

# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA CAPITOL SQUARE PRESERVATION COUNCIL

то:	The Honorable Ralph Northam, Governor of Virginia
	The Honorable Susan Clarke Schaar, Clerk of the Senate Members of the Virginia General Assembly
	The Honorable G. Paul Nardo, Clerk of the House and Keeper of the Rolls of the Commonwealth
FROM:	Colleen Dugan Messick OM Chief Administrative Officer
DATE:	December 2, 2019

RE: Capitol Square Preservation Council FY19 Annual Report

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 FY19 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, specifically July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. A printed copy will be provided at a later date.

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.

# **Capitol Square Preservation Council**

# **Annual Report**

# July 1, 2018—June 30, 2019

# I. Welcome

## Edward J. Gillikin, Jr., Chairman

On behalf of the Virginia Capitol Square Preservation Council (CSPC), welcome to the Virginia State Capitol and historic Capitol Square. In 2019 we celebrated the 400th anniversary of the Virginia General Assembly, the first representative legislative body established in the western hemisphere. CSPC serves not only to preserve the art, architecture and landscape on Capitol Square, but also to share with all visitors and citizens of Virginia our Commonwealth's history and contributions to representative democracy in the United States and in the world. This year we also celebrate the establishment of the Virginia Women's Monument, commemorating great women of Virginia, their stories and their contributions, and inspiring future women to continue their legacy in our Commonwealth. Virginia's State Capitol was designed by one of our nation's founding fathers, Thomas Jefferson, as a symbol of representative democracy in Virginia and in America. This world historic building and surrounding grounds, which make up Capitol Square, is a living, functioning center of government, and is truly the "People's House" where all are welcome and where history past and future is made in Virginia.

#### **Colleen Dugan Messick, Chief Administrative Officer**

Here, at the Virginia Capitol, guests from every corner of the globe can see where representative democracy was practiced as the home to the oldest elected law-making body in the Western Hemisphere. Capitol Square is a treasure and a truly remarkable place. It is a joy to work closely with the legislative and executive branches, the Council, and Foundation board. Together, we strive towards the enhancement of historical and architectural integrity and strategies that will enhance interpretive and educational opportunities for the Capitol, Capitol Square, and Executive Mansion. In the past year much has been accomplished and we are proud to be part of a team that preserves, interprets, and enhances the historic resources on Capitol Square.

#### Craig A. Reynolds, PhD, Curator, Architecture and Landscape

As the CSPC Curator, I am proud to serve the Commonwealth as part of the collective conscience advising on appropriate methods of preservation and interpretation on Capitol Square. I'm fortunate to work with a host of talented colleagues across Capitol Square and the dedicated citizenvolunteers who serve as appointed members of CSPC. The past year has been an incredibly exciting time, as CSPC works to enhance and expand opportunities for our visitors—from new and improved signage to updated curriculum, exhibitions, and online content. The work has just begun, but significant planning is already underway. As we look to the future, we envision a comprehensive approach that will strengthen visitor engagement, expand programming in a comprehensive and compelling manner, and increase accessibility through the future roll-out of technology and internet-based services to provide virtual learning opportunities in classrooms across the state.

# **II. Capitol Square Preservation Council**

Capitol Square is a remarkable collection of resources, including a distinguished assemblage of historic buildings, art, monuments, and other irreplaceable cultural resources. The Capitol, that unique Virginia temple on the hill, is the architectural masterpiece designed by Thomas Jefferson that set the model for democratic architecture throughout the nation and continues to serve 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 one of the oldest surviving public spaces 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.

In 1999 the Virginia General Assembly established the Capitol Square Preservation Council (CSPC). CSPC is a legislative agency consisting of thirteen individuals with expertise relevant to the management, stewardship, and interpretation of the Virginia State Capitol and the remarkable assemblage of historic and cultural resources within the legally defined boundaries of Capitol Square. 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.

