San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center

Owned and Operated by the
City and County of San Francisco

War Memorial Veterans Building
Herbst Theatre/Green Room
War Memorial Opera House
Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall
Harold L. Zellerbach Rehearsal Hall

401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 110
San Francisco, California 94102
Telephone (415) 621-6600
FAX (415) 621-5091

September 17, 2012

The Honorable Katherine Feinstein
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of San Francisco
400 McAllister Street, Dept. 206
San Francisco, CA 94102-4514

RE: **Response to 2011-2012 San Francisco Civil Grand Jury Report "Where There's Smoke..." dated June 2012**

Dear Judge Feinstein:

In the City and County of San Francisco's Civil Grand Jury Report dated June 2012, and entitled "Where There's Smoke...The Need to Strengthen the Arts Commission's Stewardship of San Francisco's Cultural Legacy," the War Memorial and Performing Arts Center was requested to respond to Finding No. 5 which reads as follows:

F5 SFAC has not created a high-profile community identity for itself as an important contributor to San Francisco's cultural heritage.

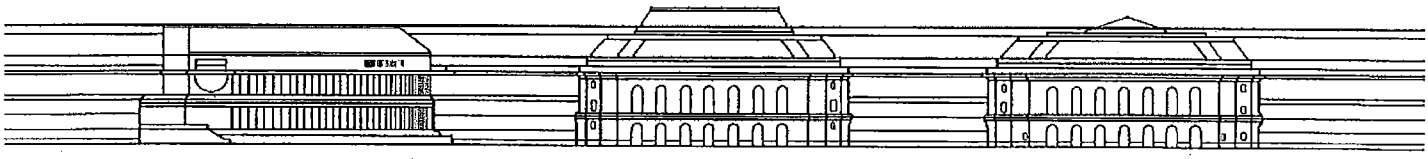
War Memorial Response

The War Memorial and Performing Arts Center has had and continues to have a strong and successful relationship with the San Francisco Arts Commission. While the SFAC is not directly responsible for art located at the War Memorial, in our varying associations with SFAC as discussed below, SFAC has demonstrated itself as an important contributor to San Francisco's cultural heritage, and the War Memorial supports and would be pleased to participate in efforts to further strengthen the SFAC's identity as such.

The War Memorial has had associations and partnerships with SFAC on a number of high profile projects including:

- City-wide Temporary Exhibitions: City-wide temporary exhibitions coordinated by SFAC, with sculpture placements on the War Memorial premises, including the 1998 exhibition of sculptures by the late artist Keith Haring, 2012 exhibition of sculptures by Jun Kaneko, and a potential upcoming future exhibition of works by Fernando Botero. To the extent that SFAC has sufficient funds to do so, the War Memorial hopes to participate in future City-wide exhibitions.

- Evaluation and Conservation of War Memorial Artwork: The War Memorial has relied upon the SFAC as an important resource for assistance in evaluating, conserving and maintaining artwork owned or under the jurisdiction of the War Memorial. The Arts Commission has provided historical evaluation and conservation consultation on the 1915 Pan Pacific International Exposition murals currently stored by the War Memorial; on-going conservation consultation regarding the Henry Moore sculpture in front of Davies Symphony Hall; and periodic consultation on other artwork.



- San Francisco Veterans Memorial Project: In 2010, the War Memorial selected the SFAC to manage the artistic coordination of the "San Francisco Veterans Memorial Project," a collaborative effort of the War Memorial and San Francisco veterans to fulfill the original plan for the installation of a veterans memorial in the courtyard between the Opera House and Veterans Building. The Arts Commission conducted a nation-wide "call to artists," managed the artist review and selection process, handled the contractual process with the selected artist, and will be providing project oversight assistance during the 2013 construction phase in advance of the targeted dedication of the veterans memorial on November 11, 2013.

Since 1995, the San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery has been located in the War Memorial Veterans Building in the San Francisco Performing Arts Center. The Gallery has on its own initiative worked with other Veterans Building occupants, including the San Francisco American Legion Posts and a variety of arts organizations using the Herbst Theatre, to integrate their displays and exhibits with other building activities.

We are very pleased that the SFAC is scheduled to relocate all of its programs to the Veterans Building in 2015, following the two-year seismic renovation of the building. SFAC has been an active partner in our design phase for this major project. We look forward to this relocation providing many more opportunities for partnerships between the War Memorial and SFAC.

The SFAC's community identity is important to all of the City's cultural and arts institutions as well as to the many arts organizations and artists in the City. The War Memorial and Performing Arts Center looks forward to a continued relationship with the SFAC to assist in furthering this goal.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Murray

Elizabeth Murray
Managing Director

cc: City and County of San Francisco, Civil Grand Jury
~~Jill Manton, San Francisco Arts Commission, Director of Legislation and Initiatives~~