



News Release

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DGS to Relocate Edgar Allan Poe Statue

~ Statue to move to northwest corner of Capitol Square ~

RICHMOND, VA – The Department of General Services (DGS) announced today it will relocate the Edgar Allan Poe statue from the southwest portion of Capitol Square to the northwest corner of the grounds.

The statue will be relocated due to the construction of *Mantle*, the Virginia Indian Tribute, and the planned Virginia Women's Monument, *Voices from the Garden*. The Capitol Square Preservation Council supports the move because the new monuments are much larger than the Poe statue and change the context of that portion of Capitol Square. Poe will join several other single-honorary statues on the north side of the grounds.

The move will be completed the week of November 20 by Fine Arts Specialists, a company that specializes in art relocation and has completed other projects on Capitol Square, including the mounting of the Thomas Jefferson statue inside the Virginia Capitol extension.

George Edward Barksdale, a retired physician who greatly admired Poe, approached Governor Thomas Stanley in 1956 with the idea of erecting a monument to Poe and offered to pay for the statue if the Commonwealth would fund a pedestal and installation. The General Assembly accepted the gift, and the Poe monument was unveiled on Oct. 7, 1959.

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