



AB 3826

December 15, 2003

Regular Business

BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WA

VETERANS RECOGNITION PROJECT- FINAL DESIGN AND FUNDING APPROPRIATION

Proposed Council Action:

Approve recommended recognition verbiage, and appropriate funds from the Municipal Arts Trust Fund.

DEPARTMENT OF

Park and Recreation, (Peter Mayer, Director)

COUNCIL LIAISON

Sven Goldmanis

EXHIBITS

1. AB 3797: Veterans Memorial Project.
2. Letter to MI Residents from Susan Landon (MI Arts Council Chair) re: Veterans Recognition Project.

APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER*Rich Conrad 12-11-03*

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ 70,000
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ 50,000
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ 20,000

SUMMARY

Background

At its regular meeting on November 3, 2003, the City Council heard a presentation by Susan Landon, Chair of the Mercer Island Arts Council, regarding the process utilized to recommend a final design to serve as a Veteran's recognition structure (Exhibit 1). The City Council authorized the Mercer Island Arts Council to move forward with the proposed structure as detailed in Exhibit 1 and directed the Arts Council to conduct a public meeting to seek feedback on the appropriate recognition verbiage to include in its interior.

Subsequent Arts Council Action

In responding to the City Council's request, Arts Council Chair, Susan Landon prepared a letter (Exhibit 2) inviting all interested veterans to attend the December 10, 2003 Arts Council meeting to exercise one additional opportunity to provide input on the verbiage that would be designed into the interior of the pergola. The letter was distributed to all individuals who signed the petition (Exhibit 1, pages 36-37) requesting the veterans project be delayed and requesting greater public input. The letter was also included in the Veterans of Foreign War November 28, 2003 newsletter. The Mercer Island Reporter published the official public notice announcing and stating the purpose of the December 10, 2003 meeting. In addition, the MI Reporter published Arts Council Chair Landon's letter.

On Wednesday, December 10, 2003, the Arts Council conducted its regular meeting. Nine of the eleven Arts Council Members were in attendance. Council Member Jahncke and a Mercer Island Reporter staff

member were in the audience. No veterans from the previous working committees or project petitioners were in attendance. In addition, no public comments were received regarding the proposed verbiage.

Arts Councilmember Phil King opened the discussion with a presentation detailing the recognition verbiage used in other veteran memorial/recognition projects across the nation. He noted the use of a similar theme of honoring those who served in the Armed Services. The meeting was then opened for public comment and Councilmember Jahncke expressed concern for the currently proposed language of "Honoring the Service of Our Veterans" as being too general in nature. He recommended it be more specific and narrower in focus. In responding to Mr. Jahncke's recommendation, several Arts Council members conveyed their intention was to not diminish those that gave the ultimate sacrifice of their life but to rather honor all individuals, like Councilmember Jahncke, who served in the U.S. Armed Services. Arts Council members conveyed a strong desire to provide the Mercer Island community a place to visit and remember those who served in the military. This theme was consistent with previous public comment and preferences from veterans as to what they desired in a veterans recognition project.

Arts Council Member Massoudi expressed that the ultimate verbiage was not about what he or the other Arts Council Members personally wanted or preferred, but that the ultimate inscription and design was about what the veterans in the community have expressed as being desirable. The matter was put to a vote and Arts Council Member Massoudi moved to maintain the verbiage as "Honoring the Service of Our Veterans" with the logos of the U.S. Armed Services inscribed with it. The vote was unanimous, 9-0, in favor of the motion.

BUDGET

Based upon priority setting conducted at its retreat in 2001, the Mercer Island City Council later appropriated \$50,000 from the Beautification Fund towards the Veterans Memorial. The budget includes the art commission, tax, and plaque. The art commission includes design, materials, labor, site preparation, transportation and installation costs of the art piece.

Description	Original Budget	Revised Budget
Consulting & Design (spent 2001 – 2002)	\$7,500	\$7,500
Art Commission	\$36,280	\$54,375
Sales Tax @ 8.8%	\$3,198	\$4,785
Site Restoration	\$2,500	\$2,500
Artist Plaque (artist's name and date art piece is dedicated)	\$200	\$200
Advertising & Supplies (ads in newspapers on public meetings)	\$327	\$340
Dedication Ceremony		\$300
TOTAL	\$50,000	\$70,000
Spent in 2001 – 2002 Biennium	\$7,500	\$7,500
Budget Rolled over to 2003 – 2004 Biennium	\$42,500	\$42,500
Appropriation Required from Arts Trust Fund	---	\$20,000

Council is asked to appropriate funding from the Municipal Arts Trust Fund for the completion of this project, as no fund appropriation occurred at the November 3, 2003 City Council Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

Arts Council Chair

MOVE TO: Appropriate \$20,000 from the Municipal Arts Trust Fund for the Veteran's Recognition Project, approve the recommended verbiage to be placed inside the Veteran's Memorial structure and direct the City Manager to enter into a contract with artist/general contractor, Richard Frombach to create a site specific piece of art, as depicted in Exhibit 2, to serve as a Veterans Recognition Project at Mercerdale Park for \$59,160 (art commission and sales tax).



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WA

AB 3797

November 3, 2003

Regular Business

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PROJECT

Proposed Council Action:

Amend the Mercerdale Revised Master Plan; Authorize additional funding for the Veteran's Memorial from the Municipal Arts Fund; Accept program design and enter into a contract with artist for Veteran's Memorial Project.

DEPARTMENT OF

Park and Recreation, (Peter M. Mayer/Jennifer Berner; Susan Landon, Arts Council Chair)

COUNCIL LIAISON

Sven Goldmanis

EXHIBITS

1. Summary of Acquisition of Public Art Procedure
2. Summary of Public Meetings
3. Artwork Prospectus - First Open Competition Process
4. Open Competition #1 Selection - Susan Black and Associate's Design
5. Artwork Prospectus - Second Open Competition Process
6. Open Competition #2 Selection - Derek Young's Design
7. Limited Competition Process - Richard Frombach's Design
8. Raphael Architects Project Analysis
9. Veterans Letters of Support for Richard Frombach's Design
10. Petition Submitted by Glen Sparrow

APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER

Debra Dymond for Rick Conrad 10/23/03

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ 70,000
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ 50,000
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ 20,000

SUMMARY

At its retreat in 2001, the Mercer Island City Council created a memorial project to acknowledge the significant contributions veterans have made to maintain the quality of life we in the United States enjoy.

The Veteran's Memorial Project was initially discussed and defined at the regular meeting of the City Council on June 18, 2001 (AB 3585) along with the project components already included in the Mercerdale Park Master Plan. To assist in the initial scoping of the project, staff engaged Terry Reckord, of MacLeod Reckord Landscape Architects, who presented a range of memorial possibilities through photo images for Council feedback. Council directed that the Landscape Architect develop conceptual designs for a Veteran's Memorial in Mercerdale Park.

A total of six preliminary design concepts were crafted by the Landscape Architect, and presented at a gathering of veterans at the VFW Hall on October 30, 2001. Individuals in attendance provided feedback and exchanged many ideas with no clear consensus, except most felt that the memorial be placed in a visible location within Mercerdale Park be compatible with other uses of the park, and create a sense of place.

Because of the diversity of the opinions, and because the City Council felt that this memorial would take the form of a sculpture or other piece of art, the Mercer Island Arts Council was enlisted to oversee the process utilizing the Public Art Acquisition Program (Exhibit 1).

With the project now under the purview of the Arts Council, another public meeting was held on April 24, 2001. The meeting's agenda was to provide background and history on the project, discuss a variety of memorial ideas and design considerations, and provide an opportunity for open discussion, questions and comments. Some common design themes emerged from the two public meetings (Exhibit 2).

Open Competition Process #1 – November 2001 – November 2002

The Arts Council appointed a Program Writing Committee to develop the parameters and artistic concept that would guide the artist solicitation process. The members of the Program Writing Committee included the Public Art Chair, the landscape architect, a Parks & Recreation staff member, an interested citizen and a veteran. In addition to determining the project parameters, the Committee selected the concrete plaza area in Mercerdale Park as the site that could be most enhanced by additional artwork.

At its regular meeting of April 1, 2002, the City Council was updated on the logistics and design considerations of the Veteran's Memorial project by the Chair of the Arts Council's Public Art Committee and City staff. The City Council directed staff, Arts Council and the Veteran's Memorial Program Committee to complete the art acquisition program as outlined. In addition, the Council amended the program to formally address the budget allocation of \$50,000 for acquisition and installation.

Accordingly, the Arts Council utilized an Open Competition method to solicit artist proposals and select the artist. In an Open Competition the Artwork Prospectus, i.e. "Call for Artists", (Exhibit 3) is distributed to all known venues that advertise art projects and interested artists are invited to submit a proposal. There were 15 artists that responded to the Call for Artists. The Artist Selection Panel, which consisted of a City Council Member, local artist, Design Commission Member, Mercer Island citizen, Arts Council Member, City staff, and 4 Veterans, convened on September 23, 2002 and selected the design team of Susan Black and Associates for their proposed project (Exhibit 4). The proposal was advanced to the full Arts Council for approval. At its regular meeting on November 13, 2002, the Arts Council considered the recommendation advanced by the Artist Selection Panel. The veterans that were in attendance that evening expressed concern that the piece did not create a sense of place that they desired. As a result, the Arts Council rejected the Artist Selection Panel's recommendation.

Open Competition Process #2 – November 2002 – April 2003

At the November 13, 2002 Arts Council meeting modifications were made to the Artwork Prospectus (Exhibit 5) and the decision was made to advertise the project, again using the Open Competition process. On March 12, 2003, the Artist Selection Panel, consisting of the same individuals as in the first panel, reconvened and reviewed 20 artist proposals, narrowing the field to five. At its March 27, 2003 meeting, the Panel selected the Veterans Arch by Derek Young (Exhibit 6). The recommendation for approval was advanced at the April 9, 2003, regular meeting of the Arts Council and was subsequently rejected because of aesthetic and design concerns.

