



Stone Mountain

**ACTION
COALITION**

HEALING • TRANSFORMATION • PROGRESS

MEETING WITH THE STONE MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION AND WARNER MUSEUMS

August 29, 2023



"SYMBOLS ARE NOT HISTORY"



**STONE MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL IS NOT
A CIVIL WAR HISTORICAL SITE....**

**USING ITS NATURAL GRANDEUR TO SUPPORT A
POINT OF VIEW IS INAPPROPRIATE**



The Stone Mountain Action Coalition (SMAC)

Goals and Objectives

Through a diverse and expansive network of individuals, political leaders, community organizations, religious groups, and businesses, SMAC focuses its collective efforts to:

- Advocate for the immediate and long-term changes needed at Stone Mountain **Park**.
- Mend **racial injustices** and provide proper contextualization.
- Lead the conversation about a renewed Stone Mountain **Park** that celebrates diversity, racial equity and social justice.
- Advocate for a greater focus on the natural elements of the **Park**.
- Serve as an intermediary between the **Park's** governance and stakeholders to provide input, feedback, updates and accountability.



SMAC ACTION PROPOSAL

SMAC aims to accomplish the following goals.

- 1. Remove Confederate Symbols.**
- 2. Interpret and Contextualize the Confederacy.**
- 3. Open the Park to New Markets.**

To accomplish these goals, SMAC proposes both **immediate** and **near-term** actions:

SMAC presentation to the SMMA September 14, 2020, page 9

NEAR-TERM ACTIONS - REDESIGN

The redesign process should:

- f. Consider memorializing the Confederacy with a new, state-of-the-art **interpretive center** that has inclusive and comprehensive interpretive exhibits and programs about the Civil War and the Confederacy.

Include the memory of all people who lived through that era and include the broad arc of impacts wrought by slavery on life in the South, up to and including today. Use the hall to engage visitors with the challenges and successes of reconciliation and racial justice since the Civil War. Such a memorial could become a major new economic and cultural centerpiece, bringing new life to the park in ways that respect all Georgians.

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NEAR-TERM ACTIONS

7. Feasibility Study. Conduct a market research/feasibility report on opportunities for the park to attract visitors and events once its Confederate symbols are removed. Outline the **unique advantages** that a re-imagined Stone Mountain Park offers in the hospitality industry, including cultural tourism and events related to racial healing and justice.

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Warner Museums Proposal

MAIN THEME AND THE POWER OF "COLLECTIVE" MEMORY

WARNER:

History and Memory: Memorial Hall will explore the role that Stone Mountain Park's Confederate monument has played in shaping, perpetuating, and using the South's collective memory of the Civil War and their Confederate past.

SUGGESTED CHANGES:

History and Memory:

Stone Mountain Hall will explore how the Park *was constructed in order to shape and perpetuate "the Lost Cause"*.

SMAC RECOMMENDATION

COMMUNICATE AN ACCURATE and FOCUSED HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1. **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**
2. **VENABLE FAMILY/KLU KLUX KLAN**
3. **1910s-1950s – UDC & KKK Efforts**
4. **1950s-1990s – The Griffin Promise**
5. **1990s to present**

Key Individual SMCMA and SMMA proponents

- Samuel (Bubba Sam) Venable, Leila Venable, James Venable
- Governor Marvin Griffin, Governor Ernest Vandiver
- Charles Murphey Candler, George Scott Candler Sr., Charles Howard Candler Sr., Walter Turner Candler
- JJ Haverty, Harold Hirsh, John Ashley Jones, Mills B. Lane Jr., Phil Campbell Jr.

Key Government and Corporate Sponsors

- DeKalb County
- State of Georgia
- Coca-Cola



“TELL THE TRUTH”

THIS MEMORIAL EXISTS BECAUSE OF:

- RESISTANCE TO DESEGREGATION
- SUPPRESSION OF CIVIL RIGHTS
 - BY THE WHITE ESTABLISHMENT/KLU KLUX KLAN
- GOVERNOR’S TALMADGE/GRIFFIN/VANDIVER/SANDERS
- UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY
 - LOST CAUSE MYTHOLOGY
- THE CANDLER FAMILY
- TRUST COMPANY/COCA COLA

