



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Capitol Square Preservation Council

TO: The Honorable Ralph Northam, Governor of Virginia
The Honorable Grindly Johnson, Secretary of Administration
The Honorable Susan Clarke Schaar, Clerk of the Senate
The Honorable Suzette Denslow, Clerk of the House and Keeper of the Rolls of the Commonwealth
Members of the Virginia General Assembly

FROM: Craig A. Reynolds, Ph.D.
Chief Administrative Officer and Curator

DATE: December 1, 2021

RE: Capitol Square Preservation Council FY21 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 FY21 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, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Upon request, 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 804-225-8051 or email me at creynolds@cspc.virginia.gov.



Welcome



Robert E. Comet, Jr. AIA, Chairman

On behalf of the Capitol Square Preservation Council, welcome to the Virginia State Capitol and historic Capitol Square. Virginia's State Capitol was co-designed by one of our nation's founders and former U.S. President, Thomas Jefferson, as the home of representative government in Virginia. This internationally historic building and surrounding grounds, which make up Capitol Square, is a living center of democracy and is truly the "People's House" where all are welcome. Capitol Square Preservation Council serves to preserve the art, architecture, and landscape on Capitol Square, so that these valuable resources can be shared with all visitors and every citizen of the Commonwealth.

This was an exceptional year--greatly impacted by COVID-19 and the necessity to follow all health protocols, however, our vital work continued. The Council hosted all regularly scheduled quarterly meetings in a virtual format, ensuring access to the public through livestream services supported by the outstanding staff in House IT. In support of our many partners on Capitol Square, particularly the Department of General Services (DGS), key accomplishments included the review of significant work ongoing on Capitol Square: repairs to the skylight in the Capitol Visitor Center, landscape design for the restored Old City Hall and the new General Assembly Building, restoration of the pedestrian and vehicular gates and enhanced security features on the west side of Capitol Square, 9th Street sidewalk enhancements and ADA accessibility improvements, and concepts for the new GAB-Capitol Tunnel. Also, the Council continues work to re-envision and redesign the Capitol Square Visitor Experience program, including exterior signage and wayfinding on the Square and a new website for online educational programming. Working with the Clerks of the House and Senate, along with our design team, we finalized the Visitor Experience Schematic Plan for Capitol Square exterior signage in May 2021. Additionally, as Capital Square reopened to visitors in 2021, we coordinated with the Clerks and DGS to ensure that the exhibition gallery inside the Capitol Visitor Center, including the current exhibit "Votes for Women" was ready for the public's return.

Craig A. Reynolds, PhD, Chief Administrative Officer and Curator

I am proud and honored to serve the Commonwealth as CAO of the Capitol Square Preservation Council. I am incredibly fortunate to work closely with Council leadership, Mr. Comet and the other citizen-volunteers who serve as appointed members of CSPC, Clerks of the House and Senate, Virginia Capitol Foundation, Department of General Services, as well as a host of talented colleagues across Capitol Square who are truly dedicated to honoring the historic nature of Capitol Square and ensuring its accessibility to all who visit. 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 and accessibility, expand educational programming in a comprehensive and compelling manner, and increase K-12 student access through the future roll-out of technology and internet-based services to provide virtual learning opportunities in classrooms across the Commonwealth and beyond.

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 in fulfilling their respective missions, to advance common goals, and achieve certain economies in activities common to both.

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, and in July 2020 was promoted to Chief Administrative Officer. 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, historic preservation, 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 two 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.

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.



Capitol Square Preservation Council Membership

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Senate Appointees

Robert J. Tabor
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Term expires: 6/30/202

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. (Chairman)
Historic Richmond Foundation
Term Expires: 6/30/22

Eric Edmund
Member At-Large
Term expires: 6/30/2023

Governor's Appointees

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

Nadia Volchansky
Member At-Large
Term expires: 6/30/2023

Lauranett Lee, Ph.D. (Vice Chairwoman)
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 Suzette Denslow
Clerk, House of Delegates

The Honorable Susan Clarke Schaar
Clerk, Senate of Virginia

Staff

Craig A. Reynolds, Ph.D.
Chief Administrative Officer and Curator

Daisy Matias
Content Coordinator



CSPC Committee Structure, July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

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: Andrew B. Moore

Council Members: Robert T. Baratta
Robert E. Comet, Jr.
Nadia Volchansky

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: Missy Benson

Council Members: Eric Edmund
Robert J. Tabor

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
Lauranett Lee, Ph.D.