In 2016, CSPC entered into an operating agreement with the Virginia Capitol Foundation (VCF), the nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization tasked with supporting the restoration, preservation, and interpretation 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. Each year, CSPC and VCF hold a joint meeting to ensure mutual support and alignment of projects, with special attention on the Visitor Experience Master Plan and its recommended educational enhancements on Capitol Square.

During the 2018 session of the Virginia General Assembly CSPC staff worked with Delegate Chris Peace in the Virginia House of Delegates and Senator Ryan McDougal in the Virginia Senate to successfully revise Virginia Code establishing CSPC and defining its powers and duties. The lead author of the revisions was Mark Vucci, Division of Legislative Services. The bill, as approved by the House and Senate, changed the title of the chief officer of CSPC from the Executive Director to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Furthermore, the revised bill grants CSPC power to enter into partnerships, joint ventures, and other collaborative relationships.

In September 2018, Craig A. Reynolds, Ph.D., was hired for the newly created CSPC position of Curator, Architecture and Landscape. 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. He has expertise in museum administration, museum education, and is the author of several published essays and chapters centered on Jefferson, his contemporaries, and American architecture.

# **III. Services provided by Capitol Square Preservation Council**

CSPC serves to protect the vast art and architectural resources of Capitol Square while guiding educational efforts in interpreting these resources in a sound, appropriate, and thoughtful manner for a diverse and ever-changing audience. 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 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 cultural landscape (among the first public parks in the U.S.), distinguished smaller gardens designed by Charles Gillette, archaeological remains from prehistory to the nineteenth century, and a collection of unique sculptural works.

As stated by the Code of Virginia, CSPC advises on 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." CSPC 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."

As defined by the Code of Virginia, 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 guidance of CSPC. By extension, CSPC is committed to enhanced educational programming which 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.

#### July 1, 2018—June 30, 2019 Council Members

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

David B. Bradley (Past Previous Chair) Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Term expires: 6/30/2019

<u>House Appointees</u> Robert T. Baratta Preservation Virginia Term expires: 6/30/2021

Cabell Goolsby West Garden Club of Virginia Term expires: 6/30/2020

<u>Governor's Appointees</u> The Honorable Robert H. Brink Citizens Advisory Council on Furnishing and Interpreting the Executive Mansion Term expires: 6/30/2021

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

Lauranett Lee, Ph.D. Citizens Advisory Council on Furnishing and Interpreting the Executive Mansion Term expires: 6/30/2021

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

Andrew H. Talkov Virginia Museum of History and Culture Term expires: 6/30/2019 Ex Officio Members The Honorable Keyanna Conner Secretary of Administration

The Honorable G. Paul Nardo Clerk, House of Delegates

The Honorable Susan Clarke Schaar Clerk, Senate of Virginia

<u>Staff</u> Colleen Dugan Messick Chief Administrative Officer

Craig A. Reynolds, Ph.D. Curator, Architecture and Landscape

# July 1, 2018—June 30, 2019 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. 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 David B. Bradley Annie Kasper
Foundation Members:	Patti 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:	Cabell Goolsby West
Council Members:	David B. Bradley Robert M. McGinnis
Foundation Members:	Charlie Seilheimer

## **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 Member:	Robert H. Brink Annie Kasper Lauranett Lee, Ph.D. Cabell Goolsby West
Foundation Members:	Adrienne Hines Maggie 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. 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, Edward J. Gillikin, Jr.
Members:	Clerk of the Senate, Susan Clarke Schaar Clerk of the House, Paul Nardo
	Secretary of Administration, Keyanna Conner

# IV. Architectural Stewardship

## **Virginia State Capitol**

Since its inception, the CSPC has worked in partnership with the Clerks of the House and the Senate, the Department of General Services (DGS), the Art and Architecture Review Board (AARB), and the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) to ensure consistent preservation and restoration stewardship of the Virginia State Capitol (begun 1785). This includes but is not limited to, annual exterior cleaning, routine testing for water incursion, exterior stucco surveillance, and preventative maintenance measures. As the architectural centerpiece of Capitol Square and home to the General Assembly, having met for its 400<sup>th</sup> annual session in 2019, the Virginia State Capitol will continue to be a focal point of CSPC's restoration, preservation, and interpretation efforts well into the future.

