



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
CAPITOL SQUARE PRESERVATION COUNCIL

TO: The Honorable Ralph Northam
Governor of Virginia

FROM: Colleen Dugan Messick
Chief Administrative Officer

Craig A. Reynolds, PhD
Curator, Architecture and Landscape

DATE: November 30, 2018

RE: Capitol Square Preservation Council Annual Report for FY18

Pursuant to Chapter 976 of the 1999 Acts of Assembly, the Capitol Square Preservation Council "shall make a report on its activities and recommendations, if any, annually by December 1 to the Governor and General Assembly."

It is our pleasure to present the 2017-18 Annual Report of the Capitol Square Preservation Council. This report reflects the effort and dedication put forth by the members of the Council over the past twelve months.

Should you or your staff have any questions or if we may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at 225-2811, email me at cmessick@cspc.virginia.gov, or visit our office, which is located in the Bell Tower on Capitol Square.

cc: The Honorable Keyanna Conner
The Honorable G. Paul Nardo
The Honorable Susan Clarke Schaar

Capitol Square Preservation Council

Annual Report

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

I. 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 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.

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 CSPC. 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.

The Council has executed 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 VCF and CSPC 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 also created in support of CSPC's responsibilities in caring for Capitol Square's architectural, archaeological, and landscape resources. Justin Gunther, previously a professor of historic preservation at the Savannah College of Art and Design, was hired as CSPC Architectural Historian in April 2017. Mr. Gunther resigned in March 2018 to become the Executive Director of Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater in Mill Run, Pennsylvania.

The 2018 session of the Virginia General Assembly adopted bills patroned by Delegate Christopher K. Peace and Senator Ryan McDougal to clarify the Council's powers and duties, and certain other "housekeeping" language. The bill, among other things, changed the title of the chief officer of CSPC from Executive Director to Chief Administrative Officer and granted CSPC power to enter into partnerships, joint ventures, and other collaborative relationships.

The bill also authorized the employment of a staff member to serve as curator for the architectural, historical, archeological, and landscape resources of Capitol Square. This position was modified from the previous 2017 Architectural Historian position. Beginning in July 2018, this position became Curator, Architecture and Landscape. CSPC began a national search to fill the staff position. In September 2018, Craig A. Reynolds was appointed. Dr. Reynolds holds a doctorate in art history and is a specialist on the art and architectural work of Thomas Jefferson and the visual culture of the early American republic.

2017—2018 Council Members

Senate Appointees

David B. Bradley, Chairman
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Chair Term expires: 6/30/18
Term expires: 6/30/2019

Edward J. Gillikin, Jr., Vice Chairman
Virginia Society, American Institute of Architects
Term expires: 6/30/2020

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: 6/30/2020

Governor's Appointees

Annie Kasper
Member At-Large
Term expires: 6/30/2020

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

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 (resigned March 1, 2018)
Architectural Historian

Craig A. Reynolds (effective Sept 4, 2018)
Curator, Architecture and Landscape

2017—2018 Council Committee Structure

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

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

Buildings Committee

This committee advises on projects related to the preservation of the interior and exterior of buildings within the Square, and the exterior of all state buildings at least 50 years old and bordering the boundary streets. The interiors of the GAB, Washington Building, Jefferson Building, and the Executive Mansion are not included.

Committee Chair: Edward J. Gillikin, Jr.

Council Members: Robert T. Baratta
David Bradley
Annie Kasper

Foundation Members: Florence Lee Wellons
Patricia S. Loughridge

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: Madge Bemiss
David Bradley
Cabell Goolsby West

Foundation Members: Charlie H. Seilheimer, Jr.

Education and 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: Laurant Lee
Annie Kasper
Danielle Simms
Cabell Goolsby West

Foundation Members: Adrienne G. Hines
Margaret Hager

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 CSPC must be presented to and approved by the Personnel Committee. The Personnel Committee makes recommendations for committee assignments and nominations for new members.

Committee Chair: Council Chairman, David B. Bradley

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

II. Architectural Stewardship

Bell Tower

In anticipation of Old City Hall's rehabilitation, CSPC and VCF relocated their offices from Old City Hall to the Bell Tower on September 8, 2017. CSPC and the Department of General Services planned and directed the renovations of the Bell Tower's interior.

CSPC staff is working closely with DGS in monitoring a significant step crack in the foundation, climbing in a southerly direction on the east-facing wall near the building's southeast corner. DGS installed a crack monitor in early 2018 and continues to collect data.

General Assembly Building

CSPC fully supported the replacement of the General Assembly Building with a new building to overcome space and programmatic inadequacies and systems failures. CSPC staff has worked closely with the Art and Architecture Review Board (AARB) in coordinating review and recommendations to DGS concerning architectural salvage, demolition, and preservation of the 1912 south-facing facade.

In coordination with the AARB, CSPC has given a final, favorable review of the General Assembly Building. CSPC has requested that due consideration be given to the following concerns: placement of the flagpoles; materiality of the exterior masonry; articulation of the east front; 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 all exteriors.

CSPC 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.

CSPC 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.