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 Chairman, Robert E. Comet, Jr.

Members: Secretary of Administration, Keyanna Conner
Clerk of the House, Suzette Denslow
Clerk of the Senate, Susan Clarke Schaar

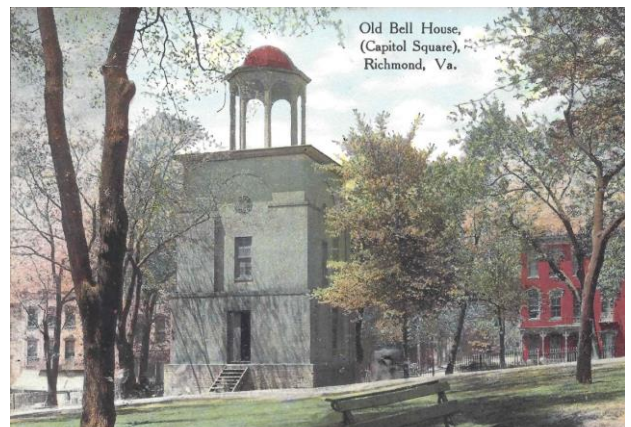
Architectural Stewardship

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, review of proposals for annual exterior cleaning, recommendations for and review of routine testing for water incursion, exterior stucco surveillance, and recommendations on preventative maintenance measures. As the architectural centerpiece of Capitol Square and home to the General Assembly, 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: Home to CSPC and VCF

Since September 2017, CSPC and its partner organization, the Virginia Capitol Foundation (VCF), have shared offices 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.



In November 2020 a significant interior pipe burst caused water damage to VCF offices on the Bell Tower's first and second floor, and the resulting humidity required cleaning of carpets and soft surface in CSPC offices and VCF offices. Additionally, at the request of CSPC and VCF, DGS supplied dehumidifiers and fans to assist in drying and interior air quality. CSPC worked closely with VCF and DGS, forming a plan for the removal of water damaged building elements (largely plaster surfaces) and replacing them with new materials and surface treatments appropriate to the Bell Tower's historic interior integrity. CSPC is grateful to the support of VCF and the timely response and action of DGS to mitigate the damage and apply necessary but historically appropriate treatments.

Capitol Visitor Center Skylight Repair and Waterproofing Schematic Design and Implementation:

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 the Clerks, DGS, and 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.

As the project moved into implementation, CSPC coordinated closely with the Clerks and DGS, receiving routine updates on project status, testing of newly installed interior lighting and effects, and condition and treatment of the Thomas Jefferson statue temporarily displaced during the skylight replacement project. CSPC joined the Clerks and DGS in celebrating the completion of this much needed repair and enhancement near the end of fiscal year 2021.

General Assembly Building

The new General Assembly Building saw major milestones reached over the last year, with the main tower reaching its full height and removal of the construction crane. CSPC congratulates the entire DGS team, the Clerks, and the many personnel who have worked diligently in seeing this handsome addition to Capitol Square move closer to completion. From the outset, CSPC was a partner in reviewing and advising the Clerks and DGS in three main areas: building's overall exterior design, preservation of the circa 1912 south-facing façade and its integration with the new building, and

redesign of Darden Garden and landscape. Over the course of the past fiscal year, CSPC has been primarily focused on the new landscape and design of Darden Garden. CSPC staff has worked closely the Clerks and DGS, as well as DGS design contractors, to review appropriate hard and softscape surfaces, garden furnishings (such as benches), tree and plant species, and increasing public accessibility. CSPC was instrumental in acting as an advisor to DGS during project review, as well as coordinating with AARB and DHR on general landscape recommendations. In early 2021, CSPC gave its full support to the landscape plan and looks forward to a continued close coordination with the Clerks and DGS as this vital public space comes into being.

