

Capitol Square Preservation Council

Annual Report

July 1, 2019—June 30, 2020

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 citizen-volunteers 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 non-profit 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.

As part of his varied responsibilities, Dr. Reynolds acts as project manager of the Capitol Square Visitor Experience Project – a multifaceted and extensive set of visitor and educational enhancements that CSPC plans to implement across Capitol Square in partnership with the Clerks, General Assembly, Executive Mansion, and other Capitol Square stakeholders. Carried out in phases over the next five years, the Capitol Square Visitor Experience represents a significant investment in educational resources, visitor engagement, and student outreach – in both onsite programming and new web-based content in support of virtual educational outreach across the Commonwealth.

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.

CSPC and staff also collaborate with cultural and educational institutions across the Commonwealth, providing expertise on curriculum and topics closely associated with the Virginia State Capitol and its history. CSPC staff routinely act as public speakers and lead educational programs, provide expert curatorial support and assistance, and engage in academic and research efforts. CSPC’s partnering institutions include the Library of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Virginia, Monticello, Mount Vernon, National Park Service, and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

IV. Capitol Square Preservation Council Membership, July 1, 2019—June 30, 2020

Senate Appointees

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

Andrew B. Moore
Virginia Society, American Institute of Architects
Term Expires: 6/30/22

House Appointees

Robert T. Baratta
Preservation Virginia
Term expires: 6/30/2021

Robert E. Comet, Jr.
Historic Richmond Foundation
Term Expires: 6/30/22

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

Governor's Appointees

The Honorable Robert H. Brink
Citizens Advisory Council on Furnishing and Interpreting the Executive Mansion
Term expires: 6/30/2021

Annie Kasper, Vice Chairman
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

Missy Benson
Virginia Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects
Term expires: 6/30/2022

Andrew H. Talkov
Virginia Museum of History and Culture
Term expires: 6/30/2022

Ex Officio Members

The Honorable Keyanna Conner
Secretary of Administration

The Honorable G. Paul Nardo
Clerk, House of Delegates, (July 1, 2019—January 7, 2020)

The Honorable Suzette Denslow
Clerk, House of Delegates, (January 8, 2020—June 30, 2020)

The Honorable Susan Clarke Schaar
Clerk, Senate of Virginia

Staff

Colleen Dugan Messick
Chief Administrative Officer

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

Council Committee Structure, July 1, 2019—June 30, 2020

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
Andrew B. Moore
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: Annie Kasper
Missy Benson

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
Clerk of the House, Suzette Denslow
Secretary of Administration, Keyanna Conner

V. 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 400th 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.

Capitol Visitor Center Skylight Repair and Waterproofing Schematic Design:

The 2007 Capitol Visitor Center (underground addition to the Capitol) has been plagued with consistent water infiltration, notably at the Capitol's portico stairs and the skylight above the Thomas Jefferson statue (2012). DGS began the process of studying the causes, locations, and possible solutions to the water incursion in 2019. A primary area of concern is the skylight, which has been a source of near constant water infiltration from the outdoor plaza above. Glavé & Holmes Architecture was awarded the contract to redesign the skylight and ceiling above the Thomas Jefferson statue, replacing it with an artificial skylight of solid material, but that gives the illusion and effects of a true skylight. Considering the constant damage caused by water infiltration, CSPC supports the approach to the skylight replacement, even with the loss to illuminate the gallery containing the Thomas Jefferson statue with natural light. CSPC notes that skylights are key features that Jefferson incorporated into his buildings, including the Virginia State Capitol. In many respects, the use of a skylight in the modern Capitol Visitor Center (2007) is a fitting architectural nod to Jefferson as the Virginia State Capitol's original designer.

CSPC worked with Glavé & Holmes Architecture to ensure that the simulated skylight and its artificial light "read" as natural, so that the light is diffused in a way that mimics sunlight from above and that the physical features mimic a skylight in complete and total appearance. CSPC also advised the design team to consider the original design intent of the underground Capitol Visitor Center as a transitional, contemporary space intended to differentiate from the historic fabric of the c. 1788 Virginia State Capitol. CSPC recommended exploring an interior design for the replacement skylight that mimics the minimal, contemporary appearance of the existing 2007 skylight. After carefully incorporating all CSPC recommendations into the plans, CSPC gave final approval to the project with AARB, and DHR.

