

Approved Minutes
Art and Architectural Review Board
August 2, 2024, at 10:00 am
James Monroe Building - Rooms C, D & E
101 North 14th Street, Richmond, VA 23219

1.0 ADMINISTRATION

- 10:10am **1.1 CALL TO ORDER**
Board Members Present: Lynden Garland, Chair, Anca Lipan, Vice-Chair; Megan Melinat; and Stanley Rayfield.
Board Members Absent: Jill Nolt; Gaby Rengifo; and Anne Smith.
DGS Staff Present: Jessica Hendrickson; and Kimberly Freiberger.
- 1.2 PUBLIC COMMENT**
AARB Meetings are open for public comment. Rules for public comment can be obtained from the Department of General Services.
None
- 1.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Motion to approve the minutes from the July 12, 2024 meeting with an amendment to Agenda Item 2.4 / Longwood University from denied to approved by a letter signed by the Department of General Services Director, Banci Tewolde, dated July 29, 2024. [Attached as Addendum B]: Lynden Garland
Second: Megan Melinat
Vote: 4-Y 0-N
- 1.4 OTHER BUSINESS**
None

2.0 CONSENT AGENDA

- 2.1 George Mason University / Sandbridge-Piedmont Hall Landscape & Hardscape Improvement**
(Final Approval)
The project consists of a new patio on the southeast face of Sandbridge Hall that faces the Piedmont dormitory and additional landscaping along the sidewalk that runs in the north-south corridor behind the Housing units to help reinforce the use of the designated walkways and to provide some well-needed plantings in an open area with only grass. The new hardscaped area will include a pergola to help shade the existing exterior stairs and will add seating areas and site lighting to create an outdoor gathering area for students. Refer to Appendix B for the Adjacent Building and Landscaping

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) – The Department has not reviewed this and does not need to review this unless required by another agency.

Other Board Comments: None

Motion to Approve: Megan Melinat

Second: Stanley Rayfield

Vote: 4-Y 0-N

2.2 Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) / Bus Shelter Beautification

(Final Approval)

PRTC, through its normal bus shelter maintenance program, will be replacing panels in existing bus shelters at various locations throughout Prince William County that are showing signs of general deterioration. Keep Prince William Beautiful has asked to partner with PRTC in the replacement project by having local artists create and install artwork on the replacement panels.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) – The Department has not reviewed this and does not need to review this unless required by another agency.

Other Board Comments: None

Motion to Approve: Megan Melinat

Second: Stanley Rayfield

Vote: 4-Y 0-N

2.3 W. M. Jordan Company / VA Pilot Association, Modular Office

(Final Approval)

Placement of a 12' x 34' modular office building at 370 Terminal Avenue, Newport News, VA 23607 (satellite image of location attached). This structure is for the VA Pilot Association which currently leases this from the city of Newport News under LUP 590-23, and has a vessel stationed in this harbor to pick up and drop off State certified maritime pilots required on all ships entering or departing the Chesapeake Bay. VDOT is aware of this request and notified us that we'd also need your approval. Along with the location of the proposed modular office, I have also attached the specifications of the modular office itself.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) – The Department has not reviewed this and does not need to review this unless required by another agency.

Other Board Comments: None

Motion to Approve: Megan Melinat

Second: Stanley Rayfield

Vote: 4-Y 0-N

2.4 Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired / Renovate the VIB Facility, Charlottesville

(Final Approval)

The project consists of the renovation and addition to the Virginia Industries for the Blind (VIB) facility in Charlottesville, Virginia. The additions to the building include a freight elevator, an employee entrance canopy. The renovations generally consist of HVAC and electrical infrastructure upgrades, replacement of the roofing systems, structural repairs, site improvements, ADA upgrades, reconfiguration of space to improve manufacturing processes, and an outdoor roof-top employee patio. The Administration wing, built in the year 2000, is a two-story addition to the original four-story factory building (plus basement and sub-basement). The structure consists of steel columns, steel beams, steel joists, cast-in-place concrete, and precast planks. The building is clad in an exterior insulation finishing system (EIFS). The existing building area is approximately 68,658 sf. The addition adds approximately 1,847 sf making the final renovated building area 70,505 sf. The existing building will remain clad in EIFS. The freight elevator addition will be clad in EIFS as well to match the existing building.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) – The Department has reviewed this, and the proposed renovations will not adversely impact historic resources. The ca. 1931 Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired Building is a contributing building to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) – listed North Belmont Neighborhood Historic District (VLR Listed: 12/14/2017 --- NRHP Listed: 5/31/2018)

Other Board Comments: None

Motion to Approve: Megan Melinat

Second: Stanley Rayfield

Vote: 4-Y 0-N

3.0 PROJECT REVIEWS

3.1 Virginia Military Institute / Construct Center for Leadership and Ethics, Phase II

(Preliminary Approval)