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. In October 2020, DGS provided a comprehensive tour and onsite status update to CSPC and one of its community nonprofit partners, Historic Richmond. Over the course of the spring of 2021, CSPC focused its attention outside, reviewing proposals with the Clerks and DGS on updated landscape features. Working in tandem with the proposals for Darden Garden and the new GAB landscape, CSPC advised on three main landscape features: providing adequate space to the existing circa 1816 Sabbaton Fence, keeping the entire surface plane level (removing curbing) so as to promote accessibility and walkability, and general visual agreement of plant and tree species spared between the new GAB landscape and the Old City Hall landscape (plant and tree density, height, and colors). CSPC continues to monitor the progress of this project, working closely with the project team, including DGS and Quinn Evans, as well as the Clerks, 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).



Landscape Stewardship

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. While presently this project is on a temporary pause, CSPC will continue to advocate for plant and tree species that are appropriate and will not obstruct sight lines, for plants and tree placement that enhances the picturesque and otherwise architectural balance of Bank Street and the surrounding architectural resources. Furthermore, CSPC will continue to draw 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). CSPC will make future recommendation for exterior interpretive panels 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 Bremo 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. With plan approved by the Clerks, CSPC began working with DGS to implement the project just as the pandemic required the necessary closing of Capitol Square. While the project is temporary on hold, CSPC has advocated to DGS that it be reinstated as soon as possible and at the earliest convenience to DGS within the scope of their Capitol Square landscape workload.

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 physical signs to contain maps, directional markers, and educational content. 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. Over the course of the last year, C&G designers working under direction of CSPC has produced a detailed study of signage needs, signage types, and signage locations. The C&G design team attended CSPC quarterly meetings and routinely presented project updates, design proposals, and recommendations. In May 2021 the C&G with the direction of CSPC completed the schematic design package for exterior signage on Capitol Square, which was formally presented and approved during CSPC's June 2021 quarterly meeting.

Specifically, the overall goal of the schematic design package is the creations of a comprehensive and cohesive exterior signage program for Capitol Square, with intent to serve the visiting public and provide much needed onsite orientation, direction, interpretation, and denote ADA accessible entry points and pathways, as well as provide a space for the posting of mandated Capitol Square rules and regulations. The family of exterior signs in this schematic package take the form of three basic types: (1) orientation and map (at each pedestrian entry point to Capitol Square); (2) directional (at key locations within Capitol Square); (3) interpretative (at each monument and at select key buildings). Capitol Square's current multiplicity of signage types, scales, and colors, diminishes the visitor's experience and can instill confusion rather than clarity. This new signage program will replace the existing disjointed and irregular exterior signage currently in place on Capitol Square. In the upcoming 2022 fiscal year, CSPC will present the schematic design package for exterior signage to AARB and DHR for formal review before moving forward with DGS to develop construction drawings and specifications. As this project moves forward, it 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.