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 AARB in coordinating review and recommendations to DGS concerning architectural salvage, demolition, and preservation of the 1912 south-facing facade.

Old City Hall

CSPC has contributed recommendations to DGS on the proposed rehabilitation of Old City Hall (1886). Quinn Evans, a noted architectural firm with an extensive preservation portfolio, 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. After carefully incorporating all CSPC recommendations into the plans, CSPC gave final approval to the project with AARB, and DHR.

Rehabilitation and restoration work has been ongoing over the last year, including a thorough repointing of exterior stonework, repair and restoration of all windows and doors, appropriate replacement of the roof skylight and its structural system, addition of an accessibility ramp to the west entrance, replacement of street-level vent hoods on 11th Street, appropriate interior finish restoration (with special attention to the original cast-iron interior atrium), and removal of insensitive alterations. CSPC continues to monitor the progress of this project, working closely with the project team, including DGS and Quinn Evans, to ensure its successful completion (projected 2022).

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 Glavé & Holmes Architecture, the lead architectural firm 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 (likely surviving quarters for enslaved people, a rare surviving feature in an urban setting), and the appropriate replacement of missing exterior and interior architectural elements. From a usability approach, accessibility and system upgrades were identified as particularly challenging due to the sloping site and the high quality of surviving 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 strongly advises that careful attention be given for the care and preservation of these features. CSPC continues to monitor the progress of this project, working closely with the project team, including DGS and Glavé & Holmes Architecture, to ensure its successful completion (projected 2022).

VI. Landscape Stewardship

Capitol Square 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. CSPC's efforts over the last nine months have shifted to inventorying present conditions, defining areas where interpretation for public visitors is needed, and clarifying the existing Landscape Master Plan's scope and desired outcomes to ensure alignment 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.

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* 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 9th 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.

Bank Street Schematic Design:

CSPC began coordination on plans to enhance Bank Street (from 9th Street to Governor Street) with DGS and Commonwealth Architects in early spring 2020. Through a collaborative approach with Commonwealth Architects, the lead design firm, CSPC has advocated for an emphasis on creating an outdoor welcoming “zone” to Capitol Square focused on Bank Street and the Bank Street Entrance Plaza to the Capitol. CSPC recommended that this area incorporate safety and security elements that complement the historic integrity of the overall space, promote pedestrian traffic, include ADA accessibility and ADA parking, support group visitors and school fieldtrips, contain a dedicated bus unloading and reloading area (especially for school group visitation), and facilitate temporary bus parking area near Bank and 14th Streets. CSPC has further advised that the design incorporate wide pedestrian promenades that reinforce the historic views looking up to the Capitol and that draw visitors to the Bank Street Entrance Plaza. As the design is further refined, CSPC is working to ensure plant and tree species are appropriate and will not obstruct sight lines – neither the view of the Capitol nor the Federal Court of Appeals. All added foliage, plantings, and trees should enhance the picturesque and otherwise architectural balance of Bank Street and the surrounding architectural resources. Furthermore, CSPC has drawn special attention to the historic Sabbaton Fence (c. 1816) that encircles Capitol Square to ensure that this significant original design feature is highlighted as part of upgrades to Bank Street. CSPC anticipates final review of this project to take place in 2021.

While the closing of streets to cars benefits pedestrian access, pedestrian safety, walkability, and cycling, the permanent closing of a historic street to vehicular traffic nonetheless changes the very nature of its original function. CSPC has recommended that hard-surface materials be chosen to help enhance the historic footprint and visual appearance of Bank Street, as well as provide future space where CSPC interpretive panels can be installed to provide content and context around the history of Bank Street, the historic view to the Capitol, and Court of Appeals (among several options that could line the promenade at strategic locations). Exterior interpretive panels may be designed and installed on Bank Street as part of the ongoing CSPC Visitor Experience Project.

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. Particular attention was given to the original design intent of the plaza: 1.) the entrance referencing the Bremono Temperance Temple (Fluvanna County, VA) as the primary public entrance and the design intent of the entrances surrounding plantings, taking the form of a grotto or hanging gardens.