Old City Hall

DGS will begin renovations to Old City Hall in 2019. Plans for Old City Hall include repointing of exterior stonework, addition of a permanent 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. DGS contracted Quinn Evans, a noted preservation A & E firm, to lead the rehabilitation of this National Historic Landmark.

As further planning is undertaken, CSPC 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

CSPC has long had a strong interest in ensuring a future for the State and National Register buildings known as Morson's Row (1853). Forming a dignified western terminus of Capitol Square, these rare surviving townhouses are architecturally and historically significant. It has long been in need of attention to protect and fully utilize this valuable asset.

In early 2018, CSPC participated in stakeholder meetings to advise DGS as it determines the best approach for the building's future use and subsequent rehabilitation. Since the new use and end tenants have yet to be determined, proposals focused on project methodology and preservation approaches. CSPC stressed the importance of preserving character-defining features on the exterior and interior, the preservation of rear domestic wings (most likely surviving slave quarters), and the replacement of missing architectural features. Accessibility and system upgrades were identified as particularly challenging due to the sloping site and preservation goals. Since the highest level of intervention will likely occur at the rear of these buildings, it was suggested that this project be closely coordinated with east campus master planning and future parking accommodations.

As further planning is undertaken, CSPC staff recommends a comprehensive preservation approach to Morson's Row 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. Glavé & Holmes of Richmond was awarded the contract.

III. Landscape Stewardship

Landscape Master Plan

CSPC Landscape Committee and staff carried out a thorough analysis of DGS' *Landscape Master Plan* (2004, revised 2014) to identify recommendations and work toward the creation of a recommended implementation schedule. CSPC envisions that this implementation schedule will prioritize initiatives related to walkways, roads, site elements, and vegetation, and serve DGS in their continued stewardship of Capitol Square.

Building upon the *Landscape Master Plan* (2004, revised 2014), CSPC staff and CSPC Landscape Committee are collaborating with DGS and CSPC members to draft an RFP for the future creation of a *Landscape Maintenance Plan and Design Guidelines* to direct the ongoing preservation of Capitol Square. CSPC's efforts are focused on inventorying existing conditions, defining areas of interpretation, and clarifying the plan's scope and desired outcomes. Ultimately, the goal is to create a historically-appropriate aesthetic for this significant cultural landscape, and such a plan could serve as a guide to DGS in making appropriate decisions for cyclical maintenance, repairs and alterations.

The repaving of North Drive, or the "Avenue" that connects the ceremonial entrance on 9th Street to the Executive Mansion, is one of the uncompleted recommendations 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. Along with a more aesthetically appropriate road surface, CSPC is recommending the installation of bluestone curbing and simulated pea gravel sidewalks around the Washington Monument circle to the 9th Street entrance.

CSPC staff, along with DGS, met with Virginia Department of Transportation's Rob Cary, Chief Deputy Commissioner, and Wanda Wells, Chief of Administration, to discuss the project in early 2018. CSPC will continue to advise DGS and VDOT on long-term planning for North Drive, including resurfacing, security upgrades, and sidewalk and curbing replacement.

Mantle: Virginia Indian Tribute

The groundbreaking for *Mantle* occurred on June 24, 2017, with completion in December 2017. Final punch list items were completed throughout January and February of 2018. The decision was made to polish the center medallion stone of the fountain to achieve a “wet” look, thus matching the other engraved stones of the fountain top when covered with running water.

CSPC staff were involved throughout the planning, design review, and construction process in an advisory capacity. As part of site preparation, CSPC staff recommended vision screening be specified for all safety and construction fencing to minimize the visual impact of the construction site and protection of existing trees during excavation. In addition, CSPC staff discussed with DGS appropriate steps be taken to protect existing trees during excavation.

CSPC worked with the Clerks of the House and the Senate, DGS, and artist Alan Michelson in creating interpretive signage for *Mantle*. The sign was installed at the entry to *Mantle* by DGS in summer 2018. CSPC is in the process of a holistic review of signage as part of its Capitol Visitor Experience project and Landscape Master Plan implementation. CSPC has strongly advised that the introduction of any new sign forms must be carefully considered to avoid setting precedents that further detract from the visual elegance of the Square.

To explore the educational possibilities for *Mantle*, VCF and CSPC staff has met with Karenne Wood, director of the Virginia Indian Heritage Program at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. CSPC is considering potential programming, including web-based interactive sources, teacher institutes, lecture programs, and other creative strategies to engage visitors with *Mantle* and the richness of Virginia’s Native American history. As part of the ongoing Capitol Visitor Experience project, CSPC and VCF staff recommend for DGS to implement many of these ideas as part of the collaborative revamping of interpretation on Capitol Square over the next several years.

Voices from the Garden: Virginia Women’s Monument

CSPC staff is assisting the Virginia Women’s Monument Commission (VWMC) in advising art direction with StudioEIS. To facilitate this process, CSPC is coordinating shipment of the model to their Brooklyn studio and is coordinating with Library of Virginia staff to carry out necessary research on the appropriate depiction—appearance, clothing, time period—for each of the women.

