THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM
401 F STREET NW SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, DC 20001-2728

202-504-2200
202-504-2195 FAX
www.cfa.gov

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

17 October 2002

AM 10:00 **CONVENE**, Suite 312, 401 F Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001

I. INSPECTION

Freer Gallery of Art, Report on objects proposed for acquisition.

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Approval of minutes: 19 September 2002

B. Dates of next meetings: 21 November 2002
19 December 2002 - ?
16 January 2003

C. Report on the Secretary's tour of Washington memorials with the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (WTC).

D. Report on the quality of the street lighting in the historic district on Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.

E. Status report on the Commission's web site.

III. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. National Park Service / American Battle Monuments Commission

CFA 17/OCT/02- 1, World War II Memorial. 17th Street at the Rainbow Pool. Inscriptions. Designs. (Previous: CFA 18/JUL/02-2).

III. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS continued, 17 October 2002

B. Maryland Transit Administration

CFA 17/OCT/02- 2, Baltimore-Washington Maglev Project. New magnetic levitation train line from Union Station to the northeastern border of the District following the Amtrak alignment, connecting to BWI Airport and downtown Baltimore. Information Presentation.

C. Department of the Treasury / U.S. Mint

CFA 17/OCT/02- 3, Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial Commemorative Silver Dollar. Design.

D. Department of the Army / U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

CFA 17/OCT/02- 4, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia. Facility Maintenance Complex. Phase II, Vehicle storage building and site plan. Concept. (Previous: CFA 22/APR/93-3).

E. National Park Service

CFA 17/OCT/02- 5, U.S. Reservation 210. Maryland Avenue, 11th and F streets, NE. Site rehabilitation and new playground. Design.

F. District of Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation

CFA 17/OCT/02- 6, Rose Park. 26th and O Streets, NW. Rehabilitation and improvements. Design.

G. District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Old Georgetown Act

a. Appendix I.

2. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. S.L.03-007, 500 5th Street, NW. The National Academies (National Research Council). Phase II, new structure above existing firehouse. Concept. (Previous: S.L. 01-022).

b. S.L.03-002, 5800 Oregon Avenue, NW. New single family dwelling. Permit.

c. Appendix II.

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29 October 2002

Dear General Kelley:

The Commission of Fine Arts reviewed the proposed inscriptions for the National World War II Memorial during its 17 October meeting and the members were pleased with the thoughtful selection of quotes and text for the memorial–all were felt to be appropriate. Likewise, the proposed locations for the inscriptions in the memorial were found to be well placed with a sequence that will enhance the visitor's experience and understanding. There were, however, several minor modifications that the members recommended be given additional study.

Several of these suggestions were directed at increasing the visitor's understanding of each quote by augmenting the attribution line with the speaker's full title and the date of the quote. In addition, the location or place where the quote was spoken or written could be added to the attribution line, if it helps place the words in their historical context. How this additional information is incorporated into the inscription's layout should be carefully studied so that parallel structure and a balanced graphic uniformity is maintained among all the inscriptions.

The other suggestions were specific to each location. Conforming to the numbering of the locations in the project booklet, the recommendations are as follows:

▫ Location #1; On the inscribed base of the flagpoles, the period should be deleted and perhaps the comma too.

▫ Location #8; The scale and dimensions of the announcement stone were felt to be correctly proportioned for the entrance to the memorial and were approved. For the inscription, it was recommended that the first line of text be adjusted to include *Lincoln,* so that it would read: "HERE IN THE PRESENCE OF WASHINGTON AND LINCOLN, . . ." and that *twentieth century* be deleted from the inscription so that the middle of the text reads " . . . WE HONOR THOSE AMERICANS WHO TOOK UP. . . . "

▫ Location #4; It was recommended that the quote be returned to its original sequence so that it reads: ". . . DECEMBER 7, 1941 - A DATE THAT WILL LIVE IN INFAMY . . ." and that the attribution line includes the date and place.

▫ Location #6; Adding *Labor Day, 1942* to the attribution line would help place the quote in the context of time.

▫ Location #9; The title line should read "THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY JUNE 4-7, 1942" and the date should be included in the attribution line.

▫ Location #10; The attribution line should include the date and place of the quote.

▫ Location #13: The attribution line should include General Marshall's full title at the time, and the date and place of the quote.

▫ Location #14; It was suggested an extra space be inserted between "D-Day" and "June." The attribution line should include General Eisenhower's full title at the time, as well as the date and place.

▫ Location #18; The attribution line should include the date and place of the quote.

▫ Location #19; It was recommended that Churchill's quote be placed above the prologue statement and that the statement's lettering be differentiated from the quote. The Commissioners request that these options be presented for further review -- Churchill quote on top, different font; Churchill's quote on bottom, different font; and, Churchill's quote on top, same lettering.

▫ Location #21; The members requested to see extracts of various lengths on the pool coping in the next submission. The source, Archibald MacLeish's poem, *The Young Dead Soldiers*, should be cited in an attribution line.

The inscriptions in locations #11, #12, #15 and #16 around the fountains, and in locations #22 and #23 in the floor of the archways were approved as presented.

The Commission looks forward to further consideration of the revisions to the inscriptions as soon as they are ready. The staff is available to assist you and the design team should questions arise.

