



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

17

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
www.CityofSacramento.org

STAFF REPORT
April 29, 2008

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

**Title: Memorial Auditorium Granite War Memorial Tablet Placement Report Back
(CIP PC71)**

Location/Council District: District 3

Recommendation: Adopt a **Resolution** approving the placement of the Granite War Memorial Tablets in the exterior landscape of the Memorial Auditorium.

Contact: Judy Goldbar, General Manager, Convention Center Complex 808-5291;
Tina McCarty, Administrative Officer, Convention Center Complex 808-8220

Presenters: Judy Goldbar, General Manager, Convention Center Complex

Department: Convention Culture and Leisure

Division: Convention Center

Organization No: 4321

Description/Analysis

Issue: Staff is seeking approval to move the existing Granite War Memorial Tablets from the interior of the Memorial Auditorium to the exterior landscape. The placement of the tablets in their current interior location prohibits the general public from viewing them due to facility operations. Moving the tablets to the exterior of the building would allow the public to view the tablets at any time, regardless of events taking place within the building. The existing landscape has been interrupted due to the foundation waterproofing project, creating an opportunity to incorporate the relocation of the tablets within the new landscape design.

Policy Considerations: This report is consistent with the City's Strategic Plan Goal of Promoting and Supporting Economic Vitality by allowing the Convention Center to remain competitive while providing a cultural venue for residents and visitors alike. This report is also consistent with the Preservation Element of the City's General Plan that

seeks to protect and encourage the preservation of Sacramento's historic resources

and ensure that the cultural heritage of Sacramento remains intact.

Committee/Commission Action: The City's Preservation Commission recommended approval of the Lighting and Landscaping Plan at their meeting held September 5, 2007. This plan included the relocation of the granite tablets to the exterior of the building.

The proposal to move the tablets to the exterior landscape was discussed and supported by the majority of the advisory committee members who have guided the lighting and landscape plan. The Advisory Committee member roster is attached, as Attachment 2. Of the nineteen members of the advisory committee, two members opposed the movement citing honorary status and fear of vandalism as justification for their dissent.

Council directed staff on September 11, 2007 to further research the proposed movement of the tablets, including outreach to local veterans associations. Staff has contacted and received a letter of support from the Veterans Community Support Network, a non-profit organization affiliated with the Vietnam Veteran's of America. (Attachment 3). In addition, the Veterans Community Support Network supported the movement of the tablets to the exterior of the building during their monthly meeting in November 2007.

Environmental Considerations: The City's Current Planning Division has determined that the projects undertaken for those significant features of the property identified in the Historic Structures Report (HSR), and undertaken in compliance with the treatment recommendations identified in the HSR, are exempt pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15331 (Historic Resources Restoration/Rehabilitation), based upon the findings that the treatments recommended in the HSR comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Rationale for Recommendation: The current location of the war memorial tablets is not conducive to public viewing due to the building's daily operation as a rentable space. A member of the public would need to be attending an event within the Memorial Auditorium in order to gain access to the tablets. The proposal to move the tablets to the exterior of the building would allow the public to view the tablets at their convenience. The landscape around the Memorial Auditorium is currently being replaced, creating an opportunity to incorporate the tablets into the southwest corner of the building. Attention will be given to preventing vandalism, including skateboarding. A conceptual drawing is included as Attachment 4.

Financial Considerations: During FY2004/5, Memorial Auditorium Improvements (PC71/M17101000) was created by Council to be an accumulation Capital Improvement Project fund for on-going and Historic Structures Report (HSR) improvement needs. The relocation of the war memorial tablets was included in the lighting and landscape project as an add-alternate and will cost approximately \$71,721. There are sufficient funds to add the relocation to the lighting and landscape project.

lighting and landscape project as an add-alternate and will cost approximately \$71,721. There are sufficient funds to add the relocation to the lighting and landscape project.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): N/A

Respectfully Submitted by: 
Judy Goldbar, General Manager
Sacramento Convention Center Complex

Respectfully Submitted by: 
FOR Barbara E. Bonebrake, Director
Convention, Culture, and Leisure Department

Recommendation Approved:


RAY KERRIDGE
City Manager

Table of Contents:

Report Pg 1

Attachments

1	Background Information	Pg	5
2	Community Advisory Committee Roster	Pg	7
3	Veterans Letter of Recommendation	Pg	8
4	Lighting and Landscape Integrated Plans	Pg	10
5	Resolution	Pg	11

Background**Attachment 1.**

- A. City Council approved the allocation of \$80,000 for a Historic Structures Report (HSR) for the Memorial Auditorium, with an additional \$500,000 allocated for the implementation of the items identified in the report. In addition, Council allocated \$6.3 million from the Community Reinvestment bonds (\$3,053,000 from Tax Exempt Bonds -Fund 713 and \$3,053,000 from the Downtown Bond SHRA-Fund 206) for further implementation of items identified in the report.
- B. The HSR found that among other important needs, the most critical project is the need to waterproof the foundation of the building. Water intrusion through the basement walls will cause long term damage to the stability of the building, if it is not protected.
- C. On March 27, 2007 City Council directed staff to proceed with the City's plan, to complete the foundation waterproofing, landscape, and lighting projects needed at the Memorial Auditorium.
- D. Landscaping will be required once the waterproofing is completed and will be integrated with another known need, the exterior lighting project.
- E. On June 19, 2007 City Council awarded the construction contract for \$1.33 million dollars to Ashron Construction and Restoration Inc. to complete the waterproofing project.
- F. The Waterproofing project was completed in September 2007.
- G. The Lighting and Landscaping Project is currently underway and is scheduled for completion by mid-May, 2008. The granite tablet portion of the project will be completed during the summer of 2008, if approved.

Explanation of the Master Certificate of Appropriateness

The following is further explanation of the Master Certificate of Appropriateness as stated in the Design Review and Preservation Board report dated October 4, 2006.

The City of Sacramento seeks methods to help streamline preservation project reviews while ensuring quality project outcomes. As an incentive to property owners, and not only to properties owned by the City, any property with an approved Historic Structure Report should be able to undertake work on the property pursuant to the treatments recommended in the HSR. This work would be considered to be "approved," or "recommended" in the case of City-owned properties, by the Board, Director or Staff under a master agreement, or Master Certificate of Appropriateness. As one of the Board members stated at the September 20, 2006, meeting of the Board, this recommended master certificate is similar to a Memorandum of Understanding that is often developed with federal agencies and the State Historic Preservation Officer

concerning allowable work on historic resources that does not require the work to be reviewed each time a project is proposed.

Additionally, all the recommended treatments in the Memorial Auditorium HSR meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. The City has adopted the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties as its standards for review of preservation development projects. Work in compliance with these standards is also recognized in the California Environmental Quality Act regulations as a condition to allow a project's exemption, baring no other elements of the environment are affected by the work.

While there will be projects at Memorial Auditorium that will be outside this proposed Master Certificate and involve Board or Director review, it is anticipated that the majority of the restoration, repairs, replacement and maintenance work needing to be undertaken at Sacramento Memorial Auditorium will be able to be made pursuant to the Master Certificate of Appropriateness.

Attachment 2

Lighting and Landscape Community Advisory Committee

**Bill Crouch
Urban Design Manager
Development Services Department**

**Bob Rakela
Friends of Memorial Auditorium**

**Bryan Chatterton
Convention Center Complex**

**Charlotte Gilmore
Interested Citizen**

**Daniel Pane
Pane & Pane Associates, Inc.
Sacramento Metropolitan Arts
Commission**

**Dan Goodwater
Convention Center Complex**

**James Christensen
Senior Electrical Engineer
General Services Department**

**Jeffery Farley
Lionakis Beaumont Design Group**

**Jim Henley
History and Science Manager,
Convention, Culture & Leisure,**

**Joan & Don Lesmeister
Sacramento Camilla Society**

**Judy Goldbar
Convention Center Complex**

**Marsha Eymann
History & Science Manager
Convention, Culture & Leisure**

**Melissa Mourkas
Assistant Planner, Development
Services Department,**

**Nick Carter
Fulcrum Property**

**Rebecca Bitter
Program Manager
Convention, Culture, & Leisure**

**Tina McCarty
Convention Center Complex**

**Yadi Kavakebi
Senior Architect
General Services Department**

Attachment 3



Sacramento

Veterans Community Support Network (VCSN)