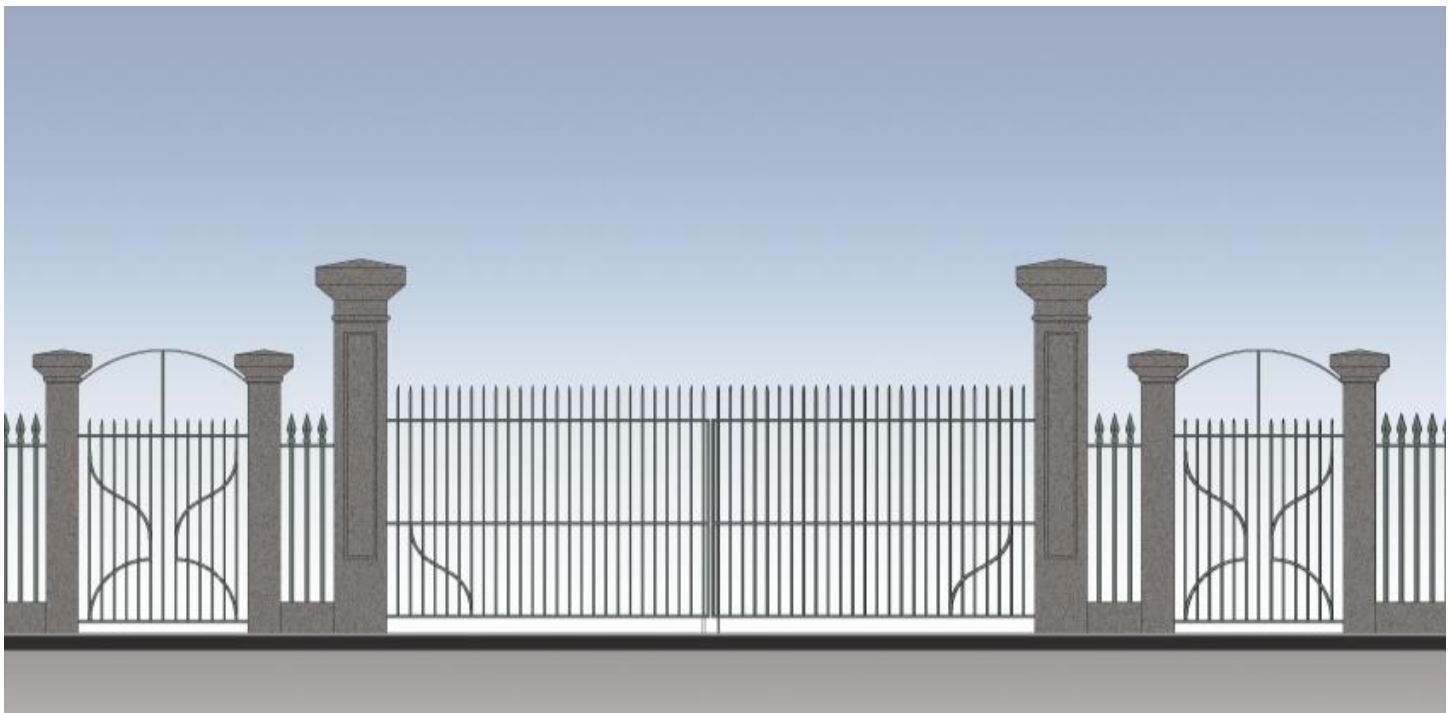
Gated Vehicular and Pedestrian Entrance to Capitol Square (9th and Grace Streets):

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, but simultaneously recognized that this project presented a unique preservation opportunity, with the primary benefit of designing the new set of pedestrian and vehicular gates in imitation of the original gates (designed c. 1816 and lost sometime in the late 19th or 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).



Public Engagement and Education Stewardship

Capitol Square 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 virginiacapitol.gov.

A new comprehensive exterior signage program for Capitol Square is a key feature of the Capitol Square Visitor Experience Project and is discussed in detailed in the “Exterior Wayfinding and Planned Signage Upgrades” on page 13 of this report.

Website Update, Enhancements, and Redesign: www.virginiacapitol.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 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.

Further redesign and enhancement of website features and content is ongoing. In December 2019, 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 because 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 its 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

Since July 2020, CSPC staff has focused on two fronts: 1.) continued refinement of the website design with particular attention to proposed functions and design/look, leading to a package of wireframe webpages (initial phase of design/look) and 2.) development of educational content that will live on the new website and be freely accessible to all. C&G Partners is leading the design efforts while CSPC staff focuses on refinement of existing educational content and development of new content. As CSPC moves into fiscal year 2022, attention will shift to finalizing approved website designs and approved educational content.

Exhibition and Programming in the Capitol Visitor Center

- **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.

VOTES for WOMEN

The Centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment



- **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 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. This project also presented unique opportunity for the graduate students working with Dr. Means, who are getting real-world and hands-on experience with cutting edge technology and study access to collections in the Capitol.



The pandemic necessitated pausing the project. Further delay was caused by the temporary closing of VCU's Virtual Curation Laboratory, where both the digital model is being developed and full-scale 3-D printed copy of the Capitol will be created. In the coming year, CSPC will continue working with Dr. Means and his graduate students to see that the digital model and the 3-D printed model are produced in the Digital Curation Laboratory, as well as look for further collaborative opportunities with Monticello.

