

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE October 17, 2017

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life, Arts & Culture Committee: Sandy Greyson (chair), Mark Clayton (Vice Chair), Rickey D. Callahan, Jennifer S. Gates, Scott Griggs, B. Adam McGough, Omar Narvaez

SUBJECT Recommendations from Mayor's Task Force on Confederate Monuments

On Monday, October 23, 2017, you will be briefed on the Recommendations from Mayor's Task Force on Confederate Monuments. The briefing materials are attached for your review.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Joey Zapata'.

Joey Zapata
Assistant City Manager

[Attachment]

c: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Larry Casto, City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary (Interim)
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager

Jo M. (Jody) Puckett, P.E., Assistant City Manager (Interim)
Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Chief of Community Services
Raquel Favela, Chief of Economic Development & Neighborhood Services
Theresa O'Donnell, Chief of Resilience
Directors and Assistant Directors

Recommendations from Mayor's Task Force on Confederate Monuments

Quality of Life, Arts and Culture Committee
October 23, 2017

Jennifer Scripps, Director
Office of Cultural Affairs
City of Dallas



Purpose

- Review recommendations by the Mayor's Task Force on Confederate Monuments



Background

- Mayor's Task Force on Confederate Monuments was created on August 18, 2017
- The Task Force was charged to make recommendations on the following:
 - *Robert E. Lee and the Confederate Soldier*
 - *Confederate Monument*
 - Fair Park Art
 - Streets with Confederate Names
 - Places with Confederate Names
 - Robert E. Lee Park
 - Confederate Cemetery
 - See appendix for member list
- On September 6, 2017, City Council voted to immediately remove the *Robert E. Lee and the Confederate Soldier* and place it in storage, pending Task Force recommendations

Background

- The Task Force met on:
 - August 31, 2017
 - September 7, 2017
 - September 15, 2017
 - September 19, 2017
 - September 22, 2017
- Public comments were allowed at the September 7th and September 15th meetings, and online comments were open for two weeks
- All Task Force materials (agendas, briefings, videos, meeting minutes) are available on www.dallasculture.org/confederatemonuments

Background

- Briefings presented to the Task Force to inform their deliberations included:
 - Role of Public Art, the Dallas policies governing it, and its history
 - Public monuments honoring Confederates
 - Art at Fair Park with Confederate symbols
 - Parks with Confederate names and buildings
 - Landmarks process
 - Research regarding street names with confirmed Confederate linkages
 - Street name changing process
 - History of The Lost Cause
 - History of Dallas during the 1890s and 1930s – with a special emphasis on the history of Black Codes, Jim Crow, and segregation



History

- Monuments are common in America and have been supported, commissioned, and installed since the 1800s
 - Address our desire to memorialize individuals, groups and events of significance, e.g.:
 - Washington Monument
 - Jefferson Memorial
 - Vietnam Veterans Memorial
 - JFK Memorial
 - MLK Memorial
 - Rosa Parks Plaza in Dallas
 - Make a public statement about the social and historical viewpoints of the individuals and groups who commission them
 - Intentionally built to last – expecting that their significance will endure for a long time
 - While they are made by artists, they are not independent artistic expressions
 - The Confederate Monuments were donations to the City of Dallas before a public art process for the review of donations existed

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History

- American Historical Association

- "History comprises both facts and interpretations of those facts."
- To remove a monument or to change the name of a school or street, is not to erase history, but rather to alter or call attention to a previous interpretation of history
- "A monument is not history itself; a monument commemorates an aspect of history, representing a moment in the past when a public or private decision defined who would be honored in a community's public spaces."
- Communities need to decide what is worthy of civic honor and those decisions will change over time as the communities values shift
- "Nearly all monuments to the Confederacy and its leaders were erected without anything resembling a democratic process."
- "African Americans had no voice and no opportunity to raise questions about the purposes or likely impact of the honor accorded to the builders the Confederate States of America."



The American Historical Association recommends that it is time to reconsider these decisions

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Sources: American Historical Association Statement:
<http://blog.historians.org/2017/08/aha-statement-confederate-monuments/>

Quality of Life, Arts and Culture



City of Dallas

Monuments Recommendations

1a. (Task Force Recommendation #1) That the City of Dallas seek to place the statue of *Robert E. Lee* and the base of the sculpture on long-term loan or by donation to a museum, educational institution, or educational site located within North Texas so that it may be preserved and used for educational purposes through display within the full historical context of the Civil War, Reconstruction, 'Lost Cause' mythology, and the 'Jim Crow' era. If the City is unsuccessful in its efforts and the statues remain in storage after three years, the City Council should revisit this issue.