## **Bell Tower**

Since September 2017, CSPC has been housed in the historic Bell Tower (1825), the third oldest building on Capitol Square (after the Virginia State Capitol and Executive Mansion). CSPC coordinated with DGS, which planned and directed the renovations of the Bell Tower's interior. CSPC and VCF staff provided input and specifications throughout the design and construction process and worked closely to ensure its care and preservation. Partnering with DGS, CSPC oversaw the installation of a historically appropriate freestanding permanent sign at the entrance to the Bell Tower, designating the Bell Tower as the offices of CSPC and VCF.

# **General Assembly Building**

CSPC was a partner in driving the General Assembly Building design and project forward. During the review process, CSPC fully supported the replacement of the old General Assembly Building with a new building as an appropriate approach 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.

CSPC continues to support DGS as the building was refined during final design phases in 2018 and 2019, and as the first phases of construction began in early 2019. Furthermore, CSPC continues to request 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 10<sup>th</sup> and Capitol Streets; salvage and reuse of the 1923 architectural fragments; hierarchy of architectural ornamentation across the all exteriors, use of appropriately scaled security bollards and other exterior barriers with attention to aesthetic and historic considerations, and preservation of public gardens with appropriate choice in future tree plantings.

CSPC commends 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**

CSPC has contributed recommendations to DGS on the proposed rehabilitation of Old City Hall (1886). Quinn Evans, a noted preservation A & E firm, was selected as the lead for the rehabilitation of this National Historic Landmark with the advice of CSPC. With the support of DGS, CSPC has coordinated with Quinn Evans architects Thomas Jester, Principal, and John Whitaker, Lead Architect and Project Manager to coordinate reviews of the project with the CSPC Building Committee. During these meetings, the Quinn Evans design team gave routine project updates to the CSPC Building Committee, with providing guidance and direction. CSPC staff has met with the Quinn Evans interior design team, giving guidance on appropriate color selection and surface treatments. CSPC ultimately giving final approval to the project with the AARB.

Approved plans for Old City Hall include thorough repointing of 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, replacement of street-level vent hoods on 11<sup>th</sup> Street, and appropriate interior finish restoration.

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. CSPC was pleased to learn that interior restoration to the historic cast iron interior has been approved; however, 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 three 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. They have long needed attention to protect them and fully utilize the Commonwealth's assets in the space-limited Square.

The CSPC Building Committee has advised Andrew B. Moore, AIA LEED AP BD+C, CDT of Glavé & Holmes Architecture, as the lead architect overseeing the Morson's Row restoration and rehabilitation project. CSPC stressed the importance of preserving character-defining features on the exterior and interior (such as original millwork and balustrades), the preservation of rear domestic wings (most likely rare surviving urban slave quarters), and the replacement of missing exterior and interior architectural features. From a usability approach, accessibility and system upgrades were identified as particularly challenging due to the sloping site and the high quality of historic fabric. 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.

CSPC has collaborated with DGS and Glavé & Holmes Architecture to find an appropriate solution to the need of a new addition adjoining the original structure, to form a singular secured entrance for all three row houses and operate as an elevator and stair tower. In joint consultation with DGS, Glavé & Holmes Architecture, AARB, and DHR, the CSPC Building Committee took a lead role in arriving at a suitable compromise in the form of a square tower, following the Italianate form of the original row houses, and set significantly back so as not to interrupt the original street-front three-part articulation. CSPC asked that the tower rise only minimally above the existing roofline of the original row houses, to accommodate for the elevator and its mechanical equipment while also meeting requisite building codes. In moving through the final approval stages, CSPC worked in tandem with AARB to create guidelines for rooflines, materials, exterior stucco treatment, and window arrangement for the new tower. CSPC ultimately gave final support to the project through AARB's approval process.

As further interior planning is undertaken to program the needs of future tenants, and as work proceeds on exterior restoration, CSPC staff recommends a comprehensive preservation approach to Morson's Row that remains consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Rare and unique features survive on both the exterior and interior, and CSPC's support and approval is fully contingent of the care and preservation of these features.