In the fall and winter of 2019, CSPC Landscape Committee, primarily led by CSPC member, Missy Benson, worked closely with the Clerks and DGS to create a set of plant recommendations and guide with detailed species list for the Bank Street Plaza and Grotto. Plants were chosen based on their approximation to the original intent of the landscape design and their hardiness and tolerance to drought and heat. Special care was also given to promote native plants where possible. When using non-native plants, selections were made to avoid species that may be poisonous, contain irritants, or present other hazardous conditions. CSPC will work with DGS in the spring of 2021 to fully implement the new planting plan at the Bank Street Plaza and Grotto.

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.

Old City Hall Schematic Landscape Design:

With the restoration and rehabilitation of Old City Hall now well underway, attention has turned to enhancements and restorative efforts of its adjacent landscape and streetscape. As with the building, CSPC has contributed recommendations to DGS and Quinn Evans on proposed landscape treatments surrounding Old City Hall (principally 10th Street, Capitol Street, and 11th Street). CSPC supports the need to restore landscape features in this area while also promoting enhanced walkability, usability, and

ADA accessibility. Working closely with Quinn Evans, CSPC has informed a landscape design that is also sympathetic to the historic nature of Old City Hall while also creating a natural progression to the historic landscape of Capitol Square.

Specifically, CSPC ensured that tree placement is not extraneous and not obstructive to sight lines – neither the view of the Capitol nor Old City Hall. In fact, CCPC highly recommended a reduction in tree planting in this zone to enhance the picturesque and otherwise architectural balance created between the Capitol and Old City Hall. CSPC is also working with DGS and Capitol Police to achieve security enhancements (such as bollards) fitting to the historic materials, surface treatments, and architectural details of Old City Hall.

Gated Vehicular and Pedestrian Entrance to Capitol Square (9th and Grace Streets):

CSPC understands and supports the need for enhanced security at key entry points to Capitol Square, as well as the many challenges Capitol Police face as part of their responsibilities to ensure the safety and wellbeing in and around Capitol Square. Specifically, CSPC worked with DGS, Capitol Police, and Commonwealth Architects on a security enhancement plan involving the design and fabrication of a new set of gates at the west entrance to Capitol Square, where Grace Street terminates at 9th Street. As part of the design review process, CSPC advocated for minimal impact to Capitol Square greenspace, historic integrity, and serenity of the landscape.

CSPC was attentive to the overall security goals of this project while also advocating the preservation benefits of designing the new set of gates in imitation of the original gates (lost sometime in the early 20th century). Because of CSPC's involvement, the new design for the vehicular and pedestrian swing gate will take inspiration from and be informed by the historic Sabbaton Fence (c. 1816) that encloses the Square and the now lost set of accompanying gates. CSPC provided guidance to the design team based on research and historic photographic documentation of the original gates and entryway. The final look and placement of the new gate system is in keeping with the historic design and it restores the lost elements and features of the Sabbaton Gate that once existed in this location.

Working closely DHR, CSPC advised on detailed architectural plans for a new security building to be built adjacent to the new gate. CSPC pushed to include features inspired from intrinsic classical elements and architectural vocabulary inherent in the design aesthetics of Capitol Square. CSPC and DHR also provided primary source material from nineteenth-century architectural design guides.

After carefully incorporating all CSPC recommendations into the proposed design, CSPC gave approval to the project with AARB, and DHR. CSPC continues to monitor the progress of this project, working closely with the project team, including Commonwealth Architects and DGS, to ensure its successful completion (projected 2021).

VII. Public Engagement and Education 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

Further refinement of the Visitor Experience plan has been made over the course of the 2020 Fiscal Year, with CSPC approving during their September 2019 quarterly meeting to a motion supported by the Clerks to allocate CSPC carryforward funds towards visitor experience goals. Specifically, CSPC gave approval to the following expenditures to be funded by CSPC carryforward:

- \$110,000 for the design of exterior signage on Capitol Square
- \$50,000 for the design of interior signage in the Virginia State Capitol
- \$17,000 for the hiring of a part-time Content Coordinator, to assist in the research and creation of educational content for applications both onsite and online

The fees associated with signage cover consultation with C&G Partners design team, schematic design process, design development, construction documentation for fabrication and installation, and bidding and oversight expenses.