Educational Outreach:

A core mission of CSPC is public engagement and educational outreach, however, all public facing programs encountered significant challenges during the past year because of the pandemic, irregular access and operating schedule, and the need to limit group numbers on Capitol Square. Despite these challenges, CSPC staff conducted a number of limited onsite programs and an increased number of virtual programs during fiscal year 2021. Highlights include, but are not limited to:

- Virtual Tour and Virginia History Day on Capitol Square with Caroline County Public Schools – Dr. Reynolds hosted a small group of 4th grade teachers to coordinate lesson plans and SOL curricula for 4th graders in the Caroline County School District. Using hand-held smart devices, iPads, and portable microphones, the teachers and Dr. Reynolds provided a live-stream tour of Capitol Square to 4th graders joining remotely on their school-issued take-home laptops. After the virtual tour, Dr. Reynolds and the teachers recorded a series of short videos in front of significant sites on Capitol Square, including the Capitol, Executive Mansion, Civil Rights Monument, Women's Monument, Washington Equestrian Monument, and Mantle. The recordings were edited by the teachers and made available to students on demand.

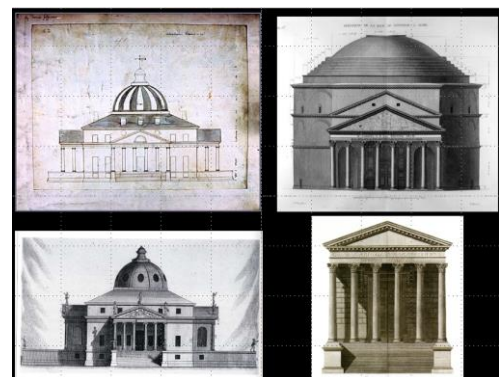


- Pocahontas Project on Capitol Square – With support from Mark Greenough, Tour Supervisor and Capitol Historian, Dr. Reynolds hosted the Pocahontas Project and Chief Ken Adams at Mantle. Chief Adams was recorded giving a tour of Mantle, discussing its meaning and significance to Virginia Indians, and then telling of his own life and experiences as an American Indian growing up in Virginia. Educational content such as this will be made available on the new Virginia State Capitol website.



- High School Humanities Programming – Dr. Reynolds worked with Chesterfield County Public High School humanities teachers to develop a live virtual program that exposed students to challenges related to art history, museum collection, interpretation, and preservation. Students completed pre-visit assignments and joined Dr. Reynolds in an hour-long virtual program that explored the Capitol’s architecture, landscape history of the Square, and the statue of George Washington by Jean-Antoine Houdon.

- Virtual Art and Culture Lectures – In partnership with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Dr. Reynolds planned, organized, and delivered an online lecture series focused on Thomas Jefferson’s life and travels in Italy, with a focus on explaining the Italian art and cultural influences present in the design of the Virginia State Capitol. The lecture series was recorded by the VMFA and is another example of educational content that can be made available on the new Virginia State Capitol website.



- Architectural and Cultural Preservation on Capitol Square – In partnership with the Museum Studies and the Preservation Program at the Savannah College of Art and Design, Dr. Reynolds collaborated with faculty to develop a short series of live virtual lectures that focused on contemporary, real-world preservation challenges on Capitol Square.

Appendix A:

TO: Joe Damico
Director, DGS

FROM: Craig Reynolds
Curator, CSPC

DATE: May 28, 2020

RE: CSPC review and recommendations on four DGS projects on Capitol Square

A. Bank Street Schematic Design:

Overall, CSPC supports the Schematic Design for Bank Street. Restoring the bus unloading and reloading area on Bank St. just east of the Capitol's entrance plaza is of crucial and lasting importance. This is the obvious and highly functional location for the purpose intended, welcoming our group visitors (especially school children) in a safe and convenient manner. Motor coach and school buses having access to 10th Street heading south as a departure route is extremely helpful. CSPC makes the following recommendations:

1. The plans indicate new curb and landscape features defining a bus landing zone big enough for two buses. If this bus area also serves as a parking place for buses during group visits, which is highly desirable, this would be a bare and insufficient minimum under normal group tour scheduling practices. CSPC recommends expanding this capacity to four buses (i.e. extending the landing zone eastward to the pedestrian entrance gate to Capitol Square on Bank St. near the Washington Building as one possible option). CSPC notes that before the closure and reworking of Bank St. in late 2017, there was a five-bus capacity on Bank St. for loading and unloading. This capacity was not infrequently filled during peak field-trip season. It is important to add that even if this bus landing zone is only intended as an unloading and reloading area (a very undesirable limitation), it is still important to have more than two spaces available. Having fewer than four spaces available for buses will probably and realistically require a revision of group tour scheduling practices, in order to reduce the size and number of group tours allowed each day. CSPC would like to see further review of bus loading and unloading capacity, as well as the previously mentioned possibility of a bus staging/parking area in the vicinity of 14th and Bank Streets. If the future intent is for buses to unload/reload on Bank St. near the Capitol's entrance and park in the 14th Street area, then such a plan will help alleviate the bus capacity needed in the pedestrian promenade section of Bank St.

2. Maintaining a wide pedestrian promenade path along the north side of Bank St, particularly between the bus landing zone and the Capitol's entrance plaza, will be highly beneficial. Although the Bank Street concept section drawing (p. 6) indicates a 13.5' wide walkway (very desirable), the aerial drawings suggest the brick walkway to be narrower. If there are landscaping borders around the trees shown just east of the entrance plaza that would narrow the walkway to the brick surfaced walkway only, this would create a problematic, unnecessary and potentially unsafe "pedestrian traffic congestion zone." CSPC recommends clarifying and/or

possibly reworking the walkway dimensions to ensure adequate, congestion-free space between the bus landing zone and the Capitol's entrance plaza.

3. If the public entrance to the Pocahontas Building (however those offices may be repurposed) remains on Main Street, it would be useful to widen the pedestrian sidewalk running north-south along the west side of 10th Street from 6' to 7.4', matching the parallel sidewalk on the east side of 10th Street. These pedestrian paths become congested during the GA Session and peak spring-time visitation and it is not uncommon to see large groups massed on 10th Street coming and going from Capitol Square.
4. Ensure that tree placement is not extraneous and will not obstruct sight lines – neither the view of the Capitol nor the Court of Appeals should be blocked. All added foliage, plantings, and trees should enhance the picturesque and otherwise architectural balance created between the Capitol and the Court of Appeals. Likewise, all plantings must not be allowed to lean on, grow on, or obscure the historic Sabbaton Fence (c. 1816). The rows of trees and other plantings on 10th Street, while reducing the visible sight line of the entrance plaza and Capitol, should likewise not entirely block the view, rather, enhancing the picturesque quality by adding layers and natural framing (especially amidst the intensity of the urban surroundings). CSPC would like further information on the species of trees intended.
5. Having two ADA parking areas (east and west of the entrance plaza) is very helpful. CSPC would like more information on the proposed ADA access from the parking spots to the Capitol's entrance plaza. CSPC recommends that visitors to the Capitol have access to both ADA parking areas.
6. The design for security bollards should take inspiration from and be informed by the historic Sabbaton Fence (c. 1816) that encloses the Square. While CSPC supports the need for bollards, it is also critical that new surface treatments and colors (i.e. stainless steel) be avoided to protect the historic integrity of Capitol Square.
7. The exterior design elements and details of the guard house should take inspiration from and be informed by the intrinsic classical elements that are already part of the architectural vocabulary and design aesthetics of Capitol Square and Bank Street. CSPC will look forward to advising on concept designs for the new security building when that portion of the project is ready for review.
8. While the closing of streets to cars benefits access, pedestrian safety, walkability, and cycling, the permeant closing of a historic street to vehicular traffic nonetheless changes the very nature of its original function. CSPC recommends 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/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). Interpretive panels may be designed and installed as part of the ongoing CSPC Visitor Experience Project.

B. Skylight Repair and Waterproofing Schematic Design:

CSPC commends the exterior plaza design. Considering the constant damage caused by water infiltration, CSPC generally supports the approach to the skylight replacement, even with the loss to illuminate the gallery containing the Thomas Jefferson statue with natural light. The skylight and illumination from above are key features that Jefferson incorporated into his designs for the Virginia State Capitol. He continually used the skylight throughout his career in architecture, so in many respects the use of a skylight in the modern Capitol Visitor Center is a fitting architectural nod to Jefferson as the Capitol's designer. CSPC makes the following recommendations:

1. Ensure that the simulated skylight and the artificial light “read” as natural, so that the light is diffused in a way that it mimics sunlight from above and that the physical features mimic a skylight in complete and total appearance. Every effort should be made to have the artificial light have the same qualities as natural light. CSPC wants to avoid any application that has the look and feel of an interior electric light fixture.
2. The simulated interior skylight as detailed in the concept drawing has a geometric pattern that breaks in appearance from the minimal, contemporary design currently in place. The design team should 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 recommends exploring an interior design for the replacement skylight that mimics the minimal, contemporary appearance of the existing skylight, rather than one which pulls inspiration from traditional sources.