#### Ninth Street Parking Deck

The Ninth Street Parking Deck will be the primary parking facility for the new General Assembly Building. The deck is planned for the southside Broad Street, between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets. The project is new construction but is in the immediate vicinity of historic resources (principally the Barbara Johns Building state office building and St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church). As such, CSPC has strongly advised that DGS and the architect of record, Commonwealth Architects, coordinate with adjacent historic properties, both state and private, as the design is finalized. CSPC has also suggested that DGS and Commonwealth Architects consider space on the first level of the deck fronting Broad Street be considered for future retail/restaurant purposes. CSPC remains concerned about the possible "pedestrian dead zone" that the block-long parking deck might create along Broad Street, between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets.

# V. Landscape Stewardship

#### Landscape Master Plan

CSPC staff and the CSPC Landscape Committee carried out a thorough analysis of the *Landscape Master Plan* (2004, revised 2014) to identify recommendations and work towards the creation of an implementation schedule. With DGS now in the process of updating the existing Landscape Master Plan (2004, revised 2014), CSPC's efforts are currently focused on inventorying present conditions, defining areas where interpretation for public visitors is needed, and clarifying the plan's scope and desired outcomes to align with the Capitol Square Visitor Experience Master Plan (approved April 2019). Ultimately, CSPC's goal is to create historically-appropriate approaches to planting and landscape care while simultaneously implementing the exterior/landscape recommendations as approved in the Capitol Square Visitor Experience Master Plan (approved April 2019).

The repaving of North Drive, or the "Avenue" that connects the ceremonial entrance on 9<sup>th</sup> Street to the Executive Mansion, is one of the outstanding recommendations and a priority of the *Landscape Master Plan* and the current update as directed by DGS. 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 9<sup>th</sup> Street entrance. CSPC will coordinate with DGS and VDOT on long-term planning for North Drive, including resurfacing, security upgrades, and sidewalk and curbing replacement. Stakeholders will continue to meet to ensure how best to integrate North Drive upgrades into in schedule of projects overseen by DGS and VDOT.

# Exterior Wayfinding and Planned Signage Upgrades

In moving forward with the Capitol Square Visitor Experience Master Plan (approved April 2019), CSPC has taken a systematic survey of Capitol Square to identify all public points of entry/exit, accessible entry/exit, and recommended site placement for maps, directional signage, and content signage. With the support of the Clerks of the House and Senate, CSPC has engaged C&G Partners, a design firm specializing in cultural and museum sites, to assist in creating a Visitor Experience plan for Capitol Square that will address accessibility and systemize sign types, design, and placement. As this project moves forward, this plan and set of recommendations will be further refined as part of routine reporting and coordination with DGS, Capitol Police, the Executive Mansion, and the Clerks of the House and Senate.

#### **Bank Street Entrance Plaza and Grotto**

Primarily led by CSPC member, Rob McGinnis, CSPC Landscape Committee undertook a review of the current state of the Bank Street entrance plaza and grotto, with specific focus on the planting program. CSPC further reviewed the original 2007 specifications and recommendations for the site, including irrigation and planting recommendations. Additional fact-finding took place with the support of the Clerks and culminated with a meeting on the plaza that included CSPC, Clerks, and Calder Loth, current member of AARB and the former senior architectural historian at the Department of Historic Resources. Mr. Loth was instrumental in guiding the look and intent for the Bank Street plaza, especially the entrance based on the Bremo Temperance Temple in Fluvanna County. CSCP continues to study the challenges of this space and anticipates working closely with DGS and the Clerks to provide a set of recommendations to overcome the challenges of planting in an inhospitable urban space.

# **VI. Visitor Stewardship**

# **Capitol Visitor Experience Project**

Working directly with the Clerks' offices, CSPC embarked on an exciting initiative in fall 2017 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, with the project being funded through grants secured by VCF. 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. The findings and recommendations will be finalized in January 2019 and submitted as a master plan to the Clerks, Council, and VCF.

