

MINUTES
WAR MEMORIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BUILDING COMMITTEE / SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

The Building Committee of the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco met in-person at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, in the in the Trustees' Board Room, War Memorial Opera House, Chair Pelosi presiding.

ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present: Chair Pelosi, President Horn, Vice President Lui, Trustee Gatti, Trustee Muduroglu, Trustee Rocco, and Trustee Wilsey (*appeared on video, not counted for quorum or voting purposes*)

Committee Members Absent: None

Non-Committee Members Present: None

Staff Present: Kate Sofis, Managing Director; Rob Levin, Assistant Managing Director; and Francesca Cicero, Board Secretary

Proposed Bas Relief Commemorating San Francisco Opera's Sixth General Director, David Gockley:

Chair Pelosi opened the meeting reminding Trustees that prior to the meeting they received a letter from the San Francisco Opera seeking consideration of its request to install a bas relief sculpture of San Francisco Opera's sixth General Director, David Gockley, in the lobby of the War Memorial Opera House.

Chair Pelosi invited Matthew Shilvock, General Director of the San Francisco Opera, to present on behalf of the Opera. Mr. Shilvock introduced Tom Mulder who has been working diligently on the bas relief project on behalf of the Opera with the sculptor. Mr. Shilvock thanked the Trustees for their willingness to honor San Francisco Opera leadership in the physical lobby of the Opera House. He noted that it was David Gockley's 80th birthday this year, and to recognize his decade of service at the San Francisco Opera, and 45 years of leadership of American opera, is incredibly meaningful. He noted that David Gockley commissioned nine new works during his decade at the San Francisco Opera. Mr. Shilvock also explained that Mr. Gockley revitalized works such as *Porgy & Bess* and *Showboat* in the 1970s, bringing these earlier works of the canon into regular repertoire on American stages. He remarked that David Gockley brought the simulcast to Opera in the Ballpark, which has seen audiences of up to 30,000 people for one performance. Mr. Shilvock observed David Gockley's quest to bring opera to as many people as possible, which led to the creation of the media suite on the 5th floor of the Opera House. Mr. Shilvock noted many of David Gockley's impressive achievements, fundamentally as one of the great impresarios in the history of opera. Matthew Shilvock stated that directing the San Francisco Opera was a lifelong dream of Mr. Gockley and this would be a particularly meaningful recognition to him.

Mr. Shilvock recounted that David Gockley's idol was San Francisco Opera's Kurt Herbert Adler, and is fitting that the proposed location for David Gockley's bas relief is proximate to Mr. Adler's commemorative sculpture in the Opera House lobby. He noted that the size would be similar to the Pamela Rosenberg bas relief, approximately 30 inches in height, with bronze casting. He explained that the Opera was working with a Pennsylvania-based sculptor, Jennifer Fraudakis who has had a number of bas reliefs produced, including one of celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain. Mr. Shilvock updated the Committee that since his last presentation before the Board, Ms. Fraudakis has met with David Gockley, and done a preliminary clay rendering of the bas relief. Mr. Shilvock noted that they are working with Mr. Gockley on some edits to the design, including placement of the chandelier and how much of his body and face will fill the frame of the bas relief.

The Committee members expressed some thoughts on the preliminary design and the inclusion of part of the chandelier, for Mr. Shilvock to discuss with the artist. The approval of the final design was not considered at this time by the Committee, but the Opera will return to present their finalized design at the next Building Committee meeting.

Following discussion, and on motion of Trustee Gatti, seconded by Trustee Muduroglu the following recommendation was unanimously adopted:

RECOMMENDED, To the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco that it approve the creation of the bas relief commemorating David Gockley, San Francisco Opera's Sixth General Director, as well as the proposed location in the Opera House lobby.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment is an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the Committee on items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Budget and Finance Committee, but not on the agenda.

There being no public comment, Chair Pelosi closed public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Pelosi adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'f G', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Francesca Cicero
Board Secretary