the Council and Director have pursued the following goals:

Historic Preservation and Conservation--*Develops comprehensive multi-year plan for conservation, restoration and refurbishment of architectural, historical, archaeological, and landscape features of Capitol Square.*

Action: Consulted with architects and with General Services staff on the Washington Building renovation, the Eighth Street-Ninth Street office complex design, the Bell Tower exterior restoration, conservation of the Capitol Square fence, and landscape design details. Preparation for the five-year review of Landscape Master Plan. Worked with General Services staff to develop appropriate new signage for Capitol Square.

Inventories and develops a conservation plan, in conjunction with the Library of Virginia (State Library/Artwork Coordinator) and the Clerks of the House and Senate, for all works of art, including paintings, sculpture, decorative arts and antique furniture in a manner consistent with House Bill 1206.

Action: Maintained ongoing working relationship with the Curator of the State Art Collection, Library of Virginia. Participated with the Curator and Capitol Historian for interpretation of the

1860s Virginia State Flag and additional flags to be exhibited in the Capitol Extension. Assisted in advising on a proposed bust of Meriwether Lewis to be placed in the Old Hall of the House of Delegates.

Develops plans for the identification, preservation, and scholarly research of archives related to the Capitol, including written works, photographs, and electronic recordings.

Action: Managed a summer research intern who evaluated the symbolic and practical aspects of Jefferson's design of the Capitol. Received materials on loan for temporary exhibits.

Administrative--*Carries out policies developed by the Council and reports, as requested, to the Council. Serves as a liaison with the Clerk of the House of Delegates, Clerk of the Senate, Secretary of Administration, Art and Architectural Review Board, and Department of General Services.*

Action: Reported to Council at four quarterly meetings and at two committee meetings. Participated with committees to pursue publication of a history of Capitol Square and to receive nominations for the Preservation Council. Liaison between the Virginia Capitol Foundation and state agencies on restoration /conservation projects. Daily interaction with state agencies.

Provides administrative support to the Council and performs other such duties as may be assigned by the Council.

Action: See above. Regularly reported to the Council Chair in person and by email and phone. Recorded and distributed minutes of quarterly meetings to Council members. Managed Council correspondence, inquiries, and financial records.

Schedules and conducts periodic meetings of the Council. Coordinates programs and presentations to the Council.

Action: Scheduled four quarterly Council meetings and two committee meetings. Coordinated agendas with the Council Chair. Arranged for special presentations from the Department of General Services, the Library of Virginia, the Virginia Capitol Foundation, and the Capitol Square Civil Rights Memorial Foundation. Scheduled a special presentation by the City of Richmond's Director of Community Development.

Represents the Council before legislative committees as necessary to fulfill the requirements of the enabling legislation.

Action: Worked with the Clerk of the House and the Clerk of the Senate on developing and installing temporary exhibits for the Capitol and Extension. Developed opening ceremony and temporary exhibit commemorating the 150th anniversary of the unveiling of Virginia's Washington Monument.

Develops and administers the Council budget. Complies with State procurement regulations.

Action: Fulfilled monthly budget report requirements through the Department of Legislative Services. Reviewed and submitted invoices, gifts, honoraria, and reimbursements. Distributed travel reimbursement materials to Council members as appropriate. Completed FY2007-2008 under budget.

Initiates and coordinates fund raising activities as may be required to implement plans adopted by the Council.

Action: Collaborated with the Executive Director, Virginia Capitol Preservation Foundation, in securing \$25,000 from Virginia chapters, Daughters of the American Revolution, for restoration of the Bell Tower. Received \$1,925 in speaker fees and honoraria. Collaborated on an ongoing basis with the Foundation Director to cultivate potential donors in the public and private sectors. Special private tours throughout the year offered to potential donors.

Interpretive Programs--*Develops programs to interpret the history of the Capitol and its environs.*

Action: Presented 113 lectures or walking tours to the general public and to Elderhostel classes from the College of William and Mary and from Virginia Commonwealth University. Updated lecture content on the Capitol's history and restoration. Also lectured to groups and historical societies in Charlottesville; Concord, New Hampshire; Kilmarnock; Natural Bridge; Washington, D.C.; and Williamsburg;.

Works with the Capitol hostesses [guides] to enhance further the existing visitor services program and accommodate tourists, school children, and special guests of the Governor and General Assembly.

Held discussions with Capitol Historian and guides on exhibit content for temporary exhibits mounted in the Capitol and in the Extension. Provided special lecture to Capitol Guides on Jefferson and American architecture of the 19th century. Regularly received and distributed research findings with the Capitol Historian and with the Curator of the State Art Collection for use in interpreting the Capitol.

Utilizes all forms of information technology to educate the public about the history and modern day uses of the Capitol.

Action: Worked with technology staff members from the House and Senate to upgrade the Council's website. Edited and reviewed text, taped narrative for a new online virtual tour of the Capitol. Updated PowerPoint presentations on the Capitol's history and restoration.

Publishes materials as approved by the Council.

Action: Edited the text of the intern report on the symbolic and practical aspects of Jefferson's design for the Capitol. Initiated discussions between two authors to complete a manuscript on the history of Capitol Square.

Capital Development and Improvement--*In cooperation with the Clerks of the House and Senate, Art and Architectural Review Board, Secretary of Administration, and Department of General Services, develops plans and recommendations for the maintenance and preservation of the architectural, historical, archaeological and landscape features of Capitol Square and for the enhancement of their historical and architectural integrity.*

Action: Participated with staff and with architects for projects involving the Washington Building, the Eighth Street-Ninth Street office complex, the Capitol Restoration/Extension Project, and the Civil Rights Memorial. Reviewed actions taken to restore the exterior of the Bell Tower and to repair and restore the 1818 Capitol Square fence.

Works closely with the Department of General Services in developing capital budget requests and appropriations for construction, renovation and improvements to the Capitol Square structures and grounds and in making recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly.

Action: Maintained ongoing working relationship with Department of General Services. Maintained a memorandum of agreement with the Director of General Services for projects involving Capitol Square Preservation Council, as required by enabling legislation.