Co-locate portions of the Leadership Development program and the VMI Museum in a new facility, allowing them to share resources, collaborate on programming, and grow the VMI leadership development experience for the Corps of Cadets. The new Center for Leadership and Ethics building (CLE II) will provide academic spaces for the growing Corps of Cadets and VMI theater department, a permanent home for the VMI Museum, a museum store, faculty offices, entertaining and event space, and storage spaces to support these departments. Primary spaces include the lecture hall (with a stage and fixed seating), seminar rooms, classrooms, a dedicated museum space encompassing 2 stories, and a central hub space. The 63,596 GSF, 3 story new building will be

constructed adjacent to Marshall Hall (CLE I) on the northwest corner of Post. The building materials align with VMI design guide and Post aesthetic, and utilize VMI's standard 3-coat stucco finish, cast stone, ultra-high performance concrete panels, curtainwall, and windows consistent with existing windows found on Post.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) – The Department has not reviewed this and will need to review this.

Other Board Comments:

- Parking Structure – Consider adding banding detail to the precast panels to keep with the VMI aesthetics
- Center for Leadership and Ethics building (CLE II) – The stucco façade recessed from the front elevation is missing detail; the same comment applies to the side elevations. Additional detail keeping with the VMI aesthetic to be studied and presented for the next review.
- Explore the opportunity to provide some outdoor seating or views into the woods/hillside from the museum portion of the building. The views of the wooded area are beautiful and will greatly enhance the spaces.
- Consider opportunities to inspire through storytelling at the museum.
- Provide revised elevations of the museum once the program is figured out, especially for additional windows.
- Use the designated drop-off point of the Center for Leadership and Ethics building as a focal point for wayfinding (ex. Placement of a statue or memorial in the future).
- In addition to the noted comments, for final approval presentation, please provide additional or revised information/ detail drawings/ renderings showing lighting and materials on the site and building.

Motion to Approve with Board Comments: Anca Lipan

Second: Stanley Rayfield

Vote: 4-Y 0-N

3.2 University of Mary Washington / New Theatre and Fine Arts Renovation *(Final Approval)*

New Theatre

Located off the historic core of campus and seen as a bridge between campus and community, the project is approximately 63,702 gross square feet and consists of theatre education, production shops, and 2 performance venues consisting of a 300-seat proscenium theatre and a 150-seat studio theatre. The building massing is primarily 2-story with a 4-story tall fly-tower. The massing of the building follows classical proportioning using the Golden Ratio. The building structure is a combination of steel and concrete with an enclosure primarily in brick with stone accents to match the campus standard. Larger expanses of

curtain wall are located at the two main elevations, along the lobby on the southeast (community side) and at the large rehearsal studios on the northwest (campus side). Punched windows with brick accents and stone sills will populate the northeast elevation. The public face of the building is articulated with a colonnaded porch as an extension of the lobby and as a shading element to the lobby beyond.

Fine Arts Renovation

Remodeling of the entire approx. 82,592 GSF existing complex is planned with a total project square footage of approx. 87,693 GSF. The remodel will address long-standing program needs in space, safety, accessibility, circulation, and quality of space. A large part of the renovation planning will address circulation and wayfinding from one end of the complex to the other without having to exit the building and re-entering. The exterior of the building and structure will remain generally intact with minor additions planned and noted above. As part of the circulation modifications, the existing exterior walkways that flank duPont Hall will be enclosed to become interior circulation space. Remodeling work at the interior and exterior are planned to match the historic original building.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) – The Department has reviewed this, and consultation will be ongoing.

Other Board Comments:

- Continue to consult with DHR accordingly regarding the contemporary versus historical interpretation.
- Consider the use of the perforated metal panels detail at the building entrance (community side) as it creates the opportunity to open a dialogue with the community. A simple gradient or an abstract image could be used since there will be “movement” in the panels as pedestrians walk around the building. Using a literal image such as the mascot or wings, may become dated or not complement the building’s overall design intent.
- At the campus side (theater) entry, the precast concrete frames the opening allowing for the insertion of a classical architectural order to create a connection back to the more traditional buildings found on the campus. The renderings show the use of the Doric order to correspond to the Fitness Center. That direction is fine or another architectural order can be used as long as it is taken from the campus. The proportion of the order chosen will likely be based on the height of the framed opening established by the building’s precast concrete. If lettering is to be installed, as shown in the rendering, we assume its font and sizing will be similar to other campus buildings. If you use an entablature more consistent with the chosen order, the letters may need to be adjusted accordingly. If helpful, the architectural order could use the signage element above the entrance as the entablature or portion thereof. This is consistent with your image of the Fitness

Center. Consult with DHR to confirm the chosen architectural order and its implementation.

- As a courtesy, submit the final decision on the details and material palette of the new theatre entrance (campus side) to the board. The board will review this submission, but not vote.

Motion to Approve with Board Comments: Anca Lipan

Second: Lynden Garland

Vote: 4-Y 0-N

4.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next AARB meeting will be held on Friday, September 6, 2024.

5.0 MEETING ADJOURNED 12:20 pm