1b. (Task Force Recommendation #1) That the City of Dallas seek to place the Confederate Memorial on long-term loan or by donation to a museum, educational institution, or educational site located within North Texas so that it may be preserved and used for educational purposes through display within the full historical context of the Civil War, Reconstruction, 'Lost Cause' mythology, and the 'Jim Crow' era. If the City is unsuccessful in its efforts and the statues remain in storage after three years, the City Council should revisit this issue.

Fair Park Recommendations

2. That the historic art and architecture of Fair Park which contains symbols of, or references to, the Confederate States of America or persons associated therewith, remain in place as a piece of the history of Texas as presented at Fair Park. Appropriate signage, markers, digital tours guides, public art, educational programming, and/or exhibitions be added as necessary to provide the full context of the Civil War, Reconstruction, “Lost Cause” mythology, the “Jim Crow” era, and the creation of Fair Park for the 1936 Texas Centennial. Historical context should include reference to the many contributions of Mexicans, Tejanos, and indigenous peoples made during the colonization of Texas, the Texas Revolution, and during and after the Mexican War leading to the 20th Century, to also include the participation or exclusion of various communities in those historic events.



Fair Park Recommendations

3: The Task Force further recommends that the City of Dallas Park and Recreation Department and Landmark Commission work with the Dallas Historical Society concerning the foregoing, as well as with the African American Museum and the Public Art Committee in adding a substantive commemoration of the Hall of Negro Life, which was built for the 1936 Texas Centennial, recognition of the “Jim Crow” era and South Dallas bombings, and that the City of Dallas should allocate funding and seek additional private and grant funding for the accomplishment of this work.

4: The Task Force further recommends that attempts be made by the City to return to Dallas, or recreate, the murals which previously occupied the Hall of Negro Life at Fair Park.

Park Name Recommendations

5: The Task Force recommends removal of the Robert E. Lee Park name. (The Park Board subsequently approved the name change to Oak Lawn Park on September 22, 2017.)

6: The Task Force recommends removal of the Confederate Cemetery name and request the Park Board rename it in a proper context.

7: The Task Force Recommends that a citywide engagement process be initiated to consider renaming City parks with placeholder names for historical abolitionists, the formerly enslaved, civil and human rights leaders, people from marginalized and underrepresented communities, and victims of police brutality.

Street Name Recommendations

8: The Task Force recommends that streets named after a Confederate leader and/or general, who made a significant contribution to the Confederacy, specifically Gano, Lee and Cabell, be changed.

9: The Task Force further recommends that the street names Stonewall and Beauregard be changed.

10: The Task Force further recommends that the renaming of these streets be accomplished on a priority basis with 90 days and the comment process be expanded to include the voices of people throughout the city whose ideas and testimony shall be given equal weight with those of adjacent property owners.

Other Recommendations

11: The Task Force recommends that this process be directed and led by paid local and regional artists, architects, preservationists, and historians.

12: The Task Force recommends that the City erect a marker at Akard and Main streets memorializing the lynching of Allen Brooks.

13: The Task Force recommends that the City of Dallas create a racial equity policy after public acknowledgement and apology for the policies and practices of the City that have furthered institutional racism and segregation.

Timeline

- The Public Art Committee met on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 and the Cultural Affairs Commission met on Thursday, October 12, 2017
 - Both committees heard additional public comment and unanimously approved the two recommendations in their purview concerning Confederate monuments and art at Fair Park with Confederate images and symbols
- Quality of Life, Arts and Culture Committee discussion and recommendations, October 23, 2017

Timeline – Next Steps

- City Council Special Called Meeting to receive public comments Wednesday, October 25, 2017, at 6:00 P.M. at Dallas City Hall, Council Chambers
- City Council briefing Wednesday, November 1
- City Council agenda Wednesday, November 8



Appendix



Task Force Members

Chair, At-Large	Frances Cudjoe Waters	At-Large	Barvo Walker
District 1	Buddy Apple	At-Large	Rene Martinez
District 2	Sara Mokuria	At-Large	Joli Robinson
District 3	Coymelle Murchison	At-Large	Larry Schoenbrun
District 4	Jesse Hornbuckle	At-Large	Bryce Weigand
District 5	Terrance Perkins	At-Large	Arman Rupani
District 6	Dr. Ervin Seamster, Jr.	Youth Commissioner	Mary Orsak
District 7	Marilyn Mayse		
District 8	Dr. Frederick Haynes		
District 9	Norma Minnis		
District 10	Coy Poitier		
District 11	Dr. Glynn Newman		
District 12	Jo Trizila		
District 13	Maggie Murchison		
District 14	Rev. Michael Waters		