Limited Competition Process #3 – April 2003 – Present

At the April 9, 2003 Arts Council meeting a new Selection Panel was selected consisting of 3 Arts Council Members, Susan Landon, Judy Leithe and Beth Brennen. A pledge was made to incorporate the essence of what the veterans desired in creating a Veterans Memorial Project. Rather than developing a new Artwork Prospectus, the Arts Council decided to use the same prospectus that was used in the second Open Competition process. The Selection Panel also pledged to keep the Veterans informed of what was going on with the project and that they would check-in with the Veterans once a design scheme was determined.

A Limited Competition process was used, allowing the Committee to solicit a particular type of artist to submit a proposal based on the project parameters and concept. The Committee reviewed a variety of artistic works and issued the Artist Prospectus (used in the second selection process) to serve as a guide for submissions by interested artists. Five different artists were invited to submit proposals, and four submissions were received. None of the four design proposals complied with the stated budget requirements and thus, reflected a need for additional funding in order to meet the desired scope and design stipulations. The Committee met and selected the design advanced by Richard Frombach, consisting of a metal pergola (Exhibit 7). Richard Frombach is a metal artist and also a General Contractor.

Richard Frombach's proposal is for the construction of a pergola, angled to reflect and compliment the existing architecture of Mercerdale plaza. On top of the central portion of the pergola is a domed structure which will give visual loft. Within the "hatband" of the structure facing the stairs and fountain will be the words "Honoring the service of our Veterans". On the opposing side, facing the grass will be 5 symbols that represent the armed services. In this way, the core of the pergola will create a hallowed meeting space.

At its meeting on August 13, 2003 the Arts Council received and accepted the recommendation to commission Richard Frombach as the artist for the Veteran's Memorial Project. The initial budget for the project was established at \$50,000 (AB 3645) with \$7,500 expended to date for preliminary design work. The remaining balance of \$42,000 was carried over to the 2003 – 2004 biennium and is currently available for the project. An additional \$20,000 in funding allocation is necessary in order to complete the project. The Arts Council recommends the \$20,000 appropriation be made from the Municipal Arts Trust Fund (1% for Arts) to fund the balance of the project.

After the August 13, 2003 Arts Council Meeting some members of the Arts Council shared design concerns with the Frombach design and the degree to which the latest design process engaged and secured the support of local veterans. As a result, the proposal was not advanced to the City Council for approval until these issues could be more fully discussed. The Arts Council addressed these concerns at their October 8, 2003 meeting resulting in the design being slightly modified to address height and structural concerns. In addition, a performance facility design critique was conducted by Raphael Architects (Exhibit 8), letters of support for the project from Veterans and the past Arts Council Public Art Chair (Exhibit 9) were submitted and veteran, Frank Mandarano, provided testimony in support of the project to the Arts Council.

At the October 13, 2003 City Council meeting Glen Sparrow submitted a petition (Exhibit 10) signed by veterans and other citizens asking the City Council to delay any action on the proposed design because of concerns associated with the appropriateness of the proposed design as a memorial honoring veterans.

Mercerdale Park Revised Master Plan

The Mercerdale Park Master Plan, first adopted in 1989, was most recently revised in February 2000 to include a new Children's Play Area location (originally located at current native garden site), wetland garden and expanded skate park and eliminated plans for a BMX bike course (originally located at site of now current expanded skate park), informal amphitheatre & formal garden along SE 32nd street. Subsequent drainage analysis conducted as part of the play area installation and skate park expansion eliminated the wetland garden

feature as being too costly and other methods of drainage improvements were pursued. The Revised Master Plan includes the following elements:

- a) Children's Play Area (completed)
- b) Expanded Skate Park (completed)
- c) New drainage systems (completed)
- d) Irrigation & landscaping improvements (completed)
- e) Pathway resurfacing (75% complete)
- f) Native garden (complete)
- g) Mercerdale Plaza improvements (scheduled 2004)
- h) Bicentennial Park plaza improvements (scheduled 2004)

Should the City Council concur with the recommendation that the proposed Veteran's Memorial Project be located in the Mercerdale Park Plaza, staff recommends that the City Council amend the Mercerdale Park Revised Master Plan (February 7, 2003) to include the addition of the Memorial.

BUDGET

Based upon priority setting conducted ~~in its~~ retreat in 2001, the Mercer Island City Council later appropriated \$50,000 from the Beautification Fund towards the Veteran's Memorial. The budget includes the art commission, tax, and plaque. The art commission includes design, materials, labor, site preparation, transportation and installation costs of the art piece.

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Consulting & Design (spent 2001 - 2002)	\$7,500	\$7,500
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Budget Rolled over to 2003 - 2004 Biennium	\$42,500	\$42,500
Appropriation Required from Arts Trust Fund	---	\$20,000

RECOMMENDATION

Parks & Recreation Director

MOVE TO: 1) Amend the Mercerdale Park Revised Master Plan to reflect the addition of the Veteran's Memorial Project.

Arts Council Chair

MOVE TO: 2) Appropriate \$20,000 from the Municipal Arts Trust Fund for the Veteran's Memorial Project.

3) Direct the City Manager to enter into a contract with artist/general contractor, Richard Frombach to create a site specific piece of art, as depicted in Exhibit 7, to serve as a Veteran's Memorial at Mercerdale Park for \$59,160 (art commission and sales tax).

ALTERNATIVE:

Do not approve Veteran's Memorial Project. Provide staff and/or Arts Council with new direction or instructions.

**Merger Island Arts Council
Acquisition of Public Art**

Phase I – Program for Acquisition of Art in Public Places

- **Program Writing Committee formed**
 - Consist of MIAC member, professional designer, interested citizen, staff member, others chosen from City elected officials and city staff
 - Determine the choice of selection (Open Competition, Limited Competition, Direct Selection), site and project description, description of public benefit, budget/funding, and artwork time schedule.
- **Program Approval to MIAC Arts Council**
- **City Council Approval of Program**
 - Upon City Council approval, the Program Writing Committee is dismissed, having completed their assignment.
- **Artwork Prospectus and requests for proposals**
 - MIAC staff and the Chair of the Program Committee draw up Artwork Prospectus
 - Staff distribute requests for proposals to artists through direct mailings and public notices

Phase II – Artist Selection Process

- **Artist Selection Panel formed**
 - 6 members chosen by the MIAC Chair and staff and recommended to the MIAC for approval – consists of an artist, Mercer Island citizen with special interest in project, MIAC member (serves as chair), Design Commission member, lay citizen of public, MI City Council Member, City staff advisor
 - Presented to City Council for approval
- **Artwork Proposal Review and Selection**
 - The Artist Selection Panel (ASP) reviews each artist's proposal and uses the Artist Selection Checklist Form in the review process. (See attached form)
- **The Approval Process** – The ASP Chair reports findings to the MIAC as follows
 - The ASP selects artist's artwork
 - MIAC will review the ASP's findings and approve the Panel's ascending recommendation or act accordingly on their descending recommendation.
 - Upon MIAC approval, present selection to City Council for authorization to enter into contract
 - Artist informed of selection

Phase III – Implementation

- **Contract**
 - Upon completion of the contract, the ASP is dismissed, having completed their responsibilities
- **Accomplishment of the Artwork**
- **Presentation of the Artwork**

Summary of Public Meetings Held Regarding the Veterans

Through Arts Council meetings, public meetings, and City Council meetings veterans and citizens provided input as to the design concept for the Veterans Memorial project.

In an effort to involve the veterans and citizens in developing a design concept for the Veterans Memorial, two public meetings were held to specifically gather their input. The first meeting was held at the Veteran's of Foreign Wars (VFW) Hall on Tuesday, October 30, 2001 and the second meeting was held at the Community Center at Mercer View on Wednesday, April 24, 2002.

To open up a dialogue with the audience Terry Reckord, MacLeod Reckord Landscape Architects, asked the question "should the Veterans Memorial be a *place* or a *thing*?" There were many ideas generated in both meetings however, the idea that all seemed to agree on was that the Veterans Memorial should be a *place* and not a *thing*.

Additionally, some common design themes emerged among the veterans and citizens as to what the veterans' memorial should represent. Listed below is a summary of those suggestions gathered from both public meetings.

- Located at Mercerdale Park
- Less obscure and in a more visible location
- Compatibility with other uses
- Flag(s), flagpole, flag as focal point
- All 5 services at base of flagpole in the plaza at Mercerdale
- Use Mercerdale plaza, plaque & military emblems of the 5 services
- A feature with veterans associated with it, i.e. Band Shell

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Exhibit 1
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FOR ARTISTS

City of Mercer Island Veterans Memorial Public Art Project

PROJECT OPPORTUNITY

The City of Mercer Island is seeking an artist or design team to create and install an outdoor, site-specific work to honor the veterans of the U.S. armed forces. The work must enhance the site in Mercerdale Park, as well as serve as a reminder to visitors of the sacrifices that veterans of all wars have made.

The objective of the work is to acknowledge the significant contributions veterans have made to maintaining the quality of life we in the United States enjoy.

BACKGROUND

At its retreat in 2001, the Mercer Island City Council voted to create a memorial to honor veterans. Because they felt that the memorial would in essence take the form of a sculpture or other piece of the art, the Mercer Island Arts Council was enlisted to oversee the process in the same way that other public art is selected.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

The plaza area in Mercerdale Park was chosen because it is visible from both the park and the street. It could be incorporated in the use of the plaza, as well as serving as a constant reminder of how much we owe veterans.