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.

During the summer of 2018, C&G Partners presented an initial draft report to CSPC and the Clerks, with CSPC taking the lead on guiding C&G Partners with feedback and other editorial direction. With CSPC support, C&G continued refining the draft reports, with routine review by CSPC and Clerks. Beginning in September 2018, CSPC and C&G Partners began bi-weekly conference calls to ensure project momentum and deadline. CSPC further arranged for designers from C&G Partners to visit Capitol Square and present materials in joint meetings with the Clerks, Council, and VCF at the Capitol in October and December 2018. A special visit was arranged in February 2019, to ensure that the C&G design team had a full appreciation and understanding of the Capitol and Capitol Square during an active session of the General Assembly.

In close agreement with the Clerks, Executive Mansion, and DGS, CSPC accepted a draft Capitol Square Visitor Experience Master Plan in March 2019. The plan was further refined, with CSPC taking the lead to coordinate the changes and updates. In April 2019 a final Capitol Square Visitor Experience Master Plan was presented to the Clerks and CSPC and approved. This plan will guide CSPC in elevating and expanding the visitor experience on Capitol Square through greater collaboration between offices and enhanced tours, updated design standards and logo, new signage, educational programs and exhibitions, and outreach through expanded digital platforms and virtual tours.

The main components of the Capitol Square Visitor Experience Master Plan include but are not limited to:

- Brand identity, design standards, and logo
- New unified and cohesive signage program, to include maps, directional, and content signage outside on the Square and inside the Capitol
- Use study, identifying areas for tours, exhibitions, and content delivery
- Creation of an educational studio inside the Capitol Visitor Center
- Accessibility study, with recommendations for access and use by visitors
- Technology upgrades, focused on a new dedicated website and mobile devices for the delivery of curriculum and virtual experiences

The planning for a permanent orientation exhibition will be part of the long-term education campaign in the Capitol Visitor Center. 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 CSPC staff will work closely with designers to plan the exhibition and include appropriate technology.

# Conditions Inspection and Cleaning of the George Washington and Rotunda Portrait Busts

CSPC Curator, Dr. Reynolds in collaboration with Meghan Towne, Visual Studies Registrar, DGS, and the Clerks, secured art conservator Scott Nolley for the inspection, cleaning, and dusting of the statues in the Capitol Rotunda ahead of the 2019 session of the General Assembly. CSPC will continue to work with the Clerks, Library of Virginia, and DGS to ensure that annual inspections, inspection reports, and seasonal cleaning is scheduled and implemented to ensure proper care and preservation of Rotunda statues.

# Website Update: <u>www.virginiacapitol.gov</u>

With the support of the Clerks of the House and Senate, Dr. Reynolds worked with VCF staff, House IT staff and Senate IT staff to undertake a basic redesign and update to virginiacapitol.gov, the general visitor website. The redesign and reorganization included updating images, graphics, and basic visitor information. Content includes operation hours, directions, parking and tour options, exhibition details, brief histories of the Capitol and Capitol Square. Additionally, the website redesign streamlined navigation for clarity and ease-of-use. New links were created to the Capitol giftshop for online shopping and to VCF support and giving. CSPC and VCF desire to make the virginiacapitol.gov website more effective as an interim measure while planning is presently underway on a new "one-stop-shop" Capitol Visitor Website, as detailed in the Master Plan (approved April 2019) and guided by designers at C&G Partners.

# Exhibition: The Duty to Protect, An Honor to Serve

In collaboration with LVA and Capitol Police, and with the support of the Clerks, CSPC opened an exhibition in the Capitol Visitor Center in commemoration of the 400th Anniversary of the Capitol Police, titled *The Duty to Protect, An Honor to Serve*. This exhibition proved popular, with the highlight being the six Capitol Police uniforms displayed in the former flag case in the Capitol Visitor Center. It was open from September 2018 to January 2019. The exhibition wall panels were relocated for display in the Washington Building, Capitol Police headquarters.

