

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE October 27, 2017

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Recommendations from Mayor's Task Force on Confederate Monuments**

On Wednesday, November 1, 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 feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joey Zapata', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joey Zapata

Assistant City Manager

C: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
Larry Casto, City Attorney  
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor  
Bilieraë 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, 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

**City Council Briefing  
November 1, 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
  - 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
- 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 7<sup>th</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.dallasculture.org/confederatemonuments)

# Background

- 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



# 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

# 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

# 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.

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# Fair Park Recommendations

2. (Task Force Recommendation #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 20<sup>th</sup> Century, to also include the participation or exclusion of various communities in those historic events.

# Fair Park Recommendations (3 & 4):

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.

# Fair Park Recommendations (3 & 4):

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 (5-7):

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 (8-10):

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 (11-13):

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
- 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
- Briefed Quality of Life, Arts and Culture Committee on Monday, October 23, 2017

# 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	Donated by the United Daughters of the Confederacy  Has Dallas Landmark Status  1897 installed at Old City Park  Relocated 1961
Robert E. Lee and the Confederate Soldier	Alexander P. Proctor	1936	Lee Park, 3400 Turtle Creek Blvd	Donated by the Southern Memorial Association  On Park Property

# 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 STATES OF AMERICA  
1861 1865  
TEXAS THE SEVENTH STATE ADMITTED  
TO THE CONFEDERACY

*Confederate Roundel*, 1936

# Additional Representations of the Confederacy in Fair Park



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

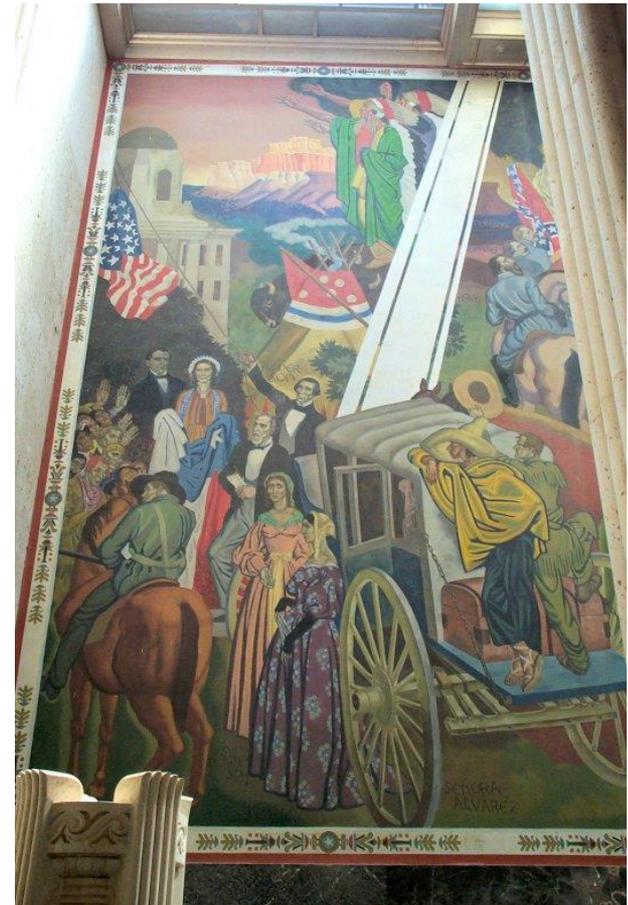
Detail of the Confederacy figure –right



# 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



# The Lost Cause

- Name commonly given to a movement and myth that sought to help the traditional Southern white society reconcile the defeat of the Confederate States of America in the Civil War
- First appeared in 1866, and by the 1870s it was widely used - up until the 1960s
- White Southerners sought consolation in attributing their loss to factors beyond their control and to betrayals of their heroes and cause
  - the movement tended to portray the Confederacy's cause as noble and most of the Confederacy's leaders as exemplars of old-fashioned chivalry, defeated by the Union armies not through superior military skill, but by overwhelming force
  - they also tended to condemn Reconstruction
- Taken up by memorial associations such as the United Confederate Veterans and the United Daughters of the Confederacy

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Sources: Multiple, [http://civilwarjourneys.org/the\\_lost\\_cause.htm](http://civilwarjourneys.org/the_lost_cause.htm)

*Quality of Life, Arts and Culture*



# The Lost Cause

- The Lost Cause became a widely accepted and propagated myth that....
  - helped Southerners to cope with the social, political, and economic changes after the Civil War, especially in the Reconstruction era
  - focused on the defense of states' rights, rather than preservation of slavery as the primary cause that led eleven Southern states to secede
  - viewed secession as a justifiable constitutional response to Northern cultural and economic aggressions against the Southern way of life
  - presented slavery as a benign institution in which the slaves were treated well and cared for and loyal and faithful to their benevolent masters
  - adopted and spread via popular cultural (*Gone with the Wind*, from 1939, is seen as the pinnacle of this idea)



The Lost Cause provided the justification and support for the Jim Crow system of rigid segregation which dominated the South for 100 years after the Civil War

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Sources: Multiple, [http://civilwarjourneys.org/the\\_lost\\_cause.htm](http://civilwarjourneys.org/the_lost_cause.htm)

# Excerpts from Dedication Program:

- According to the Foreward, the memorial
  - “is in accordance with the objective of the (Southern Memorial) Association, which is to, honor the memory of the those who served the Confederacy, and to preserve the traditions and history of the South. It is the hope of the Association that these inspiring figures will arouse in present and future generations of young men and women to emulate the virtues of the great American, Robert E. Lee, whose name continues to shine brighter on the pages of history, with the passing of the years”
- Mayor George Sargeant of Dallas quote:
  - “This magnificent monument to General Robert E. Lee, the greatest soldier of all times, is gratefully accepted by me in behalf of the citizens of the City of Dallas. It shall stand here on this busy corner of our city as a perpetual memorial to the character, valor and achievements of this matchless leader of our own Lost Cause.”

# Texas Secession

Texas abandoned her separate national existence and consented to become one of the Confederate States to promote her welfare, insure domestic tranquility [sic] and secure more substantially the blessings of peace and liberty to her people... She was received as a commonwealth holding, maintaining and protecting the institution known as negro slavery — the servitude of the African to the white race within her limits — a relation that had existed from the first settlement of her wilderness by the white race, and which her people intended should exist in all future time. Her institutions and geographical position established the strongest ties between her and other slave-holding States of the confederacy. Those ties have been strengthened by association.

— Texas Declaration of Causes, Feb. 2, 1861

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