Additionally, CSPC will oversee the creation of original educational subject matter, including: expanded and up-to-date K-12 curricula, new onsite visitor orientation experience and permanent exhibition in the Capitol Visitor Center, broadened temporary exhibition program in the Capitol Visitor Center, instillation of contextual signage for works of art and monuments, updated tour content and tour engagement opportunities (onsite and virtual), and an educational suite of free online learning tools to be housed on viriniacapitol.gov.

Website Update, Enhancements, and Redesign: www.viriniacapitol.gov

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 viriniacapitol.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 viriniacapitol.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.

Further redesign and enhancement of website features and content is ongoing. In December 2020, CSPC worked with VCF and the Clerks to secure a contract with C&G Partners to conduct a study of online user needs, create a website functions and features list based on the results of online user needs, and develop a fresh look and feel to the website incorporating modern and intuitive functionality. Between spring and summer 2020, CSPC hosted three meetings bringing together the Clerks, House and Senate IT staff, and the design team from C&G Partners. A set of key overarching goals and objectives for the upgraded and redesigned website were developed as a result of these meetings:

- Provide a one-stop online destination for visitors, including general visitor information, onsite tour and educational programming, and key features of Capitol Square.
- Tell the story of Capitol Square and its many cultural and historic resources, including the Virginia State Capitol, the legacy of representative democracy in Virginia and it’s continued crucial role in the contemporary world, and of the diversity of people across time who have sacrificed to make Virginia a better place.
- Promote public engagement through ongoing outreach
- Be intuitive and streamlined in look and feel, with well-organized information with a focus on providing user satisfaction while delivering high-quality content

Exhibition and Programming in the Capitol Visitor Center:

- **Celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the Virginia General Assembly:**

In collaboration with the Clerks, CSPC entered into an 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, closing in December 2019.

- **Votes For Women: The Centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment:**

110 years ago, in November 1909, the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia was founded. This pivotal organization was organized by a group of Richmond-based women. And, although small at first, the ESL had large aspirations and a lasting impact upon the Commonwealth—namely, to secure voting rights for women in Virginia. Among its founding members is Lila Meade Valentine, honored by Virginians with a portrait tablet inside the House Chamber, and Adèle Clark, honored by Virginians with a statue as part of the Virginia Women’s Monument. By 1919, after ten years of dedicated work and recruitment, state-wide membership in the ESL had reached 30,000, making it most likely the largest state suffrage association in the South. Between 1909 and the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, the ESL was an active force on Capitol Square, holding a variety of rallies on the steps of the Capitol, recruiting support from members of the General Assembly, and participating in testimony before various committees of the General Assembly. After the ratification of the 19th Amendment, the ELS reorganized into the Virginia League of Women Voters with Adèle Clark as its first president.

In celebration and in recognition of this pivotal accomplishment and its centennial anniversary, and with full support of the Clerks, CSPC organized and mounted the exhibition “Votes for Women: The Centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment.” Opened in the December 2019, the exhibition tells the story of the suffrage movement in Virginia with a focus on the many activities occurring on Capitol Square leading up to the ratification of the 19th Amendment in August 1920. A highlight of the exhibition is a 1917 suffrage banner used in the picket lines at the White House, during the administration of Woodrow Wilson. The banner is on loan from the National Women’s Party/National Park Service.

- **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. Additionally, large wall-mount contextual panels were installed above each model, alongside a new informative panel contextualizing the history of Capitol Square.

- **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 in a 3-D scanning program hosted by Dr. Bernard Means in the Jefferson Room of the Virginia State Capitol. Dr. Reynolds and Dr. Means, joined by Mark Greenough, conducted public tours for "walk-in" visitors and gave tours by appointment for groups to see the scanning in progress. Dr. Means made these public contacts interactive by passing around small objects created using 3-D printing from scans. In the coming year, CSPC will continue working with Dr. Means to produce the 3-D printed model in the Digital Curation Laboratory, and further collaborate with Monticello in developing new exhibition and engagement opportunities focused on the art and architecture of Thomas Jefferson.