April 18, 2008

Judy Goldbar
General Manager
Sacramento Convention Center Complex
1030 15th Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Memorial Auditorium Granite Tablet Placement Project / Research

Dear Judy Goldbar,

Thank you for your outreach efforts to get input from all Sacramento Area veterans organizations regarding placement of the Granite Tablets (Service Member / Military Campaigns) at the Memorial Auditorium. As co-director of the Sacramento - Veterans Community Support Network (VCSN) I have had the opportunity to meet with members of the Sacramento Veterans Affiliated Counsel and Friends of the Memorial Auditorium. As you know, these groups are comprised of dedicated members of our community who care very deeply how we "Honor the Service of our Veterans". Our discussions centered around two important concerns - giving the Granite Tablets a place of honor and protecting the Granite Tablets from being damaged or defaced.

As you can imagine, when working with a broad group of people there are many opinions. Still, I believe that the honor and safeguarding of these Granite Tablets are two points of universal agreement. There is however, not agreement on placing the Granite Tablets at an outside venue.

As I indicated to you in our initial meeting, my military career included developing museums for the California National Guard and designing the military history library at the military museum in Old Sacramento. This experience provided me with specific information for dealing with the presentation and preservation of military historical materials. In keeping with that discussion I have contacted the National Parks Service (NPS), who are responsible for maintaining the monuments in Washington DC, that research produced information that indicated that the Department of Defense (DOD) has developed specific guidelines (circa 1960) re; historical monuments etc. They (NPS) indicated that monuments, such as the Granite Tablets, are displayed outdoors all across the country. They further suggested that I contact the U.S. Army Center of Military History / Institute of Heraldry (IOH) at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. I have contacted the IOH, who are in the process of providing the City of Sacramento with these guidelines.

All the information and research indicates that the placement of the Memorial Auditorium Granite Tablets is fully appropriate in an outdoor venue, if done so in accordance with the IOH guidelines. My recommendation is that the City of Sacramento bear in mind the important issues of giving the Granite Tablets a place of honor and protecting the Granite Tablets from being damaged or defaced, by adhering to the Department of Defense (DOD) historical monuments guidelines being provided by the U.S. Army Center of Military History / Institute of Heraldry (IOH).

As a Californian Veteran I am proud of the Viet-Nam Veteran's monument at the State Capital Park. As a Sacramento Area Veteran I would fully endorse the placement of the Memorial Auditorium Granite Tablets in an outdoor venue, where they can be displayed with honor and care while allowing the general public to view the names of local veterans who served in all our nation's military campaigns (wars).

We remain dedicated to working with the City of Sacramento you to insure the integrity of the Granite Tablets placement, and look forward to seeing you at the Sacramento City Council on Tuesday, April 29, 2008.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Bradley
Major, US Army (Retired)
Co- Director -VCSN

Attachment 4

Drawing of Proposed Tablet Location and Concept Design



This view is from the corner of J and 15th Streets, with 15th Street running parallel to the left side of the pictured building and J Street running along the front of the building pictured above right.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

April 29, 2008

**APPROVING THE PLACEMENT OF THE GRANITE WAR MEMORIAL TABLETS IN
THE EXTERIOR LANDSCAPE OF THE MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM**

- A. On March 27, 2007 City Council directed staff to proceed with the City's plan to complete the foundation waterproofing, landscape, and lighting projects needed at the Memorial Auditorium.
- B. The War Memorial Tablets are not currently available for viewing by the public unless admittance is gained during an event in the building. The lighting and landscape construction creates an opportunity to move the War Memorial Tablets to the building's exterior and incorporate them into the landscape so they may be viewed at any time
- C. On September 11, 2007, City Council directed staff to seek the input of veteran's associations regarding the location of the War Memorial Tablets.
- D. The City received the support of the Veterans Community Support Network at their November 2007 meeting, for the relocation of the War Memorial Tablets to the exterior of the building.
- E. There are adequate funds in the Capital Improvement Program (PC71/M17101000) to include relocation of the War Memorial Tablets in the lighting and landscape construction.

**BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL
RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

- Section 1. The placement of the War Memorial Tablets in the exterior landscape of the Memorial Auditorium is approved.