CSPC collaborated with the Clerks, DGS, and Daniel & Company’s team to enhance the placement of the Women’s Monument on Capitol Square. To maximize ADA accessibility, the Monument was shifted uphill and reoriented. This slight modification in placement eliminated the original need for backfill and stairs, both saving money and providing ease of access to the monument’s plaza.

IV. Visitor Stewardship

Capitol Visitor Experience Project

Capitol Square is a remarkable collection of resources, including a distinguished assemblage of historic buildings, art, monuments, and other irreplaceable cultural resources. 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.

Working directly with the Clerks' offices, CSPC embarked on an exciting initiative in fall 2017 fall by releasing an RFP to qualified design firms to holistically evaluate and study the entire visitor experience on Capitol Square, 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.

CSPC invited over a dozen noted design firms to submit proposals for this project in the fall of 2017, 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 CSPC's Education and Exhibitions Committee and the Clerks' Offices evaluated the proposals to identify finalists. These finalists presented at the joint meeting of CSPC and VCF on December 13, 2017, after which CSPC made a recommendation to the Clerks for final selection.

In January 2018, with the strong support of CSPC, the Clerks selected C&G Partners to lead the Capitol Visitor Experience project. A formal letter of agreement was signed by the Clerks and C&G Partners in February. The first phase, taking the duration of 2018, includes discovery and fact-finding, creation of a visual identity, wayfinding and signage guidelines, exhibition and visitor engagement recommendations, print and brochure guidelines, digital platform and new website structure, and a retail study in coordination with the VCF and Capitol gift shop.

In April and May 2018, C&G Partners with support of CSPC coordinated internal and external stakeholder meetings. During these meetings, CSPC arranged for lead designers at C&G Partners to meet with CSPC Members, VCF Board Members, Clerks and select staff, DGS and select staff, staff of the Executive Mansion, Capitol Police, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and a wide variety of external stakeholders from such institutions as the Valentine Museum, American Civil War Museum, and the Virginia Museum of History and Culture.

The planning for a permanent orientation exhibition will be part of the long-term education campaign the Capitol Visitor Experience Master Plan. In preparation, CSPC staff coordinated with Robert Hancock,

Senior Curator and Director of Collections at the American Civil War Museum and Meghan Townes, Visual Studies Collection Registrar, at the Library of Virginia to discuss options for the Civil War-era Virginia state flag on display in the permanent exhibition gallery space in the Capitol Visitor Center. With guidance from Council, it was decided that the flag, having been on continuous display for nearly 10 years, should be removed from public display for a period of rest. Coordinating with the Library of Virginia, the flag was carefully removed from its display case in the Capitol Visitor Center and packed in a specially-designed storage case for safe keeping at the Library of Virginia.

Exhibition: *The Constitutional Convention of 1867-1868*

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the 1867-1868 Constitutional Convention, CSPC staff, the Clerks, Library of Virginia, and Virginia's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission worked to create an exhibition for display during the 2018 General Assembly Session, titled *The Constitutional Convention of 1867-1868*. Designed by Riggs Ward, the exhibition documented African American suffrage and the politics of Reconstruction in Virginia. Specifically, this exhibition explored the importance of the 1867-1868 Constitutional Convention, 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. In conjunction with the exhibition, CSPC hosted a series of educational programs which included:

- March 21, 2018: "Constructing a New Virginia: The Revolutionary Constitutional Convention of 1867-1868," by Brent Tarter, independent scholar and author
- April 12, 2018: "'You Have No Right to Refuse to Register Me!': Disenfranchisement in Virginia, 1866, 1902," by Greg Crawford, Local Records Program Manager
- May 17, 2018: "Race and the Right to Vote: Contextualizing African American Suffrage in Virginia," a roundtable discussion including Dr. Corinne Field, Dr. Julian Hayter, Senator McClellan, and Dr. Nicole Turner.

Donation Policy

Working with Meghan Townes, Visual Studies Collection Registrar, and John Metz, Deputy for Collections and Programs, at the Library of Virginia, CSPC staff drafted a policy for donations to ensure appropriate and consolidated recordkeeping. The policy recommends that all donations be handled by the Library of Virginia Foundation. This policy was reviewed by the Clerks and approved in May 2018.

Capitol Statuary

After the tragic events in Charlottesville in summer 2017, CSPC developed 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. The project began in 2017 and is continuing. CSPC anticipates that this systematic evaluation will inform any change to interpretation. Furthermore, with the Capitol Visitor Experience project ongoing, CSPC expects to incorporate significant study into the reinterpretation of all statuary into the Capitol's new educational programming to present a more complete and inclusive history.

2002 Capitol Plaster Model

CSPC staff and the Library of Virginia coordinated the loan of the 2002 plaster replica of Fouquet's Capitol model for an exhibition on Jefferson and Palladio. From January 26, 2018, to April 29, 2018, the 2002 model was displayed at the Fralin Art Museum at the University of Virginia as part of Richard Guy Wilson's exhibition, *From the Grounds Up: Thomas Jefferson's Architecture and Design*.