Ideas the Program Committee would like to see incorporated are listed below:

- The piece should draw people to it. It should be touchable and thoughtful, hopeful and optimistic.
- It can incorporate utility, such as seating.
- It should include an area where a wreath can be placed.
- The vista from the plaza should be kept in mind. Enhancing the view of the green area and the native garden would add to the piece, but it is desirable that the skateboard park not be emphasized.
- It must enhance public events, such as music concerts (the bands play on the plaza under a tent), the summer festival that uses the park, the winter tree-lighting ceremony, and other ceremonies honoring groups or individuals that often take place in the plaza.

AB 3797

Exhibit 3

Page 8

The committee does not want to see the following elements:

- No tanks. No guns. No statues of people.
- No celebration of war, but honoring those who served.
- A "what is this?" memorial stuck in a corner.
- No names of veterans, because Mercer Island is a transient community, and it would be impossible to find all veterans.

These are some of the design directions the committee thought might work well, as well as some park elements to keep in mind:

- The work should reflect the Northwest heritage and "landscape" so natural materials such as rocks and granite are preferable to metals such as steel and bronze.
- It should add some height to the plaza area.
- An archway into the park might be interesting.
- Words such as "honor, life, sacrifice, country" can be incorporated, perhaps in a way similar to the "arched doorways" art that leads into one entrance of the Seattle Center (near the Space Needle).

Additional considerations:

- There should be some reference to the U.S. flag. However, there is a flagpole with a flag at the nearby Bicentennial Park, which is in view of Mercerdale Park. Avoiding the look of "too many flags" while still having a flag at the memorial is a problem to be solved.
- There is currently a work of art in the plaza area, a water feature called "Sizzling Water." This work will remain; the new art must work well with the existing art. There are also some raised grassy areas that echo the look of "Sizzling Water". These are not part of "Sizzling Water" and need not remain, but the cost of removal would have to be included in the budget. They can also be incorporated into the design.
- Lighting can be included, but is not a requirement.

SITE CONSIDERATIONS

The Plaza at Mercerdale Park is a cement area and is approximately 80' x 80'. The entire area can be considered for this work. See the drawing at the end of this Call. Additional photographs are on the City of Mercer Island Web site at ci.mercer-island.wa.us. Click on RFQ's & Bids from the left tool bar.

MATERIALS TO SUBMIT

- Current resume.
- Up to ten slides of recent work with particular emphasis on works comparable to the design concept. (Please label all slides with your name, title of work, and date. (Slides will be returned to you.)
- An explanatory slide sheet to include your name, titles of works, medium, dimensions, date, ownership and location.
- Preliminary design sketches.
- A description of the work to include design concept, materials to be used, AB 3797 construction/installation method; maintenance requirements; draft budget. Exhibit 3

No other materials will be presented to the Artist Selection Panel.

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METHOD OF SELECTION**ELIGIBILITY**

The competition is open to any artists or artist/design teams who have worked in media suitable to permanent outdoor installations. The artist or team will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- Responds to the project objectives and demonstrates sensitivity to the public benefit.
- Satisfies considerations regarding theft, vandalism, weather, excessive maintenance, safety and liability.
- Submits written concepts and sketches that are compatible with this prospectus and expresses consistent train of thought.

SCHEDULE

Entries Due: September 13, 2002
Artist Selection Panel Review: September 16 - 20, 2002
Recommendation to Arts Council: October 9, 2002
Contract to City Council: October 21, 2002
Commission Announced: October 22, 2002
Installation Completed: May 5 - 9, 2003
Tenative Dedication: May 26, 2003 (Memorial Day)

PROJECT BUDGET

The selected artist will be awarded a commission of \$36,280 plus tax. The commission covers design, materials, labor, site preparation, transportation and installation of the art piece.

ARTIST SELECTION PANEL

City Council Representative: Sven Goldmanis
Local Artist: Ingrid Lahti
Design Commission: George Wittman
Interested Citizen: Jim Trombold
Veterans: E. Jay Thompson, World War II
 Jerry Gribble, Korean War
 Frank Mandarano, Vietnam War
 Mike Cero, Persian Gulf War
Art Council: Amanda Clark
City Staff: Diane Mortenson

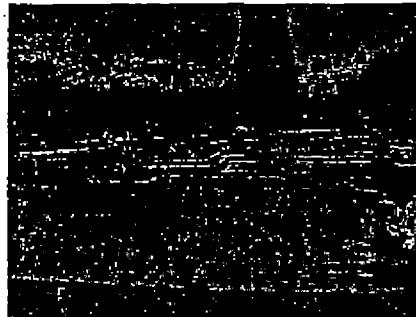
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SEND MATERIALS TO

**Veterans Memorial Art Project
Mercer Island Arts Council
8236 SE 24th Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040**

The Mercer Island Arts Council will exercise all reasonable care with all materials submitted and neither the Council nor the City of Mercer Island will be liable for the loss or damage of any material submitted for this competition. The Mercer Island Arts Council reserves the right to reject any or all entries.

Applicants are encouraged to visit the site at Mercerdale Park, 78th SE & SE 32nd. Call 206-236-3545 for directions. The installation of artwork will be coordinated with the City.

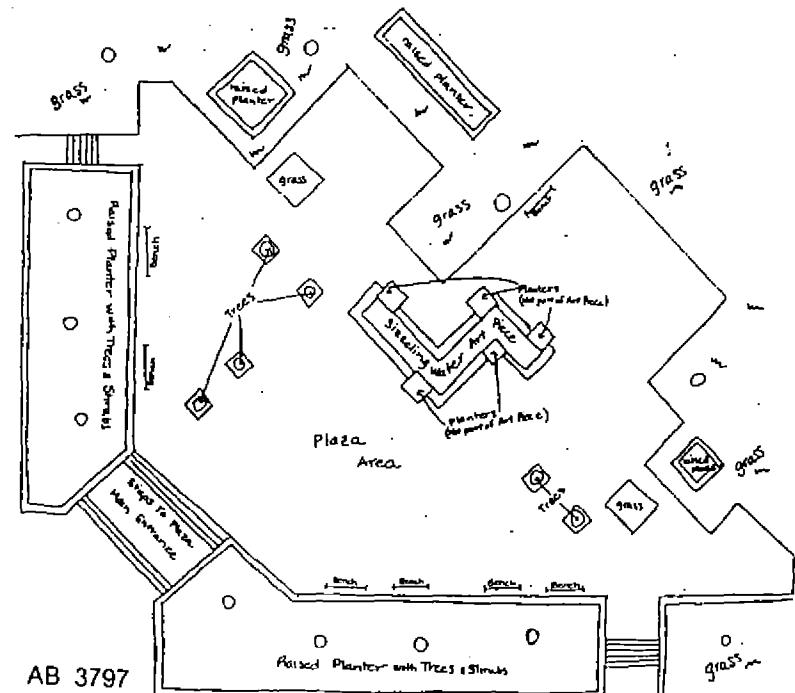


View of plaza from grass area - facing NE with view of Sizzling Water.



Main entrance to park leading up to plaza.

Drawing of Mercerdale
Plaza



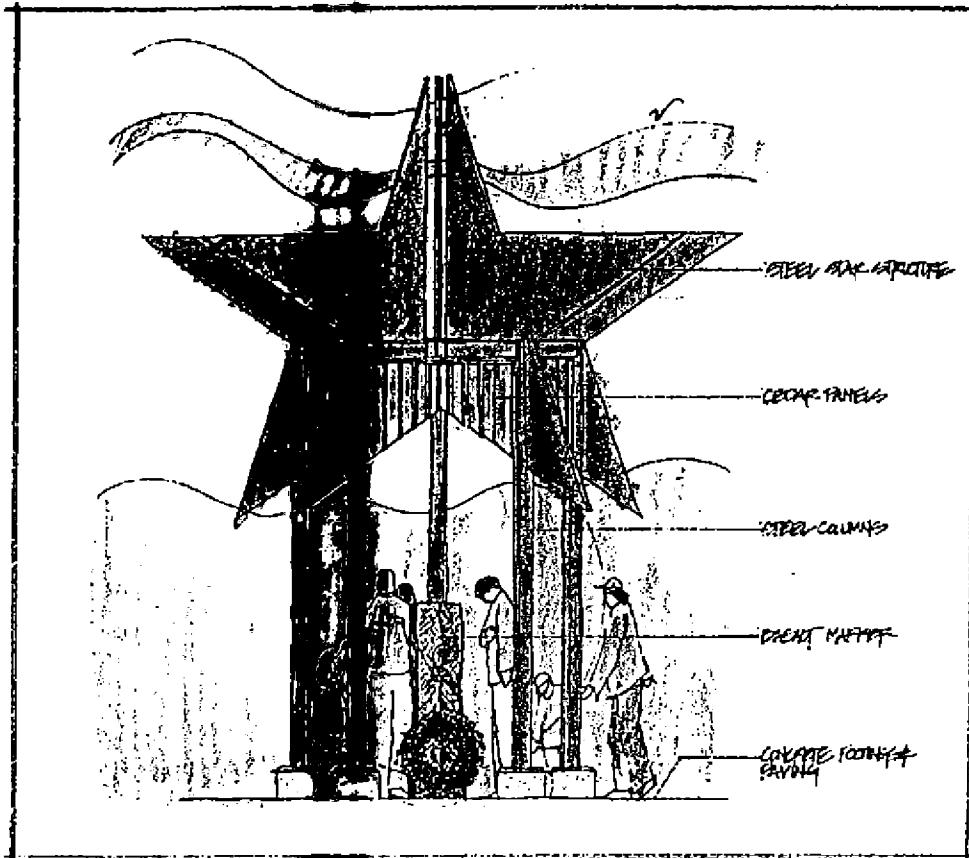
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STAR

Origins

The proposed artwork for the Veterans Memorial Art Project comes from one of most enduring and powerful national symbols - the STAR. The STAR (five pointed) has been, from the very origins of our country a chosen symbol for its identity and for honoring those individuals and states that form and support it. This is true for the American Flag, for U.S. military insignia, medals, and identification, as well as for personal, family and community expressions of support and remembrance during wartime (such as the Blue Star icon displayed during WWII). Our search for a reference symbol that: 1) would honor veterans without celebrating war; 2) would reflect the individual veteran as well as the combined service of all veterans; 3) would be enhancing and "attractive" yet be thoughtful and memorable; and 4) be enduring while respectful of the sacrifices that come from duty and service, leads us to the STAR.



In progress design of the STAR.

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Exhibit 1
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CALL FOR ARTISTS

City of Mercer Island Veterans Recognition Project

PROJECT OPPORTUNITY

The City of Mercer Island is seeking an artist or design team to create and install an outdoor, site-specific, architectural landscaped and integrated work to honor the veterans of the U.S. armed forces. The work must create a sense of place and enhance the site in Mercerdale Park, as well as serve as a reminder to visitors of the sacrifices that veterans of all wars have made.

The objective of the work is to acknowledge the significant contributions veterans have made to maintaining the quality of life we in the United States enjoy.

BACKGROUND

At its retreat in 2001, the Mercer Island City Council voted to create a memorial to honor veterans. The Mercer Island Arts Council was enlisted to oversee the process in the same way that other public art is selected.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

The plaza area in Mercerdale Park was chosen because it is visible from both the park and the street. It could be incorporated in the use of the plaza, as well as serving as a constant reminder of how much we owe veterans.

Ideas the Program Committee would like to see incorporated are listed below:

- The work should draw people to it. It should be touchable and thoughtful, hopeful and optimistic.
- It can incorporate utility, such as seating as well as having a consideration for outdoor performance space.
- It should include an area where a wreath can be placed.
- The vista from the plaza should be kept in mind. Enhancing the view of the green area and the native garden would add to the piece, but it is desirable that the skateboard park not be emphasized.
- It must enhance public events, such as music concerts, the summer festival that uses the park, the winter tree-lighting ceremony, and other ceremonies honoring groups or individuals that often take place in the plaza.

AB 3797

Exhibit 5

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Exhibit 1

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The committee does not want the following elements:

- Tanks, guns or statues of people.
- A celebration of war. Rather the recognition project is to honor those who served.
- A "what is this?" recognition project stuck in a corner.
- Names of veterans. It would be very difficult to ensure that the names of all Mercer Island veterans were included.

These are some of the design directions the committee thought might work well, as well as some park elements to keep in mind:

- The work should reflect the Northwest heritage and "landscape" so natural materials such as rocks and granite are preferable to metals such as steel and bronze.
- It should add some height to the plaza area.
- An archway into the park might be interesting.
- Words such as "honor, life, sacrifice, country" can be incorporated, perhaps in a way similar to the "arched doorways" art that leads into one entrance of the Seattle Center (near the Space Needle).

Additional considerations:

- There should be some reference to the U.S. flag. However, there is a flagpole with a flag at the nearby Bicentennial Park, which is in view of Mercerdale Park. Avoiding the look of "too many flags" while still having a flag at the site is a problem to be solved.
- There is currently a work of art in the plaza area, a water feature called "Sizzling Water." This work will remain. The new art must work well with the existing art. There are also some raised grassy areas that echo the look of "Sizzling Water". These are not part of "Sizzling Water" and need not remain, but the cost of removal would have to be included in the budget. They can also be incorporated into the design.
- Lighting can be included, but is not a requirement.

THE PLAZA
CONSIDERATIONS

The Plaza at Mercerdale Park is a concrete area and is approximately 80' x 80'. The entire area can be considered for this work. See the drawing at the end of this Call. Additional photographs are on the City of Mercer Island Web site at ci.mercer-island.wa.us. Click on RFQ's & Bids from the left tool bar.

MATERIALS TO SUBMIT

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- Up to ten slides of recent work with particular emphasis on works comparable to the design concept. (Please label all slides with your name, title of work, and date. (Slides will be returned to you.)
- An explanatory slide sheet to include your name, titles of works, medium, dimensions, date, ownership and location.
- Preliminary design sketches.
- A description of the work to include design concept, materials to be used, construction/installation method; maintenance requirements; draft budget.

No other materials will be presented to the Artist Selection Panel.

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ARTIST SELECTION PANEL CRITERIA

The competition is open to any artists or artist/design teams who have worked in media suitable to permanent outdoor installations. The artist or team will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- Responds to the project objectives and demonstrates sensitivity to the public benefit.
- Satisfies considerations regarding theft, vandalism, weather, excessive maintenance, safety and liability.
- Submits written concepts and sketches that are compatible with this prospectus and expresses consistent train of thought.

SCHEDULE

Entries Due:	February 28, 2003
Artist Selection Panel Review:	March 10-14, 2003
Recommendation to Arts Council:	April 19, 2003
City Council Approval:	April 21, 2003
Commission Announced:	April 22, 2003
Installation Completed:	November 3-7, 2003
Tentative Dedication:	November 11, 2003

PROJECT BUDGET

The selected artist will be awarded a commission of \$36,280 plus tax. The commission covers design, materials, labor, site preparation, transportation and installation of the art piece.

ARTIST SELECTION PANEL MEMBERS

City Council Representative:	Sven Goldmanis
Local Artist:	Ingrid Lahti
Design Commission:	George Wittman
Interested Citizen:	Jim Trombold
Veterans:	E. Jay Thompson, World War II Jerry Gribble, Korean War Frank Mandarano, Vietnam War Mike Cero, Persian Gulf War
Art Council:	Doug Giant
City Staff:	Diane Mortenson

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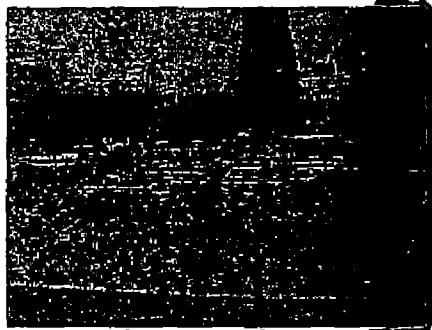
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SEND MATERIALS TO:

Veterans Recognition Art Project
Mercer Island Arts Council
8236 SE 24th Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040

The Mercer Island Arts Council will exercise all reasonable care with all materials submitted and neither the Council nor the City of Mercer Island will be liable for the loss or damage of any material submitted for this competition. The Mercer Island Arts Council reserves the right to reject any or all entries.

Applicants are encouraged to visit the site at Mercerdale Park, 78th SE & SE 32nd. Call 206-236-3545 for directions. The installation of artwork will be coordinated with the City.

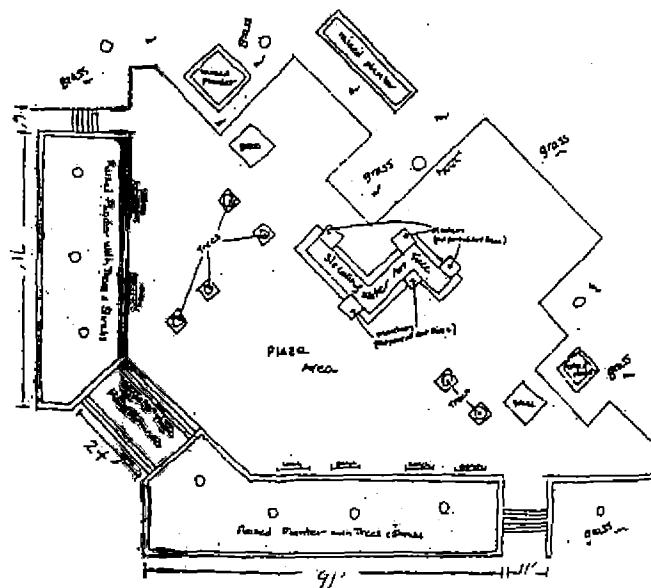


View of plaza from grass area - facing NB with view of Sizzling Water.



Main entrance to park leading up to plaza.

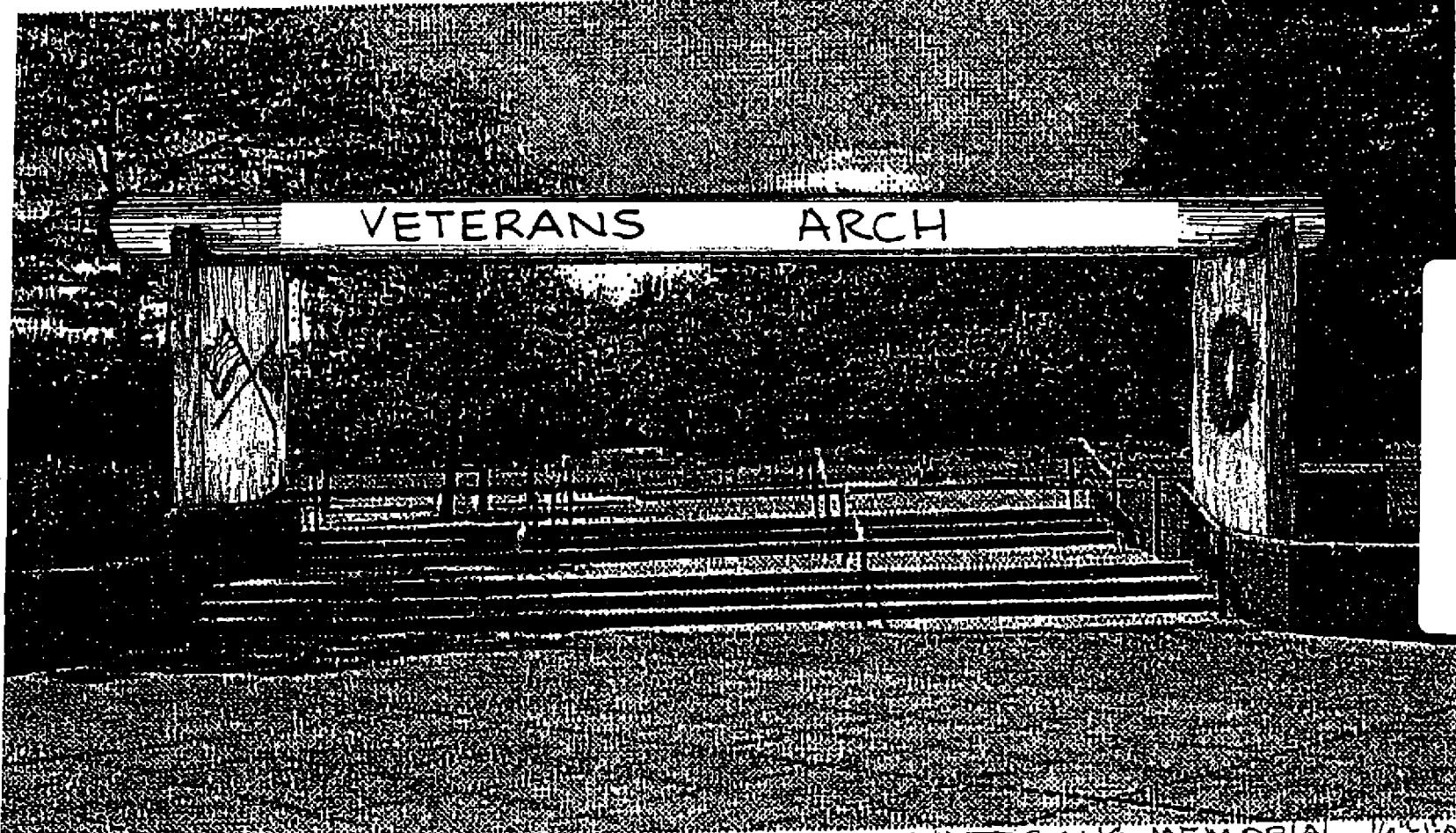
DRAWING OF
MERCERDALE
PLAZA



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Page 16 30ArtistVeteransMemorial3.PM7

T/Parks/J/Bernie

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VETERANS ARCH

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FROMBACH METALS

CUSTOM:

*Trellises Gates Railings
Original metal Art for Home, Garden,
and Commercial Applications*

Richard Frombach 206-463-9403

About Richard Frombach

Specializing in functional art, **FROMBACH METALS** offers design and construction of original metal art for home, garden and commercial applications. Providing "Art that works," Richard Frombach's projects include custom exterior and interior furniture, merchandising materials and displays, as well as decorative safety, design, and boundary elements. Richard Frombach, is a certified welder and metal worker whose projects have included precision construction and maintenance of K2 Ski Corporation presses, King County Fire truck tankers, the construction of the Kingdome, the 7th and Pine Bell Telephone building, the Boeing Hydrofoil project and as project foreman for steam boiler systems for the Alaska fishing industry. He is a principle in **BROCO**, a licensed general contracting firm established in 1979, which offers design and construction services to commercial, residential and municipal clients.

Clients:

- Vashon Airport District, Vashon
- Vashon Market Place Thriftway, Vashon
- ~~JD~~ Properties LLC, Vashon
- ~~King~~ County Water District #19
- ~~King~~ County Parks Department, Vashon
- Vashon Cemetery District, Vashon
- ~~Jack~~ Garfinkle, Piedmont CA
- ~~Die~~ Nursery & Garden, Vashon
- ~~True~~ Value, Vashon
- ~~Vashon~~ Pharmacy
- ~~Rey~~ Hulbert, Alki, West Seattle
- Vashon Chamber of Commerce

GENERAL CONTRACTORS
DESIGN • BUILD

BROCO

7420 SW Maury Park Road
Vashon, WA 98060
SHOP 463-2739
WA License BROC**211D2

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FROMBACH METALS

CUSTOM:

*Trellises Gates Railings
Original metal Art for Home, Garden,
and Commercial Applications*

Richard Frombach 206-463-9403

VETERANS RECOGNITION PERGOLA AT MERCERDALE

Descriptive Statement

My concept is designed to create a sense of place at the plaza of Mercerdale Park, enhancing its use and visual appeal from all angles of the park. In this way, the plaza itself will be a reminder of the citizens' wishes to recognize their Veterans in a central gathering space.

This proposal is for the construction of a pergola, angled to reflect and compliment the existing architecture of the plaza.

On top of the central portion of the pergola is a domed structure which will give visual loft. Within the "hatband" of the structure facing the stairs and fountain will be the words "Honoring the service of our Veterans." On the opposing side, facing the grass will be 5 symbols that represent the armed services. In this way, the core of the pergola will create a hallowed space.

Included in the design are unobtrusive hooks to be used for attachments of sound reflective cloth to the central area and adjacent wings that will serve as a backdrop and transform the pergola into a performance structure facing the lawn.

Structure

The structure is to be constructed of primed and painted (deep graphite color) steel. Designed to create a backdrop to the plaza and focal point from the street, the plaza or the lawn area, the pergola configuration invites meandering toward the central portion where the viewer will be reminded of its purpose to honor the Veterans. The central portion gives a performance area of approximately 22 x 12 feet with additional area to be gathered from the side wings.

Installation

The legs will be anchored to the site from internal brace plates by threaded rods to a steel/concrete anchorage. Final engineering of this will be done upon acceptance of the project.

GENERAL CONTRACTORS
DESIGN • BUILD

BROCO

7420 SW Maury Park Road
Vashon, WA 98060
SHOP 463-2793
WA License BROC#211D2

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FROMBACH METALS

CUSTOM:

*Trellises Gates Railings
Original metal Art for Home, Garden,
and Commercial Applications*

Richard Frombach 206-463-9403

VETERANS RECOGNITION PERGOLA AT MERCERDALE

Budget	
\$49,000	Includes materials, labor, site prep, transportation and installation cost. The cost of the final engineering is included in this amount and will be done on acceptance of proposal. All welding will be done by certified welders.
\$ 1,275	Design and drafting of the project
\$ 1,200	Lettering within the "hatband" of the structure - "Honoring the service of our Veterans"
\$ 2,000	The 5 logos that represent the armed services
\$54,375	TOTAL
\$ 4,785	TAX ON TOTAL PROJECT
\$59,160	TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

PAYMENT

50% deposit at time of contract, 25% due when two outer wings are set. Final payment due when dome and final work is completed.

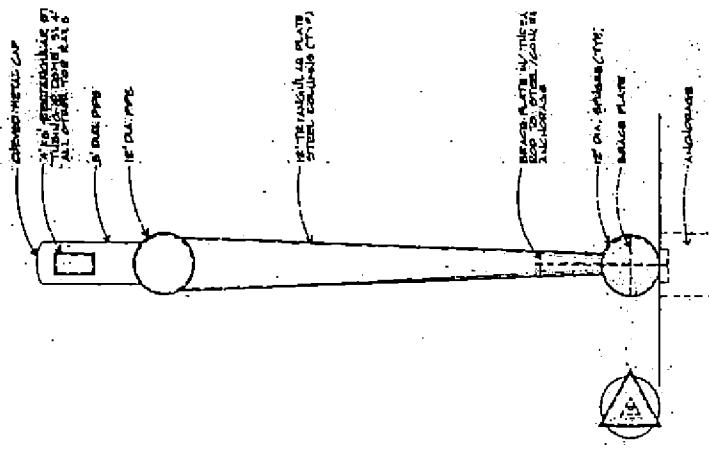
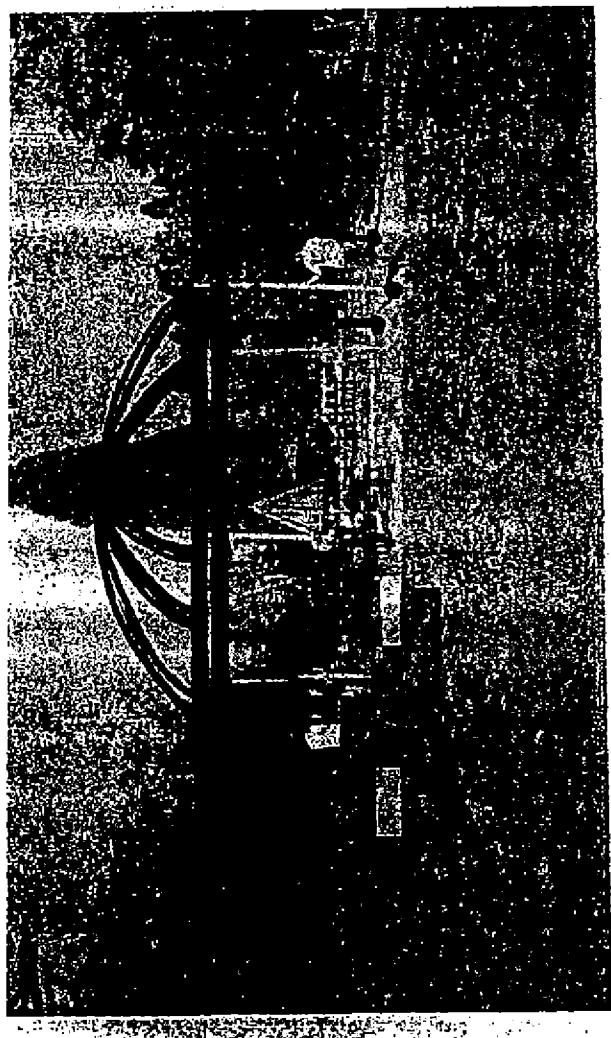
GENERAL CONTRACTORS
DESIGN • BUILD

BROCO

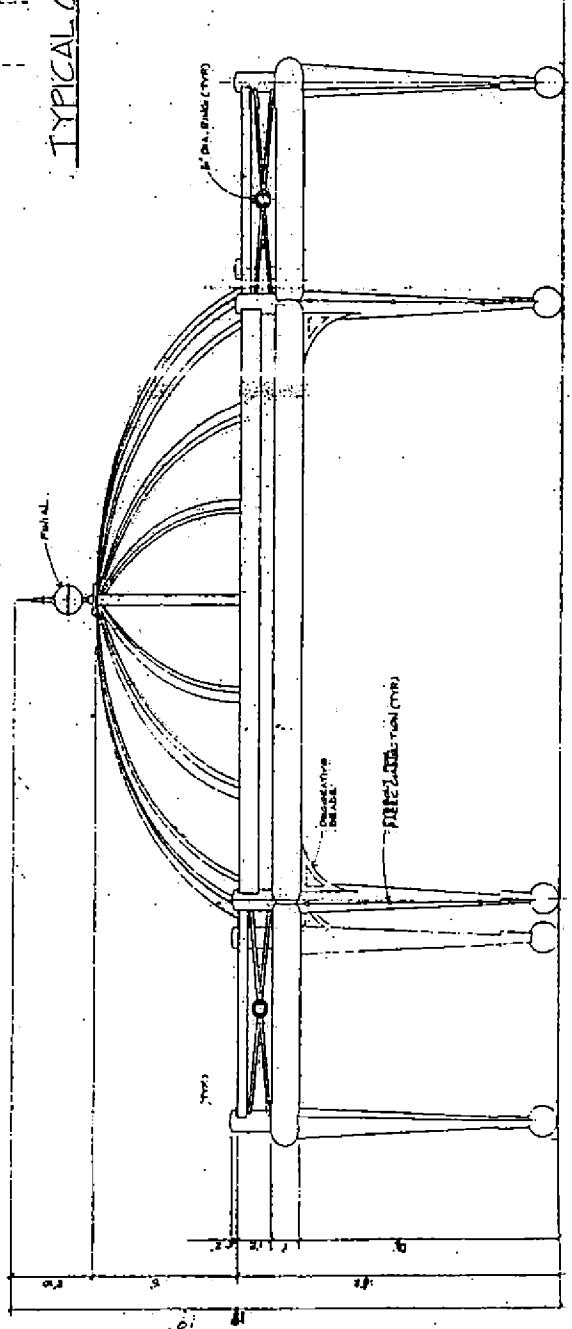
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Vashon, WA 98060
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WA License BROC**211D2

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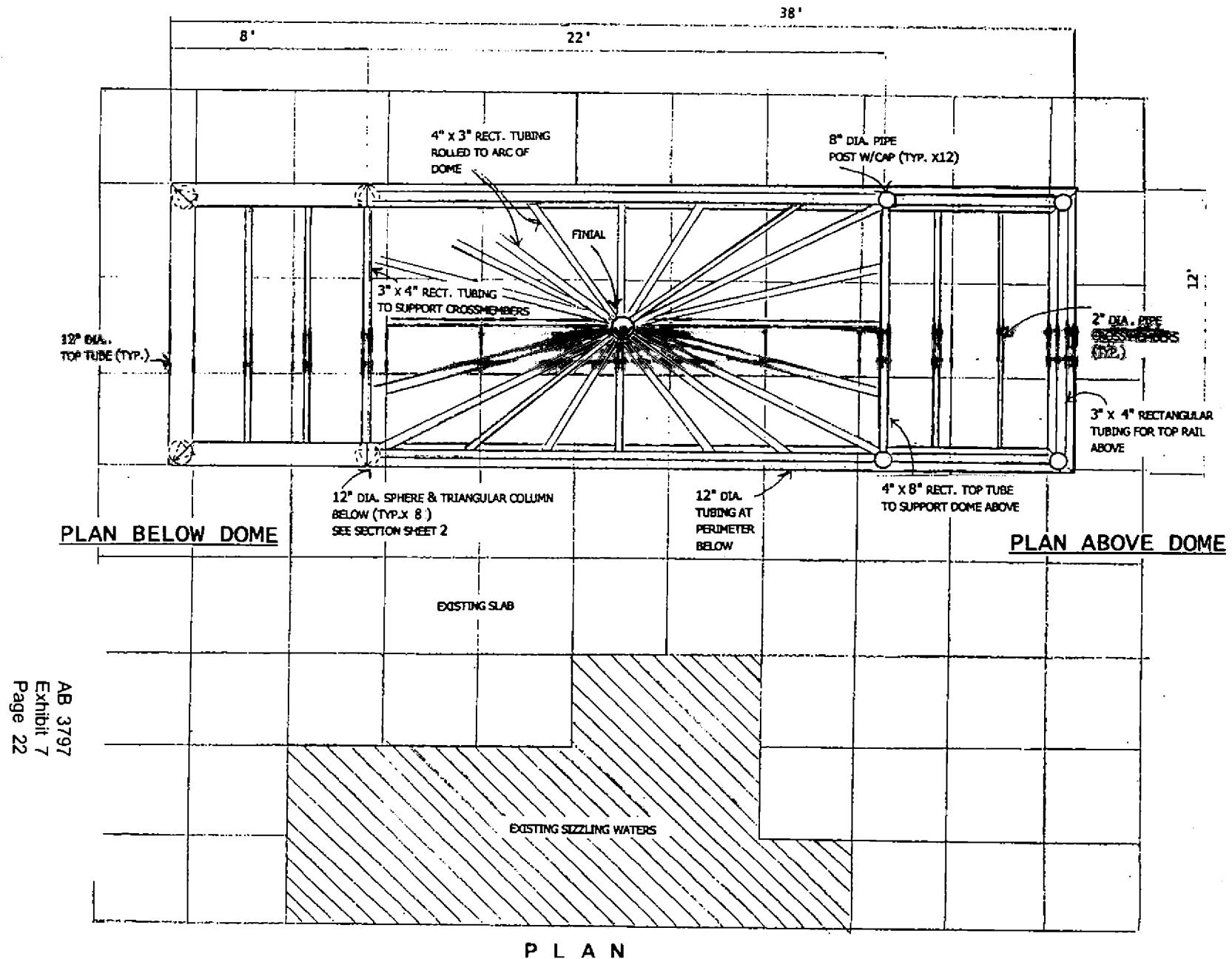
TYPICAL COLUMN DETAIL

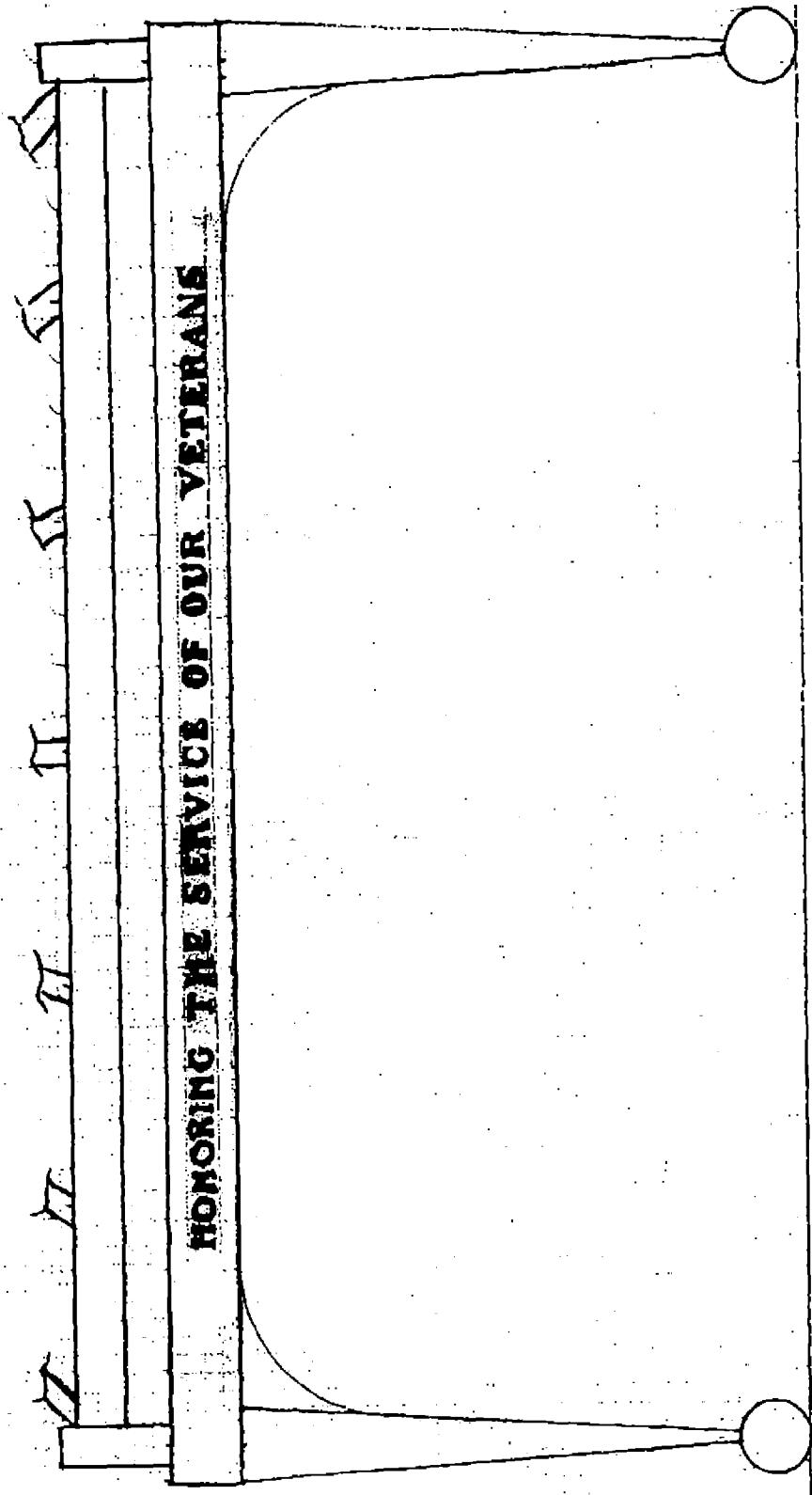


E L E V A T I O N

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$\frac{L'}{2} = 1'$
standing inside looking toward point

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Aug-27-03 3120HHS
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SENT BY: MR LASERJET GROUP

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Steaming inside looking toward lawn

Cotton home

Cast Bronze, 2D Graphics

Diameter

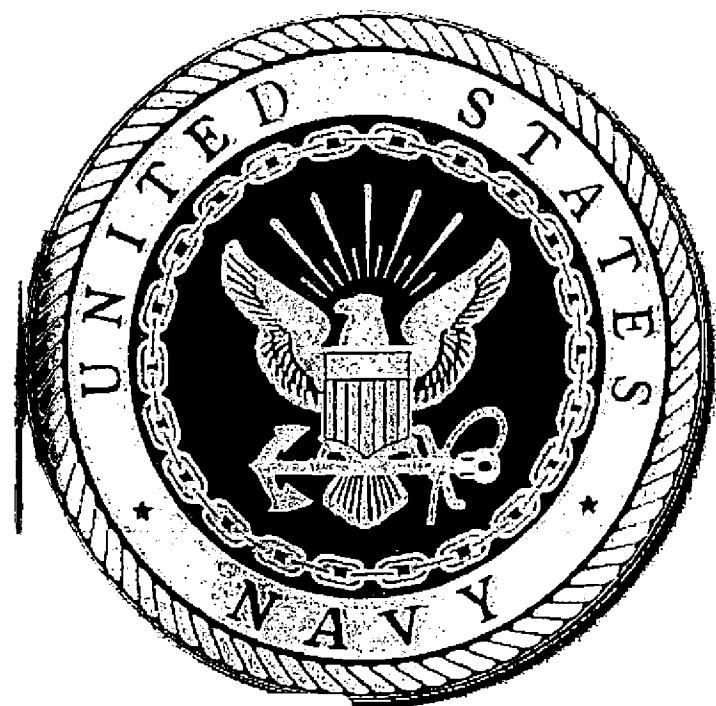
12 Inches- \$400.00
18 Inches- \$690.00
24 Inches- \$1136.00
30 Inches- \$2090.00
36 Inches- \$2990.00
40 Inches- \$3690.00
48 Inches- \$5990.00

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Raphael Architects

95 Elm Street Hartford CT 06106

Dear Susan:

It was a pleasure seeing you and Pat at your home Sunday. Thank you. I was also happy to see and discuss with you, the proposed design for the 'Performance Facility' that will be built in the Park. I thought it might be helpful to you to note some of the thoughts we talked about.

I have had the rewarding opportunity to contribute to several performance facilities here in Connecticut. These include the 'Pavilion' in Bushnell Park. The 'Pavilion' is a 75' x 40' multi purpose theater, dance, music and presentation venue which is situated on the side of a vast open park meadow that is utilized for audience seating of several thousand people. This meadow forms the lawn in the back of our beautiful Victorian State Capitol building designed by Architect Richard Upjohn. I was also Architect for a smaller facility in Putnam, CT that is 32' x 22'. Probably the most valuable contribution I can provide you in your endeavor would be my observations of the success (or short comings) of these structures. I will note below some of the major areas I have learned to be sensitive to and discuss them briefly in terms of your design:

Function: I urge you to make every design decision based on use and function. There is no substitute. If the facility does not work well it will be disliked no matter how beautiful.

Beauty Your structure will be a handsome addition to the Park. I like the simplicity and the classic style of it (although I would describe the design as modern!). Beauty and more importantly 'appropriateness' is actually a need and function of the facility. By the way, I think a scale model of the proposed design would be valuable to many people to help them visualize the design. Color and finish wise, there are rust and forest greens that may be natural looking colors in the Park setting. At the same time, and given the playful 'erector set' component design, you could look at primary colors (although this would be more of a risk). In terms of Plan, I prefer that you keep the structure simple and therefore I might prefer the 'straight' plan as opposed to the plan with the diagonal lines. I find the design to be appropriate for the Park setting in its classic simplicity, symmetry and scale.

Dimension I must tell you that 600 square feet is a typical minimum by most standards. Your proposed floor plate of 22' x 12' may be appropriate for 2 rows of 8 performers plus a drummer. (maximum). Given that the 'Stage' floor is on grade, there is flexible room here by simply extending the available space out beyond the front or back of the actual stage area. The 'wings' on each end will allow for expansion although the use is limited by the columns of the structure, which are close to each other. With a 9 foot clearance, 11 foot and 17 foot total height, there is some ability to erect a temporary platform within the Plan of the Facility for some needed site line improvement.

The floor area of the stage should be a direct result of the use. The existing design reflects todays stated 'Program'; but remember it does not allow for flexibility in the future.. You will not be providing a space for most dancer groups or an orchestra or a 'Big Band' performance. (for example 25 -30 performers). We know that the use may change in the future. The irony here is that, the more successful the structure is, the more uses will appear in the future wanting to utilize the structure.

Site Lines I am sorry to be a nudge on this one (and I know there are other important considerations) but please be sure everyone understands that a stage on the level of the audience is limiting site lines in terms of audience depth. People cannot see over other audience members who are standing or even seated in typical lawn furniture in front of them. I would raise the stage platform. If you are sure (as stated) that there has not been in the past a raised stage nor will there be a need in the future then you are quite right in providing for the performance space to be on grade. While site lines are limited, you do get the advantage of flexibility, cost savings and simplicity. As stated above you can erect a temporary platform (of limited height) should the need arise.

Tel 860.560.9191

Fax 860.560.9192

e-mail joel.raphael@sbcglobal.net

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Stage Roof The roof over the stage does not allow for performances in the rain (obviously). Your fabric roof, if well designed will, however, allow for the musicians to confidently set up during the day (when it is raining or threatening to rain) for a later performance if the sky clears. It also insures that valuable instruments are not damaged in a sudden downpour. This means you can operate when the weather is threatening. This will vastly improve the chances of performances when the weather is 50/50.

Lighting Consider at least basic lighting for the performers. this may enhance the beauty and the practicality of the facility even if full night use is not anticipated. I have never experienced summer light in the north and West Side of a time zone so I cannot respond to reports of daylight at 9pm. I am thinking more of light for aesthetic effect and again, flexibility of use.

Backdrop The backdrop will also be the fabric like that on the overhead. The legs of the pergola are designed to have hidden rings for toggles to connect the sail material.. This will allow for where the necessary equipment, trash, backup materials, props, instruments, costumes will be. If any drama is contemplated, the backdrop gives you a backstage, a stage left and right. If you have multiple performing groups, they have a place to be while waiting until their turn.

Electric Power Speakers use a lot of power. So does stage lighting if installed in the future. Should the anticipated use change in the future, expanded electrical power could be extended to the facility.

Equipment Interface This is for the stage managers of the performers to access whatever power or speaker or lighting you have. Known as 'Union Connectors', there are two prevailing types. This requires enclosed space.

Stage Surface If you don't anticipate dancing then you may be OK. Dancers need a resilient floor.

Acoustics The use of electronic amplification will help. I believe you have space for speaker towers in front of the performers which is critical. If you need to rely on natural acoustics then I suggest an acoustic consultant as we had here in Hartford. Our Pavilion was fitted with acoustic panels in the ceiling that disburse sound waves. Because you are not relying on acoustic transmission of sound you do not have this need.

Storage Think about safety equipment or temporary snow fencing (used to keep the audience 10 or 20 feet from the performers).

Toilets Can be portable units when needed. Believe it or not, when our facility in Hartford became very popular for big name performers, we had to respond to demands of some of the big shots and provide some of the comforts of home.

Security Night lighting? Lighting for the audience to safely disburse at the end of the performance? Telephone or computer connection? Vandalism? Graffiti? Basic Public Address system? Consider these possibilities. A painted steel structure is actually a good solution as paint can cover graffiti easily. Can you protect the fabric ceiling?

Lightning Protection I don't claim to be an expert here but we always include a basic protection system.

In summary, your proposed design will be an attractive and functional addition to the Park for its intended use as described. It's a delightful light structure that is based on a classical theme. I like it. Remember however it is limited in its scope and will not suit a wide variety of uses. Use the list above as a checklist and then feel confident.

If I can be of further help let me know.

Joel Raphael

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GLANT PACIFIC
COMPANIES

Douglas F. Glant
Chairman-C.E.O.

To: The Mercer Island
Arts' Council



As a former Arts' Council member (and as chair of the second Artist Selection cte), I am thrilled that the council has finally found a Veterans' Recognition Project which satisfies their goal and desires. This has been a long and rigorous selection process which has taken over a year to (at last) give extraordinarily well-deserved honor to those who have served our country and community.

I was also gratified to read Mike Lero's comment that this was what the veterans had desired from the beginning. I hope there is no further delay; that would be a real disservice to our community.

Heartfelt congratulations,

Doug Glant

P.O. Box C3637 • Seattle, Washington 98124 • (206) 628-6222 • FAX (206) 628-6234

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Jennifer Berner

From: Michael Cero [mscero@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, October 08, 2003 7:17 AM
To: Susanlandon@aol.com
Subject: Memorial Plaza

Susan, Thank you for taking the time to review with me the latest submission. The pergola design by Richard Frombach satisfies the design criteria ~~in mind~~ when we began the selection process many months ago. The pergola has the added benefit of bringing together the water fountain and the raised planter beds. Money is always an issue, I hope your committee we can find the funds and commitment to bring the fountain and planter beds to the level of repair commensurate with that of the pergola. After all, it's not just the pergola that will be evaluated. It's the sum of the parts of the Veteran's "Plaza."

Thank you for your commitment and service in seeing this project through.

Good Luck

Mike Cero
Commander
VFW Post 5760

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Jennifer Berner

From: Amanda Clark [amandac5@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, October 08, 2003 6:01 PM
To: Susan Landon
Subject: Veteran's Project

Hello, Susan,

As you know, I was the first chair of the Veteran's Memorial project. The program committee, which included the current Commander of the VFW Post 5760, Mike Cero, developed the plan for the RFP, which included the results of various public meetings with local veterans as well as citizens interested in preserving Mercerdale Park.

At the meeting of the committee to chose a piece from those submitted, one was chosen which I felt represented the goals of the program committee. Unfortunately, not everyone on the committee was present, and some dissent arose after the fact. A strong dissenting view was that the selection did not represent a "sense of place." There was also a desire for something with utilitarian value, such as a band shell, but we did not have the funds for such a project, nor was such a design offered.

Finally, because of the dissension, the selection was rejected. A new committee was formed, with a new chair from the Arts Council (I was no longer a member). My understanding is that the design chosen by that committee likewise was rejected.

I'm not very familiar with the project after that. I do know, though, that a tremendous amount of work and energy has gone into this project, and that decisions were made after much deliberation. However, just as a personal opinion I fully support the idea of a band shell and of this design, which I believe will add to the ambience of the park as well as become a gathering place for Mercer Islanders.

Amanda

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Provided at the 10/13/03
Council Meeting

The Mayor and City Council
City of Mercer Island

October 6, 2003

Many veterans living here on Mercer Island are interested in a proposal to construct an appropriate place where the sacrifices made by millions of Americans, in the defense of the sovereignty of our nation and the freedoms we all enjoy, will be kept as a permanent reminder that the price of freedom is constant vigilance.

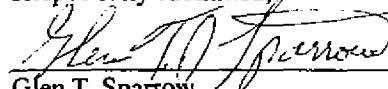
Attached hereto is a petition signed by some resident veterans and relatives of living and deceased members of our armed forces. The petition requests the City Council to delay any action on the proposed design for the veteran project sent to the City Council by the Arts Council. Their proposed design is not appropriate for a memorial and in fact the Arts Council apparently recognizes this since they refer to it only as a "remberance"

There are no active or retired armed services persons serving on the Arts Council. This may account for their reluctance or inability to fully appreciate the significance of service and sacrifices by American citizens in defense of our nation. During the time they have been working on the project no veteran input was taken into consideration. Attempts by some veterans to participate were totally rejected by the Arts Council. We believe this to be regrettable and inexcusable.

The purpose of the Arts Council is not as a design agency and the veteran memorial project should not have been assigned to them in the first place. Rather, a special committee should have been appointed by the City Council selected for the purpose from resident individuals of appropriate age, experience, technical expertise and appreciation for the real intent of such a project. It is not too late to take such action.

We sincerely hope that the City Council will, during deliberations, carefully consider the desires and ideas of our veteran community.

Respectfully submitted,


Glen T. Sparrow
2220 - 82nd Avenue SE

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CITIZENS PETITION TO THE CITY COUNCIL

We, The Undersigned VETERANS, SERVICE PERSONNEL, RELATIVES, AND CONCERNED
CITIZENS Herby Respectfully Request That The MERCER ISLAND CITY COUNCIL Adew And
 Consider PUBLIC INPUT AT A HEARING On THE Proposed Plans For The VETERANS MEMORIAL
 Project Before Final COUNCIL Approval And Commencement Of Construction Thereon.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER	SERVICE CONNECTION
John C. H. 44-2446 82nd		206-232-1383	W. W. 2 AIR FORCE
R. Kibbey 4438 15th Street	232-8195		USNR
G.T. SPARROW 2220-82 nd SE	232-0843		USNR WWII Pacific
Thurman Cole 9404 SE 54th St	232-6471		Friend of the Armed Forces
Margaret A. Sparrow 2220- 82nd SE.	232-0843		W.W.II-Vietnam relative
Mary K. Hobbs 6876 83 rd Ave SE	232-5940		Korea - LESER
Bob Burmeister 2805 75 th Place SE	232-3602		Citizen
Barbara Schwartz 7000-82 Ave SE			"
Nancy Weir-Weyra 9205 SE 68th St			Citizen
Louis A. WARRINER 3062 70th AV. SE	206-230-9344		USN
* HAROLD FREEDMAN 3764 79 th Ave SE			H. L.
Brent T. Davis 2805 SE 75th Pl, #27	206-980400 2305672		CITIZEN
Al Guzovich 2752 70th Ave SE			ARMY
DENNIS LARSON 2530 70th Ave NE			W.M.C.R.
* T. Wilson C. - 5th Club St. Frank Jones 30th 68th Ave SE			ARMY Navy (44-46)
John B. Gappeler 6213 83rd Place S.E.	232-8566		RELATIVE
Doris J. Speer P.O. Box 780	232-9222		Citizen
WILLIAM H. SPEER P.O. Box 780	232-9222		US AIR FORCE
		AB 3797	
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CITIZENS PETITION TO THE CITY COUNCIL

We, The Undersigned VETERANS, SERVICE PERSONNEL, RELATIVES, AND CONCERNED CITIZENS Hereto Respectfully Request That The MERCER ISLAND CITY COUNCIL Allow And Consider PUBLIC INPUT AND COMMENTING On THE Proposed Plans For The VETERANS MEMORIAL Project Before Final COUNCIL Approval And Commencement Of Construction Thereon.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER	SERVICE CONNECTION
Allen Schen	3304 14th St	232 3210	USMC
W. Freck Davis	3764 39th St.	206 535-0466	SPR
IVAN T. FISH	6425	232-4393	Army
Harold F. T. Fish	2926 72nd Ave. SE	236 2468	Navy
Marilyn Parker	3060-82nd SE		Air Force
Clare J. Hruska	4445 SE 52nd St	#1 Navy Seabees	
James W. Branaman	8591 SE 76th Pl	#2 Navy	USMC R. Major Ret
John T. Daniels	8225 SE 29th	—	NAVY AIR
John P. ...	1821 31st	206 72	Army Veteran

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Parks & Recreation

8236 S.E. 24TH STREET,
MERCER ISLAND, WA 98040
206.236.3545 / 206.236.3631 FAX
email: miparks@ci.mercer-island.wa.us
web: www.ci.mercer-island.wa.us

TRANSMITTAL SHEET

To:	Susan Landon			Company:	
From:	Jennifer Berner			Phone:	Fax:
Date:				Total No. Of Pages Including Cover:	
Re:	CC:				
<input type="checkbox"/> URGENT <input type="checkbox"/> FOR REVIEW <input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE COMMENT <input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE REPLY					

Message:

Susan - Give me a call & we can talk about this.
Glen Sparrow presented this to Council last night
during appearances.

Thanks - Jen B.

Hard Copy to Follow

Signed: _____

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November 18, 2003

Dear Mercer Island Resident:

The Mercer Island Arts Council would like to express its appreciation to all the Veterans and residents of Mercer Island who contributed to the selection process of the Veteran's Recognition Project since its official inception in June 2001. From the initial meeting at the VFW Hall in October 2001 to the City Council approval of the project November 3 2003, over 30 hours of public meetings have been held. Hundreds of volunteer hours have been devoted to the successful selection of a fitting tribute to the contributions to our community by our veterans. Veterans have been integral to every aspect of this process from the formulation of the project description by the Program Writing Committee, participation in the Artist Selection Committees (5 Veterans), and regular attendance at Mercer Island Arts Council meetings where monthly updates were made.

This has been a protracted process because the Veterans were very clear that this project should create "a sense of place" where our community could gather for a variety of reasons and be reminded of the continuing contributions of those who serve our nation in the armed forces. For this reason the site selected was Mercerdale Park where the community holds concerts and other public events. Many of the submissions for the project were rejected because they were merely decorative and not functional.

The domed pergola, designed by Richard Frombach satisfies the many requirements of the Veteran's requests: its location at the edge of the plaza by the lawn enhances the plaza as a gathering place; its versatility to be used as a performance space, with canvas overhead and background protection when needed, gives it a utility and echoes the tradition of commemorative band shells throughout the US; its domed design is reminiscent of memorial buildings since classical times. The inscription inside the dome creates a hallowed space within the structure inspiring contemplation.

As designed, the inside of the "hatband" of the dome facing and visible to the entry to Mercerdale Park will be inscribed "Honoring the Service of Our Veterans," and the opposing band facing the lawn will display medallions of the 5 armed services. In response to a City Council request that the public have one more opportunity to give input on the verbiage, The Mercer Island Arts Council is prepared to devote the majority of its meeting on Wednesday, December 10th to public input on the wording. Because of the great interest the public and our veterans have shown in this project, all attendees are encouraged to bring their suggestions IN WRITING and will have 3 minutes to make their proposals. In this way we can insure that all will have their opportunity to contribute.

The Mercer Island Arts Council welcomes all residents to attend this meeting. Again, thank you to all who have contributed so much time and energy to making this project something of which we can all be proud.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Landon".

Susan Landon, Chair
Mercer Island Arts Council