The six historic uniforms, however, remained on view during 2019 as part of educational programming in recognition of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Virginia General Assembly. Three of the uniforms are period reproductions representing the seventeenth-century Jamestown era, the eighteenth-century Williamsburg era, and the early nineteenth century Richmond era. Neal Hurst, a historic tailor and Curator of Costumes and Textiles at Colonial Williamsburg, was contracted to create the three period uniforms. The three 20<sup>th</sup> century uniforms were lent by the Capitol Police, one of which is the dress uniform of Col. Steve Pike. CSPC thanks its generous partners, Col. Steve Pike and Lt. John McKee, Capitol Police, and the Library of Virginia.

# Exhibition and Programming Celebrating the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Virginia General Assembly:

In collaboration with the Clerks, CSPC entered into am agreement with American Evolution to plan, design, and mount an exhibition highlighting the historical origins of the Virginia General Assembly, the Great Charter of 1618, the legacy of representative government, and Virginia's significant role in shaping democracy in the United States. American Evolution worked with the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation to produce exhibition, to include images, design, and fabrication. The Council, in cooperation with the Clerks, oversaw all aspects of content review and exhibition installation. The exhibition is titled "The Great Charter and the General Assembly: Founding a Legacy in 1619" and was on view in Capitol Visitor Center for calendar year 2019.

With support of Paul Nardo, Clerk of the House, and Meghan Townes, Registrar at LVA, CSPC Curator Dr. Reynolds negotiated a temporary return of the 1730s Speaker's Chair from Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (CWF) to the Virginia State Capitol, for display in the Old House Chamber. The Chair was on public view for the duration of the 2019

General Assembly and helped celebrate the 400th anniversary of representative government in Virginia. The 1730s Speakers Chair and a cast iron colonial era Warming Machine (stove) are on long-term loan from the Commonwealth to CWF, with the 1730s Speaker's Chair going back on loan to CWF in late March 2019. As part of its return, CSPC worked with LVA and the House Clerk to update loan documentation, including the requirement that CWF produce an annual inspection report and maintain the chair and warming machine in museum-standard environmental conditions.

## **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 the Capitol Art Collection. The policy recommends that all donations be handled by the Library of Virginia Foundation. This streamlines the donation procedure and ensures appropriate and consolidated recordkeeping. This policy was reviewed by the Clerks and was adopted in May 2018, reviewed and revised with the final approval of the Clerks in spring 2019.

#### Architectural Models on Display in the Capitol Visitor Center

CSPC has received the architectural models of the two most recent monuments on Capitol Square — Mantle: Virginia Indian Tribute and Voices from the Garden: Virginia Women's Monument. CSPC, working with the Clerks of the House and Senate, created new interpretive labels for each model. The models were fitted inside display cases and were placed on public exhibit inside the Capitol Visitor Center.

#### Digital Scanning of the Plaster Model of the Virginia State Capitol

An innovative and groundbreaking exhibition, focused on Thomas the Jefferson and American democracy, was being led and planned by Monticello for the National Library of China. CSPC came on board as one of the many state-wide cultural partners and provided guidance on Jefferson's role as architect of the Virginia State Capitol and the General Assembly. A key feature of the exhibition was to be a copy of the plaster model of the Capitol created by Jean–Pierre Fouquet in 1786.

Political circumstances ultimately put the exhibition on hold. CSPC and Monticello, however, moved forward with an exciting plan to digitally scan the model in the public collection of the Virginia State Capitol in order to create a 3-D printed duplicate for educational and exhibition use at Monticello. CSPC partnered with the Library of Virginia and the Digital Curation Laboratory at Virginia Commonwealth University to record the model using laser and light-

scanning technology, creating a computerized image of the plaster model. CSPC organized public programs for visitors and school groups to witness the high-tech, scanning process and participate is a 3-D scanning program hosted by Dr. Bernard Means in the Jefferson Room of the Virginia State Capitol. In the coming year, CSPC will partner with Dr. Means to produce the 3-D printed model in the Digital Curation Laboratory, and work with Monticello to deliver and install the model as part of a new and updated orientation exhibition.