C. Old City Hall Schematic Landscape Design:

Overall, CSPC supports the Schematic Landscape Design for Old City Hall and is highly impressed with the design team’s thoughtful approach to enhanced walkability and usability. The design is sympathetic to the historic nature of Old City Hall while simultaneously providing a natural progression to the historic landscape of Capitol Square. CSPC makes the following recommendations:

1. Ensure that tree placement is not extraneous and will not obstruct sight lines – neither the view of the Capitol nor Old City Hall. This is especially true on the south side of Old City Hall, where the number of proposed trees should be reduced. All added foliage, plantings, and trees should enhance the picturesque and otherwise architectural balance created between the Capitol and Old City Hall. CSPC would like further information on the species of trees intended.
2. Bollards and light fixtures should take inspiration from and be informed by the historic materials, surface treatments, and architectural details of Old City Hall.
3. Slate pavers can, over time, suffer from flaking/spalling and a general natural breakdown because of the material’s inherent, layered structure. If slate is used for the sidewalk pavers, then all necessary precautions should be taken to ensure the longevity of the stone, taking into account such things as deicing treatments and small vehicular use on pavers, as well as all standard pedestrian traffic.

D. Schematic Design for Vehicular Entrance to Capitol Square:

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 of all. CSPC generally supports the concept for enhanced security at the vehicular and pedestrian entrance to Capitol Square at Grace and Ninth Streets and offers the following recommendations:

1. An area of Capitol Square will be lost with the added parking and turnaround space. If it is of public safety imperative that this area of Capitol Square be carved out for parking and turnaround, and no other design solution is available to reduce the loss of green space and trees on Capitol Square, then CSPC strongly encourages that replacement trees and appropriate vegetation be incorporated at the parking pad boundaries/retaining wall as a means to soften the vehicular incursion and provide a protective visual barrier to the historic integrity and serenity of the landscape.

2. The exterior design elements and details of the security building should take inspiration from and be informed by the intrinsic classical elements that are already part of the architectural vocabulary and design aesthetics of Capitol Square and its most significant buildings. CSPC will look forward to advising on concept designs for the new security building when that portion of the project is ready for review.

3. The design for security bollards should take inspiration from and be informed by the historic Sabbaton Fence (c. 1816) that encloses the Square. While CSPC supports the need for bollards, it is also critical that new surface treatments and colors (i.e. stainless steel) be avoided to protect the historic integrity of Capitol Square.

4. The design for the vehicular and pedestrian swing gate should take inspiration from and be informed by the historic Sabbaton Fence (c. 1816) that encloses the Square. Specifically, CSPC recommends that the design team look to existing historic images (such as the one included below) and revisit the gate design with an intent to 'restore' the lost elements and features of the Sabbaton Gate that once existed in this location. The design team should consider relocating the two tallest granite plinths to mimic their original location, replacing any lost granite plinths (particularly adding granite plinths in place of the metal posts shown in the concept drawing), and recreating the wrought-iron design elements of the original vehicular and pedestrian gates. Please see the image below.