Confederate Monuments in Dallas

Title of Work	Artist	Date	Location	Information
Confederate Monument	Frank Teich	1896-97	Pioneer Cemetery, Young Street	<p>Donated by the United Daughters of the Confederacy</p> <p>Has Dallas Landmark Status</p> <p>1897 installed at Old City Park</p> <p>Relocated 1961</p>
Robert E. Lee and the Confederate Soldier	Alexander P. Proctor	1936	Lee Park, 3400 Turtle Creek Blvd	<p>Donated by the Southern Memorial Association</p> <p>On Park Property</p>

Confederate Monuments in Dallas



Frank Teich, *Confederate Monument*, 1896-97



Alexander Phimister Proctor, *Robert E. Lee and the Confederate Soldier*, 1936

Additional Representations of the Confederacy in Fair Park

Artwork at Fair Park is under Dallas Landmark, State of Texas Landmark and National Historic Landmark Protection

Title	Artist	Date	Location	Information
Female Figure as the Confederacy	Laurence Tenney Stevens	1936	Fair Park, Esplanade	One of six figures depicting Texas History
Roundel depicting the Confederate Flag with 7 stars	Not known	1936	Fair Park, Esplanade	One of six roundels depicting the flags of Texas History
Great Seal of Texas	Joseph Renie	1936	Hall of State, Far end of the Great Hall	Female figures representing the six historic republics of Texas
History of Texas Mural	Eugene Savage, Reveau Basseit, James Buchanan Winn	1936	Hall of State, Great Hall	Each of the six flags of Texas is included in the mural
Bronze Lanterns	Not known	1936	Hall of State, Entrance	Figures of soldiers representing the 6 historic republics of Texas

Additional Representations of the Confederacy in Fair Park



Laurence Tenney Stevens, *The Confederacy*, 1936



Confederate Roundel, 1936

Additional Representations of the Confederacy in Fair Park



Joseph Renie, *The Great Seal of Texas*, 1936

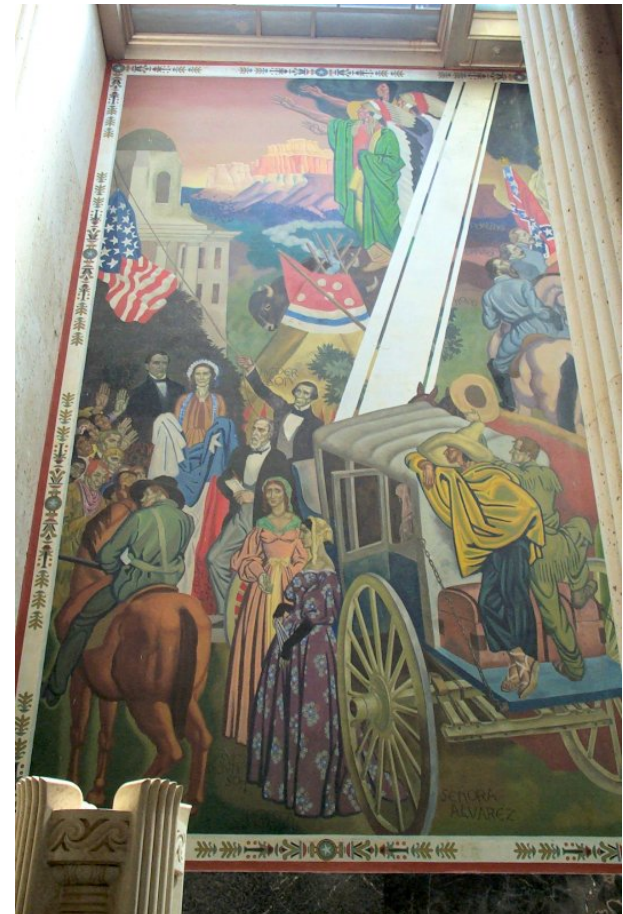
Detail of the Confederacy figure –right



Additional Representations of the Confederacy in Fair Park



The Confederate Soldier, 1936



Detail of the State of Texas History Mural with flags

Texas History Mural in the Great Hall



Recommendations from Confederate Monument Task Force

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