

**A REPORT ON THE CONSERVATION OF BALTIMORE
CITY MONUMENTS, MEMORIALS & SCULPTURE**

BY THE

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Background:

Baltimore, long known as the "Monumental City", was the first municipality in the United States to design a comprehensive program for the preservation of its outdoor monuments. The Baltimore City Commission for Historical and Architectural preservation (CHAP) guided the program design and has coordinated this stewardship effort for more than three decades.

In 1977, CHAP was asked by the Mayor to produce an inventory of all City-owned monuments and historic buildings to be used for monitoring the maintenance, condition and (in some cases) the operation of such sites. CHAP was given this responsibility because of its mission, expertise and ordinance requirements. (Article 6 of the Baltimore City Code).

This inventory, with 123 individual entries, included house museums, important municipal buildings, war memorials, stone monuments and numerous outdoor bronze monuments. Entries were rated on a two point system designed to identify both significance and condition. This launched the long history of CHAP's involvement in the preservation of City-owned outdoor monuments and sculpture.

In 1980, five Mount Vernon Place bronzes by Antoine Louis Barye (War, Peace, Force, Order and Seated Lion) were determined to be priorities for treatment. Their aesthetic and historical importance, coupled with their apparently poor condition, warranted the

City's immediate attention. The City moved quickly to evaluate possible conservation treatments and select an appropriate method.

On September 27, 1980, a team of metals conservators and consultants were invited to advise on the condition of these monuments. Their study was followed by a day long symposium to inform a diverse group of City officials, conservators, museum staff, artists and concerned citizens of the nature of the conservation problem and possible directions for treatment. While a number of decisions had to be made in the selection of a treatment, a given in the process was that use of the gentlest means possible was a goal. CHAP, who would later manage the conservation project, applies this strict standard when reviewing treatments for maintaining historic building fabric.

A "hot wax" method of bronze conservation was recommended by the panel of experts and accepted by the City for use on the Mount Vernon Place monuments. This method, in summary, consists of a thorough cleaning with an aqueous solution, application of microcrystalline wax to the heated bronze surface and a final "sacrificial" application of cold wax on the hot-wax treated surface. This method is consistent with the treatment applied to bronze sculpture before it leaves the foundry.

In Spring of 1981, the first phase of the Baltimore Bronze Project began in the Mount Vernon Place Parks. The four park squares, and buildings surrounding the Washington Monument, are considered to be among the finest urban spaces in the nation, and the focal point of both a National Register and a Baltimore City Historic District. Conservator Steven Tatti was selected by the City to complete the conservation project. His expertise in developing the hot-wax treatment method and his background in monument conservation guided the selection. The fourteen monuments in Mount Vernon Place received treatment funded by the City's initial appropriation of \$ 48,000.

By 1986, the City of Baltimore, through CHAP's coordination, had provided conservation treatment to all forty-five of its municipally-owned, outdoor bronze monuments. A partner in the program was, and is, the Department of Recreation and Parks. Initially, it was intended that trained staff in the Recreation and Parks Department would provide annual maintenance of the monuments. Due to loss of staff, this plan quickly became infeasible.

In lieu of staffing, the Department of Recreation and Parks for many years provided an annual budget ranging from \$10,000 to \$ 30,000 for maintenance treatment. Conservator Steven Tatti has returned to Baltimore every year since 1981 to care for the City-owned monuments. With CHAP's 2004 merger with the Department of Planning, annual maintenance costs are now funded through Planning's CIP budget. The Department of Planning/CHAP has significantly increased the City's support of its monuments by increasing CIP dollars in its budget for this purpose. *

*(See "The Baltimore Bronze Project: A Summary" for additional details. See list of 45 bronzes monuments included as CHAP's responsibility under this program).

*(Also see "Baltimore's Monuments and Memorials-CHAP CIP 2009).

Summary of CHAP's Program and Capital Budgets (1981-Present)

Please note that the annual budgets vary greatly, due to unpredictability of City funds and private contributions. Regardless of funding level, CHAP has provided annual conservation of City-owned monuments every year since 1981.

- 1981-Phase I-Mount Vernon Place Bronze Project-14 monuments (\$ 48,000)
- 1982, 1983- Phase II-City-wide Bronze Project- 16 additional monuments (\$60,000; including \$30,000 from the State of Maryland, Maryland Historical Trust. Easements donated for all).
- 1984-Phase III-City-wide Bronze Project -3 additional major monuments added. "Key/Orpheus" Fort McHenry, "Key" Eutaw Place, "Pulaski Monument." (\$ 30,000)
- 1985-1986-Phase IV-City-wide Bronze Project 12 additional monuments added (\$39,000 and private contributions)
- Each year CHAP and Recreation and Parks fund annual maintenance for all in Phase I-IV. (\$ 10,000 budget is insufficient to maintain all 45 bronze monuments; however, monuments on Mount Vernon Place are first priority. They receive conservation treatment each year, regardless of budget).
- 1993-CHAP, representing the City of Baltimore, is awarded national "Save Outdoor Sculpture-SOS!" grant. CHAP hires Cindy Kelly to complete inventory of all outdoor sculpture in the city. Baltimore's survey is incorporated in national survey. Original inventory and records are in CHAP's library, available for public review.
- 1993-CHAP, in partnership with Municipal Art Society and MICA, hosts Outdoor Sculpture Symposium. Importance of annual maintenance of all public sculpture (not just historic and monuments) is one of the topics.
- 1993-Inspired by discussion at the Symposium, an Adopt A Monument Program is launched. Community "adopters" supplement limited Recreation and Parks Department dollars to maintain monuments in the Mount /Vernon area.
- 1997-The Baltimore City Bicentennial Celebration focuses on a series of "Mayor's Monument Rededication Ceremonies", held City-wide. CHAP staff writes rededication programs and serves as staff to Mayor's Office in planning each event. CHAP staff prepares "List of Famous Public Monuments" for the public's appreciation. (See 2008 update prepared by Eddie Leon).
- 1997 (1994-1997) - CHAP's signature stewardship contribution to the Baltimore City Bicentennial is the restoration of the Battle Monument. The nation's first formal war memorial and emblem of the City seal, received comprehensive conservation through CHAP's program. The total project cost is \$250,000. Project planning and fundraising begins in 1994. There are many contributors to the project; however, the City (CHAP in the Housing Department) is the principle funder. The monument was rededicated by the Secretary of the Army, the Mayor, and State and local officials in September of 1997.
- 1998-1999 - "Key Monument" Eutaw Place Restoration. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton announces the national "Save America's Treasures Program" at the Key Monument. CHAP/City of Baltimore receives one of the first "Save