Sincerely,

Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA
Chairman

General Paul X. Kelley, USMC (Ret.)
Chairman, American Battle Monuments Commission
Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 501
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

cc: Terry Carlstrom, National Park Service
John Parsons, National Park Service
Michael G. Conley, ABMC
William B. Owenby, ABMC
General John Herrling, ABMC

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Dear Ms.Ratcliff:

During its meeting of 17 October, the Commission was pleased to receive the informational presentation on the Baltimore-Washington Maglev Project. Although the Commission was generally supportive of the project, there were concerns related to the terminal entrance proposed for Union Station. While the removal of the 1980's second floor renovation was not objectionable, the excavation and partial removal of the original floor in the historic West Hall is excessively intrusive for the creation of a new monumental stair. Therefore, the Commission requests additional study of possible paths and modes of egress to develop an appropriate entrance that respects the integrity of the historic structure.

In addition to the terminus at Union Station, the Commission is interested in the development of designs for the rail infrastructure. Due to the prototypical nature of the project and its prominence in the landscape, the aesthetic value of this modern structure will be as important as the mechanical engineering. The Commission recommends extensive research of infrastructural elements of similar scale and function, prior to identifying a final design.

We look forward to continued informational presentations and future reviews as this project is realized. As always, the staff is available should you or the design team require assistance.

Sincerely,

Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA
Chairman

Diane H. Ratcliff
Manager, Environmental Planning
Maryland Transit Administration
6 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21202-1614

cc: Suhair Alkhatib, Program Manager
Celso Luis Guitian, Project Architect
Donna Siefert, Manager of Cultural Resources
Katherine Larson Farnham, Project Historian
Kathleen D. Patti, KCI Technologies, Inc.

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Dear Ms. Fore:

At its meeting on 17 October the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed designs for the 2004 Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial Commemorative Silver Dollar.

For the obverse the choice was design # 8, showing full-length portraits of Lewis and Clark standing on the banks of a river in expedition dress.

Two designs were approved for the reverse: design # 10, featuring an inscription describing the expedition combined with a feather in the center of the coin; and #12, showing the Jefferson Peace Medal slightly below the center flanked by a feather on each side, with the upper section filled in by seventeen stars, representing the number of states in the Union in 1804.

Sincerely,

Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA
Chairman

The Honorable Henrietta Holsman Fore
Director, United States Mint
801 9th Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20220

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Dear Mr. Metzler:

During its meeting of 17 October, the Commission reviewed the concept design for the second phase additions for the Facility Maintenance Complex at Arlington National Cemetery. The members unanimously approved the concept design that included a new vehicle storage facility, five material storage bays and a landscaped surface parking lot for the complex. The decision to use the same materials and details as in the first phase of the project will guarantee that the second phase, when completed, will be an appropriate extension of the original facility and will contribute significantly to the architecture of the cemetery.

We commend you and the design team on a project well done and look forward to the review of the final design. Please submit the final plans, detail construction drawings and planting plans when ready. Should questions arise, the staff is available to assist.

Sincerely,

Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA
Chairman

John Metzler, Jr.
Superintendent
Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington, Virginia 22211

cc: Joe Bunton, ANC
Richard Pinskey, The Lukemire Partnership

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Dear Mr. Hale:

During its meeting on 17 October 2002, the Commission reviewed and approved the proposed improvements to Reservation 210 located at the intersection of Maryland Avenue, 11th and F streets NE. The recommended ground surface and playground equipment, and the wrought iron fence are in-keeping with materials used by the National Park Service for other playgrounds in the city such as the one in Montrose Park. The proposed landscaping is en essential element, screening the new playground from the traffic on Maryland Avenue while protecting the vista along the avenue itself.

We look forward to the review of a master plan for the location of improvements for other playgrounds in the park system as soon as it is ready. As always, the staff is available to assist you.

Sincerely,

Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA
Chairman

John Hale
Superintendent
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Capital Parks-East
1900 Anacostia Drive, S.E.
Washington, DC 20020

cc: Terry Carlstrom, NPS
John Parsons, NPS
Michael McMahon, NPS

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Dear Mr. Albert:

During its meeting on 17 October, the Commission reviewed the proposed improvements to Rose Park located at 26th and O streets, NW. As part of our review and since the park is within the boundaries of the Georgetown Historic District, the project was presented to our Old Georgetown Board at their meeting on 3 October where it was well received.

The replacement of the existing chain-link fence with a wrought-iron fence with decorative gate posts is an improvement. The playground equipment is similar to that used by the National Park Service and will create a welcome amenity for the neighborhood. The signs, benches, and information kiosk are part of an overall unified scheme for the park. These elements of the project were approved.

However, the proposed use of eight 16-feet high Washington Globe light fixtures along the walking path raised some concern. Though the light fixtures themselves are not objectionable, their possible visual impact on the higher elevation of Rock Creek Parkway needs further consideration. We encourage you and the National Park Service to study options available to minimize any such impact. Our staff is available to assist in coordinating this meeting.

We look forward to the review of additional Department of Parks and Recreation projects.

Sincerely,

Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA
Chairman

Neil O. Albert, Director
Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Parks and Recreation
3149 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20010

cc: Ted Pochter, DC DPR
Adrienne A. Coleman, NPS
Pam Moore, Friends of Rose Park
Nancy Kassner, DC HPD
Peter Pulsifer, ANC 2E