

**Virginia Indian Commemorative Commission
Message Subcommittee Meeting**

Tuesday, September 14, 2010
HR C- General Assembly Building
10:00 a.m.

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introduction of Members
- II. Opening Remarks- Charge of the Committee

To identify the purpose of the tribute, the message or themes portrayed and to assemble those thoughts in a reportable form to use in a call to artists and future development of legacy programs.

- III. Smithsonian Field Trip Review

- IV. Discussion

- a. Identification of the purpose of the tribute/commemoration.

Considerations from prior discussions include:

- *Historical representation of Virginia Native culture*
- *Focus/Timeframe*
- *Representation of important historic events*
- *Inclusion of themes considering the relationship and respect Virginia Indians have for the homelands*
- *Inclusion of the importance of honoring generations, especially ancestors, elders, children and future generations*
- *Representation of dialog/input from Virginia's Native communities*
- *Inclusion of a public education component*
- *Consideration of cultures as fluid rather than static*

- b. Portrayal of the Message or Themes. Prior suggestions include:

- *A bronze sculpture with multiple sculptured relief depictions of historical events and inlayed panels in the grounds surrounding the base with an overview of Virginia Indian history. (Nottoway Indian Tribe)*

- *That the memorial tell a story and incorporate water themes reflecting the river-based cultures with a rain garden or other water feature*
- *That the memorial include earth elements or green features*
- *Grandfather Rocks – rocks selected by diverse groups of native peoples in Virginia – and then blessed*
- *Directional markers with just 4 stones*
- *A quiet meditation Area*
- *A large clay work that could involve community members in the construction process – and that would eventually disintegrate and become part of the earth*
- *A group of clear prisms to project rainbows*
- *Inclusion of Native plants, circles, cycles a living tribute, ceremonial space.*
- *Awareness of directional orientation, i.e., the importance of East, where the sun rises*
- *That the tribute be a permanent installation to ensure that Indians are not thought of as a past people or people who have “vanished”.*

V. Public Comment

VI. Closing Discussion/Next Steps