(detail showing the original Sabbaton Fence and Gate at 9th and Grace Streets), John Reekie, "Richmond, Virginia. St. Paul's Episcopal Church. (Grace Street)," c. 1865, Library of Congress, LC-B815- 937 [P&P]

Appendix B:

ART AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (AARB)

Project Data Sheet

Revised July 1, 2020

(Due on Friday two weeks before meeting to: AARB@dgs.virginia.gov)

Date Submitted: August 27, 2021

Agency Name: Department of General Services with support from Capitol Square Preservation Council

Project Name and Number

Capitol Square Exterior Signage Package – Schematic Design

Representatives for the Agency and the Architect/Engineer

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Capitol Square Preservation Council

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Amy Siegel, Partner (Lead Project Designer)

C&G Partners LLC

116 E 16th St, Fl 10 | NY, NY 10003

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Email: amy@cgppartnersllc.com

Current Project Status/Phase and Schedule Preliminary Approval: Final Approval:

Schematic Design Phase, first formal review before AARB

Project Description

Comprehensive and cohesive exterior signage program for Capitol Square, with intent to serve the visiting public and provide much needed onsite orientation, direction, interpretation, and denote ADA accessible entry points and pathways, as well as provide a space for the posting of mandated Capitol Square rules and regulations. The family of exterior signs in this schematic package take the form of three basic types: (1) orientation and map (at each pedestrian entry point to Capitol Square); (2) directional (at key locations within Capitol Square); (3) interpretative (at each monument and at select key buildings). Capitol Square's current multiplicity of signage types, scales, and colors, diminishes the visitor's

experience and can instill confusion rather than clarity. The new signage program being submitted to AARB for review will replace the existing disjointed and irregular exterior signage currently in place on Capitol Square.

Architectural Aesthetic:

Signage components were carefully designed with the historic nature of the landscape in mind and will be placed in locations that enhance the visual integrity of Capitol Square and its resources. Signs are freestanding, pole-mounted panel system, with the pole or “legs” mimicking the cylindrical proportions of the Sabbaton Fence pickets (c. 1817). Signage is proportional to its location: (1) orientation and map signage at each pedestrian entry point to Capitol Square, with structure of the sign designed to relate to the scale of the Sabbaton Fence; (2) directional signage at key locations within Capitol Square are small and reduced in height to avoid obscuring views across the historic landscape; (3) interpretative signs will be deliberately and strategically placed adjacent to or at the “entry” point of each monument and at select key buildings. The family of signs are designed to be cohesive in look and feel, using the branding blue for the directional information to “blaze the trail,” while relating to the overall natural beauty and historic integrity of Capitol Square.

Relationship to Approved Master Plan

As stated in the Capitol Square Landscape Master Plan (2014), page 59, “The development of a full signage-design package... should be considered as a future project. Clear standards for design and placement of each sign need to be established and enforced. A signage package that respects the historic character and dignity of this site should include a comprehensive recommendation for way-finding and for an educational program to be developed with a corresponding site sign program (including actual sign design standards). The overriding goal of the site signage plan should be to fit with the historic character of the site and to contribute to its restrained aesthetic and serene atmosphere while still being functional.” The attached Capitol Square Exterior Signage Package presently submitted for AARB review fulfills wayfinding goals and recommendations and meets all the above conditions as described in the Capitol Square Landscape Master Plan (2014).

Existing Architectural Context

Capitol Square serves a significant dual role as the historic and ceremonial seat of the Commonwealth of Virginia and as a beautiful urban oasis for the City of Richmond. This important landscape must function effectively on multiple levels: as the actual and symbolic capital of Virginia, as a bustling governmental community that is home to the state legislature and the Governor, as a major visitor attraction, and as a recreational open space for those who come to stroll, eat, and sit in this leafy, green getaway in downtown Richmond. Moreover, as one of the first enclosed public spaces in the nation, and as an even rarer designed public park, Capitol Square holds a position of preeminent historic significance. Both the Virginia State Capitol and all of Capitol Square are honored at the highest level of state and national designations: the Virginia Landmarks Register, the National Register of Historic Places, and as a National Historic Landmark. The National Historic Landmark designation is reserved (to paraphrase) for places of “surpassing interest to the American people” and that are “essential to understanding American history.” Moreover, in 2008 the Capitol and the portion of the Capitol Square landscape were officially included in the Tentative World Heritage Site list. Such places must have high integrity and hold outstanding and universal natural or cultural value.

AARB History (for return presentations on the same project):

- **Meeting date(s) previously presented to Board:**
- **Previous Board comments:**
- **Agency response to Board comments:**

Estimated Time required for the Presentation (not to exceed 15 minutes) 15 minutes

Request for Consent Agenda: Yes: No: