

**Establishment of a Maryland
Educators Service Memorial
Senate Bill 857, Chapter 569
House Bill 1131, Chapter 570**

**Commission Report:
Initial Findings and
Recommendations**

Commission Membership

Co- Chairs

Senator James E. DeGrange, Sr.
Delegate Sheila Hixson

Legislative Members

Senator Nathaniel J. McFadden
Delegate Talmadge Branch

Governmental Agency Designees

Renee Spence, Maryland State Department of Education
Madhu Sidhu, Maryland State Board of Education
Ellen Robertson, Department of General Services

Educators

Judith G. Cephas, Retired
Susie C. Jablinske, Retired
Theresa M. Dudley, Active
Matilde Ester Vallejos, Active

Staff

Judith Donaldson, MSDE
Barbara Bice, MSDE

Legislative History and Charge

During the 2013 General Assembly Session, the Maryland Legislature enacted Senate Bill 857/House Bill 1131 creating an eleven member Commission on the Establishment of a Maryland Educators Service Memorial. (Appendix A)

In passing this legislation, the General Assembly recognized the sacrifices, commitment, dedication, and contribution of all Maryland educators, past, present, and future, and sought to ensure that their service to the State of Maryland and its children would be remembered and honored.

This legislation charged the Commission with five specific tasks:

1. Identify an appropriate site or property located within the Annapolis Capital Complex or another appropriate site in Annapolis in close proximity to the State Capital Complex for the location of a Maryland Educators Service Memorial
2. Estimate the total funding required for the design, construction, and appropriate placement of the memorial
3. Consider preliminary design ideas for the construction of the memorial
4. Make recommendations regarding an appropriate site for the location of the memorial and the design of the memorial, and
5. Provide on-going review and recommendations regarding the funding and construction of the memorial

Further, this legislation charged the Commission to issue an initial report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, on or before December 1, 2013.

Meetings Presentations and Tours

Meetings:

The Commission on the Establishment of a Maryland Educators Service Memorial met three times: September 9, 2013, September 26, 2013, and November 14, 2013.

Minutes

Minutes of the Commission’s meetings were taken and approved. (Appendix B)

Presentation Summaries:

September 9, 2013

Renee Spence, Maryland State Department of Education

Ms. Spence provided the Commission members with a summary of the legislation and their charge.

Deputy Secretary Thomas, Department of General Services

Mark Schneidman, DGS, Office of Facilities Planning

Wendy Napier-Scott, DGS, Office of Real Estate

Representatives from the Department of General Services discussed a process that the Commission could follow, including articulating a vision, identifying an appropriate site, seeking designs, installing and maintaining memorials and securing funding.

The following existing memorials located on, or near, the Annapolis Capital Complex were discussed: Louis Goldstein Memorial, Thurgood Marshall Memorial, the Firemen’s Memorial and the WWII Memorial.

The roles of the State House Trust and the Department of General Services were reviewed

Photographs of teacher/educator memorials in other states were distributed.

September 26, 2013

Tim Baker, Assistant State Archivist

Elaine Rice Bachman – Administrator, State House Trust

Ms. Bachman discussed the role of the State House Trust, its strategic master plan, and the restriction of new memorials on the grounds of the State House.

Lawyers Mall, the grounds around the Legislative Services Building, the Federal Post Office Building, Bladen Street Redevelopment area, Greene Street Construction Project grounds, City of Annapolis property at Main and Francis Streets, the grounds around the House of Delegates garage, the courtyard between the Senate Miller and James building, and the grounds around the Treasury and Comptroller’s buildings were discussed as potential sites.

The Commission was advised to contact the Maryland Commission on Public Art for further information and assistance. The Maryland Commission on Public Art was actively involved with the 9-11 Memorial in Baltimore City.

Tour - On September 26, 2013, members of the Commission and representatives from the Department of General Services conducted a walking tour of the State Complex in Annapolis, Maryland.

November 14, 2013

Patricia Harrison, Visitor Coordinator, Department of Legislative Services

Ms. Harrison provided information concerning the student tours of the State House, Government House and the Annapolis Complex.

Sam Cook, Department of General Services

Mr. Cook reviewed possible sites with the Commission. Mr. Cook discussed potential installation issues near the State House due to the significant existing utilities (cast iron storm water pipes, irrigation piping, electrical conduit, and communications duct bank) passing beneath the sites A 1 and A 2. Mr. Cook recommended a site adjacent to the Legislative Services Building.

Lisa Seaman-Crawford and Jessica Cuches, Anne Arundel County Public Schools

Ms. Seaman-Crawford and Ms. Cuches discussed the renovation of the Greene Street Complex in Annapolis, Maryland.

Commission Recommendations

Appropriate Site Location

The Commission on the Establishment of a Maryland Educators Service Memorial makes two recommendations concerning an appropriate site location for the placement of a Maryland educators service memorial. Its primary recommendation is to utilize the two grassy areas on either side of Lawyers Mall, facing the State House.

Reasoning: This site is owned by the State of Maryland and under the management of the Department of General Services. This location has the highest visibility for all who visit the Maryland State House. This location is in close proximity to the existing Thurgood Marshall memorial and the education connection between the two memorials is desirable.

However, the Commission understands from Department of General Service representatives that, depending on the design and installation requirements of the memorial, this location could prove problematic due to the placement of existing utilities and other maintenance issues.

Should this location prove unsuitable, and in the alternative, the Commission on the Establishment of a Maryland Educators Service Memorial recommends a secondary site on the larger grassy area on the North Street side of the Legislative Services Building.

Reasoning: This site is owned by the State of Maryland and under the management of the Department of General Services. This location has views of the State House and St. Johns College. This is a large site and is a major drop-off point for school children visiting the State House and Government House.

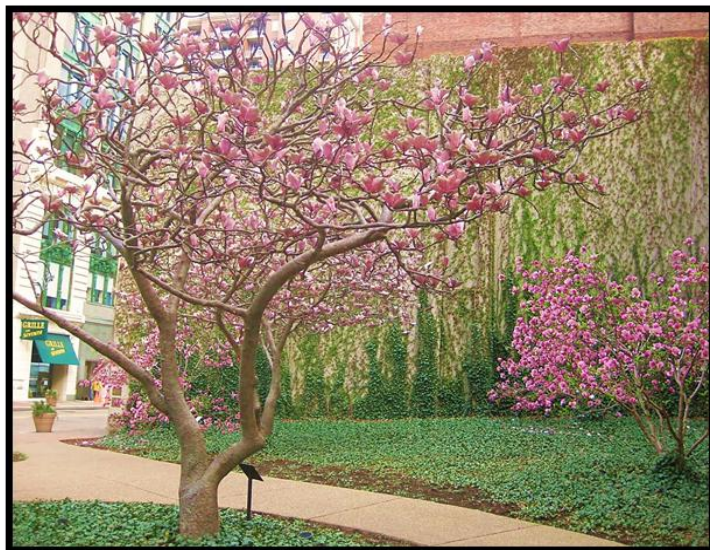
Design of the Memorial and Cost Estimate

Without regard to site constraints, the Commission brainstormed a wide range of design options; from a life size sculpture of a teacher and children, to the planting of a tree (representing knowledge), to the acquisition or use of a building or outdoor space where interactive learning could take place. The Commission discussed symbols that could be incorporated into a design to honor the teaching profession and to reflect respect toward educators. Those symbols included such visual representations as an apple, books, outstretched large and small hands, and a classroom with one large desk and smaller desks in rows. The Commission discussed incorporating an inspirational phrase into a design. An example of such a phrase would be: “Teaching Makes All Other Professions Possible.”

The Commission recognized that design possibilities were endless and that the most prudent course of action would be to identify a potential site or sites and then to seek professional design advice. The Commission directed staff to contact the Maryland State Arts Council for technical advice. Staff was directed to transmit the primary and alternative site recommendations and to discuss artists’ section process from the Maryland State Arts Council the Commission’s vision.

Staff has met with representatives from the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC). MSAC is recommending a preliminary design concept for consideration, based on best practices from other state and municipal arts agencies.

The concept is to use the proposed site, not merely to house a statue, but as a total environment; almost a living classroom. An example of this type of design is *Magnolias in Pittsburg* by Tony Tasset. Bronze magnolia trees (always in bloom) are set in a walled area. While the bronze trees are beautiful in themselves, the design conveys to the viewer the feeling of eternal spring, or renewal of life.



In much the same way, MSAC advised that the State work with a selected artist to use the entire site of the Maryland’s Educator Memorial to take each viewer back in time to a classroom memory or learning experience.

MSAC will continue to provide technical assistance in the form of RFQ/RFP review, artist selection, administrative support and dissemination of Call to Artists to institutions, organizations and through the Public Art Network (Americans for the Arts).

Preliminary cost estimates range from \$200,000 - \$300,000.

Possible site locations :

Site A 1:



Site A 2:



Site A 1: Corner of the Department of Legislative Services Building and College Avenue

Site A 2: Corner of the Department of Legislative Services Building and State Circle

Site B:



Rear of Department of Legislative Services Building on North Street