America's Treasures" grants to restore the Key Monument. Target Company is a sponsor of the program and donor to the conservation project. CHAP coordinates major conservation project completed by Conservator Steven Tatti. The total project cost is \$ 125,000. The "Save America's Treasures" grant funds half of the project. The State Military Monuments Commission and the Friends of the Key Monument provide contributions. Most of the balance is funded by CHAP in the Department of Housing. The monument is rededicated by the Mayor on September 11, 1999.

- 2001- "Pulaski Monument" Patterson Park-CHAP coordinates major conservation (\$ 51,000 project) on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of this monument, designed by sculptor Hans Schuler. Friends of the Pulaski Monument raise money for conservation and future maintenance. CHAP in Department of Housing substantially funds the project.
- 2003- "Martin Luther" Monument (Lake Montebello) and "Franzoni Arch" (Peale Museum) are included in annual program. These major projects cost \$21,000 and \$22,500, respectively.
- 2004-CHAP merges with Department of Planning
- 2007- 2008 Department of Planning CIP budget includes increased dollars for CHAP monument conservation program. This is consistent with "LIVE, EARN, PLAY, LEARN" Master Plan. In addition to annual maintenance, CHAP/Planning projects included "Billie Holiday" Monument (in partnership with the Department of Recreation and Parks) and "Reese Monument" (in partnership with Eastern High School Alumni Association).
- 2007 Volunteers re-establish a new City-wide Adopt A Monument Program, intended to supplement the City's investment in monument conservation. The Baltimore Community Foundation administers the fund which is then made available to CHAP for City monument conservation projects. CHAP is authorized to receive these funds to conserve "adopted" monuments and supplement City funding.
- FY 2009- (2008-2009) The CHAP/Planning Department CIP Monument Conservation Budget (\$ 40,000) completed conservation of 28 monuments including Calvert Statue (City Courthouse), Lee-Jackson (Wyman Park), Negro Heroes of the U.S. (Soldier-City Hall/War Memorial Plaza), Johns Hopkins Monument (JHU Campus), Captain John O'Donnell (O'Donnell Square), 14 monuments on Mount Vernon Place and others.
- FY 2010 (2009-2010) The CHAP/Planning CIP Monument Conservation Budget provided \$ 40,000 to complete conservation of Martin Luther (Lake Montebello), On the Trail (Clifton Park), Maryland Line Monument (Mount Royal Avenue) and 14 monuments on Mount Vernon Place.
- FY2011 (2010-2011) The CHAP/Planning CIP Monument Conservation Budget provides \$ 260,000 to complete major conservation of the Battle Monument (the nation's oldest war memorial) in preparation for the 2012 Star Spangled Banner Celebration.

- FY 2012 (2011-2012 CHAP/Planning CIP Monument Conservation Budget provides \$ 26,500 to complete conservation of 14 monuments on Mount Vernon Place and On the Trail in Clifton Park. Current projects underway include: 1) McCulloh Homes “Boy With A Harmonica” and “Girl With A Book” by Edward Berge (\$ 85,500) and 2) reproduction of “Lady Baltimore” atop the Battle Monument (\$ 145,000), so that in the future the original “Lady Baltimore” may be safely preserved and viewed at them Maryland Historical Society.
- FY 2013 (2012-2013) CHAP/Planning CIP Monument Conservation Budget provides \$ 40,000 to complete conservation of 12 monuments on Mount Vernon Place, and major conservation and reconstruction of Sam Smith Monument on Federal Hill. Additional conservation projects, including the conservation of the Armistead Monument on Federal Hill, were completed with the support of the Adopt-A-Monument Program.



- In 2013, the “Lady Baltimore” project was completed, including the creation of a replica of the sculpture, installation of the replica on the Battle Monument, removal of the original “Lady Baltimore” from the monument and reinstallation of the original sculpture in an exhibit at the Maryland Historical Society. The McCulloh Homes “Boy with A Harmonica” and “Girl with a Book” by Edward Berge project was completed and the replicas of the original sculptures were installed at the gateway entrance of McCulloh Homes. The body of conservation work completed in 2013 was the most substantial to date.

