

Annual Executive Summary
Virginia Indian Commemorative Commission
December 1, 2016 – November 30, 2017

Creation and Charge of the Commission

On October 22, 2009, Governor Tim Kaine issued Executive Order 100 that established the Virginia Indian Commemorative Commission pursuant to House Joint Resolution 680 (2009), Chief Patroned by Delegate Christopher K. Peace. The General Assembly approved House Joint Resolution 680 requesting the creation of a commission to recommend an appropriate monument in Capitol Square to commemorate the life, achievements, and legacy of American Indians in the Commonwealth.

On February 5, 2013, Governor Bob McDonnell continued the Commission with Executive Order 59. The continuation of the Virginia Indian Commemorative Commission was done in solemn recognition of the courage, persistence, determination, and cultural values of Virginia's Indians. Over centuries, the Virginia Indian has significantly enhanced and continues to contribute to the Virginia society. On July 13, 2016, Governor Terry McAuliffe extended the Commission with Executive Order 10. From its inception, with the support of three Governors, the Commission worked thoughtfully and diligently to develop a design and construct a suitable tribute monument. In 2017, the design and construction efforts were nearly completed.

The charge of the Commission, as stated in the continuing Executive Order, is the following:

The Commission shall identify an artist, select a design, and take all necessary actions to coordinate the construction, pursuant to applicable state construction policies, of an appropriate tribute monument on Capitol Square to commemorate the life, achievements, and legacy of American Indians in the Commonwealth. The Commission shall seek private funding for the operation and support of the Commission and the erection of an appropriate monument. However, the costs of implementation of the Commission, its work, and the compensation and reimbursement of members, estimated to be \$5,000.00, shall be borne by the Commission from such private funds as it may acquire to cover the costs of its operation and work. The Commission may establish an organization with 501c(3) status for fundraising purposes. The Commission is vested with all the powers to carry out the intent of the General Assembly under House Joint Resolution 680 (2009). All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Commission, upon request. An estimated 200 hours of staff time will be required to support the work of the Commission. The Commission shall report annually the status of its work, including any findings and recommendations, to the General Assembly, by December 1st each year.

Composition of the Commission

The Virginia Indian Commemorative Commission shall consist of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, the Speaker of the House of Delegates, or their respective designees, three members of the House of Delegates appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates in accordance with the principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates, the Clerk of the House of Delegates, the Chair[man] of the Senate Committee on Rules, two citizen members of the Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, the Clerk of the Senate, the Executive Director of the Capitol Square Preservation Council,

three members who shall be representatives of Virginia Indians to be appointed by the Governor, and the Executive Director of the Virginia Capitol Foundation. Additional members may be appointed at the Governor's discretion. The Chairman and the Vice Chairman shall be appointed by the Governor.

Members of the Commission serve without compensation, but they may receive reimbursement for expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties. As of December 2017, the members of the Commission were Governor Terence R. McAuliffe (Chairman), Lt. Governor Ralph S. Northam, Secretary of the Commonwealth Kelly Thomasson, Speaker of the House William J. Howell, Delegates Christopher K. Peace (Vice Chairman), Delores L. McQuinn, and Brenda L. Pogge, the Clerk of the House of Delegates G. Paul Nardo, Senators Ryan T. McDougle, Jennifer McClellan, Rosalyn R. Dance, the Clerk of the Senate Susan Clarke Schaar, Executive Director of the Virginia Capitol Foundation Colleen D. Messick. Gubernatorial appointees are Chief Kenneth Adams, Sidney Turner, and Frances Broaddus - Crutchfield.

MANTLE: the Tribute and the Artist

Alan Michelson, a Mohawk member of Six Nations of the Grand River and an award-winning artist, was selected based on his unique design. The Commission's artist attributed his ultimate inspiration to Chief Powhatan's "mantle," which was a deerskin ceremonial cloak, decorated with shell-beads sewn in spiral clusters. Therefore, the tribute's design takes on this distinctive spiral shape which for Powhatan would have symbolized his preeminence and authority.

Mantle will be installed in the gently sloping southwest portion of the square, just north of the Bell Tower, with an eastern facing entrance. As the "Front Door" of the Commonwealth, historic Capitol Square provides a dramatic setting with historic significance and a multitude of visitors. The Square is a premier place to recognize outstanding Virginians and events, including our Virginia Indians. Oriented to the earth and incorporating existing trees in the area, the tribute, *Mantle*, combines four integrated spiral elements to create the shape of a Nautilus, a shell which represents strength, knowledge of the past, continuous growth, and beauty. A five-foot wide winding footpath following the outline of the monument will serve as a labyrinth which in some Indian cultures represents a sacred path to the home of an ancestor. Complementing the path will be a continuous, smooth stone wall, which also serves as a bench. Natural landscaping throughout the monument will consist of a selection of perennial native plant species, including wildflowers. A meditation area, at the center of the spiral, will feature an infinity pool made to resemble the pottery indicative of Virginia tribes. The water within the pool reflects the river culture existing within our native tribes. Decorating the sides of the sculpture are frieze-like, life-size reliefs of corn, squash, and beans (the Three Sisters) as well as oyster shells from the Chesapeake and other objects significant to the region and its native inhabitants. As visitors make their way through the path, their movements will evoke the circular dance formations found in the American Indian culture. This new communal area will create a respectful relationship with the surrounding natural world, reflecting certain spiritual values, which set Indians apart from other cultures. Finally, state-of-the-art educational programs will be developed with the assistance of the Virginia Capitol Foundation to educate the community in this revered place.

2017 Meetings and Significant Actions

The Virginia Indian Commemorative Commission and the Virginia Capitol Foundation hosted a Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Virginia's Indian Tribute. The Capitol grounds near the Bell Tower were filled with dignitaries from the state recognized tribes, others of native descent, and hundreds of interested and supportive citizens. At the conclusion of the event, all in attendance were invited to crush dried tobacco leaves on the site previously blessed by Virginia Indians in recognition of the sacred space and event. The planned monument, entitled *Mantle*, recognizes the lasting legacy and significance of all Virginia Indians. The June Celebration named "Honoring the Past, Grounding the Present, Guiding the Future" was held on Saturday, June 24, 2017 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in Capitol Square. Featured special guest speaker was William Mervin "Billy" Mills. Also known as Makata Taka Hela (born June 30, 1938), Mills is a Native American who won a gold medal in the Olympic Games. He accomplished this feat in the 10,000 meter run (6.2 mi) at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, becoming the only person from the Western hemisphere to win the Olympic gold in this event. His 1964 victory is considered one of the greatest Olympic upsets, because he was a virtual unknown going into the event. Also, a United States Marine, Mills is a member of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux) Tribe.

Prior to the event, nearly \$400,000 was raised thanks in large part to a \$100,000 matching grant from the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation. Due to the support of several individual donors, corporations, and private foundations, The Virginia Capitol Foundation was able to meet this challenge grant in three weeks. Those entities deserving special recognition include but are not limited to NewMarket, Dominion, the Windsor Foundation, Titan America, and the Running Strong for American Indian Youth Foundation. The Foundation also received a 2:1 matching grant from the Cabell Foundation, whereby \$200,000 would be raised for the project to earn a \$100,000 match. Again, many enthusiastic individual donors helped reach this goal. The total cost for the monument is approximately \$900,000.

Once fully dedicated at an anticipated ribbon cutting event on April 17, 2018, the Virginia Indian Tribute will serve as a meditation space where visitors can either walk the labyrinth or sit and contemplate, or just for people to meet. As a communal area, *Mantle* creates a respectful relationship with the surrounding natural world, reflecting the positive values which sets the Indians apart from other cultures.

The final Commission meeting of the calendar year was held November 21, 2017 in Senate Room 1 in the Pocahontas Building. After call to order and brief remarks by Delegate Peace, Colleen Messick provide a project finance report. Joe Damico of the Department of General Services provided a construction update; his Department has been providing construction management for the entire project. The Commission had a general discussion pertaining to the upcoming ribbon cutting ceremony.

In December, the artist, Alan Michelson, visited the site and offered his approval of the work to date. Construction of *Mantle* was nearly completed December 22, 2017. Due to cold weather, representatives of the Department of General Services will return to perform some repointing and complete the installation of native plantings in the early Spring. Again, an April 17, 2018 public ribbon cutting is planned.

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