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR WHITE SUPREMACY



WARNER'S PROPOSAL DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- USE OF 'FREE' PRISON LABOR TO BUILD AND THEN MAINTAIN THE MEMORIAL
 - COVERED UP POST 1990's
- REBIRTH OF THE KKK & ANNUAL KKK PILGRIMAGES TO THE MOUNTAIN
- 1996 ATLANTA OLYMPICS "CLEAN UP"
 - THE 'FIRST' MEMORIAL HALL RENOVATIONS
- GEORGIA STATE FLAG CHANGE
 - LED TO NEW LAWS PROTECTING CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS
- GEORGIA STATE TAXPAYER SUBSIDIES/SUPPORT
- VENABLE FAMILY HISTORY
- SUPPORT BY PROMINENT US POLITICIANS
 - US MINT COINS
- ANNUAL USE OF MEMORIAL LAWN FOR SCV CELEBRATIONS
- HISTORIC SQUARE/CARRILON
- MEMORIAL DRIVE



Warner Museums Proposal



Warner Museums Proposal

Interpretive Themes/Exhibits	Warner Recommendations	SMAC Comments
1. THE STONE MOUNTAIN EXPERIENCE	<p>Stone Mountain, as a place, first attracted pre-historic indigenous peoples more than 8,000 years ago. Gradually, these peoples disappeared due to maladies, famine, war, or a combination of all three. New Tribes emerged by the early seventeenth century, but European diseases followed, killing thousands. The 1821 Treaty of Indian Springs with the Creek Nation, which ceded land east of the Flint River, expelled indigenous tribes, and opened up land to white settlers.</p> <p>Though most antebellum Stone Mountain Village residents were small farmers, the growth of the local granite industry enhanced by railroad development after the Civil War generated quarries where millions of tons of rock was harvested for such prominent projects as the foundation of the Georgia Capitol building, the steps of the east wing of the U.S. Capitol, the dome of the Federal Gold Depository at Fort Knox, and, ironically, the Lincoln Memorial where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., would deliver his 1963 “I Have a Dream” speech referencing Stone Mountain.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modern development has not respected or acknowledged the historical significance and damage to indigenous artifacts.• How deeply will the museum explore Native American presence at the mountain, and in the surrounding area?• How with the exhibit depict the Treaty of India Springs and the role of William McIntosh?• How will the museum address the destruction of the natural formations on the mountain such as the Devil’s Crossroads by quarryman and by Augustus Borglum having the rock formations at the top of the mountain thrown over the side so that they could not be used to harm his carving. With no regard to their historical significance.



Warner Museums Proposal

Interpretive Themes/Exhibits	Warner Recommendations	SMAC Comments
<p>2. GEORGIA, THE ROAD TO DISUNION, AND THE CIVIL WAR: MANIFEST DESTINY AND WINNING THE WEST</p>	<p>This exhibit will contextualize and define for visitors how the country became disunited over the issue of slavery in the decades between the end of the War of 1812 and the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. Before the conflict slavery and its products, such as cotton, generated national wealth in both sections of the country. However, the very potency (political and economic) of the slave-owning system began to create fear in the non-slave-owning states. Outside slave-owning areas, the United States was largely a society of small farmers, small towns, and small businesses, and most Americans in the free states sought to keep it that way. Indeed, it was for this very reason they engaged in the frantic “westward movement” in hopes of holding off the emergence of factory towns, slums and the desperation of wage-earning already beginning to dominate places like New England. The west, therefore, was imagined as a place where history could be</p> <p>Yet, the slave-owning states – the Slave Power – coveted this same west, and, because the plantation was a form of industrialization*, the power of wealth and degradation of work represented by the slave system was seen as a threat to the hopes of many in the free states particularly young white males who wanted to see the small-scale world of farm and shop spread west.** Georgia was a major player in the slavery debate and its expansion into emerging western territories. Using primary source documents and materials from the period, including writings and speeches from characters like Robert Toombs, Alexander Stephens, and others, we will demonstrate how, up until the Civil War, the slave system was the Union’s most important and profitable resource, at the same time the nation’s most divisive issue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *industrialization “a shift from rural work to industrial labor,” Perhaps ‘capitalism’ is what was meant to be used here? • **this implies that the only reason that the north had an issue with slavery was an employment issue. This is not factual. • The description of differences between North and South suggests diversity in economic and civic life in the North, while lumping the South under the label “slave-owning areas.” • The South had an economy made up of diverse elements. Not all supported slavery; even fewer participated in it. Pretending “the South” was all of one mind with respect to slavery and secession reinforces the lost cause myth. • Will the museum touch upon Georgia’s abolitionist origins....the fact that James Oglethorpe originally banned slavery? • To what degree will the museum point out how Southern governments censored citizens and enslaved persons from abolitionist materials and how school books endorsed pro-slavery sentiments?



Warner Museums Proposal

Interpretive Themes/Exhibits	Warner Recommendations	SMAC Comments
<p>2. GEORGIA, THE ROAD TO DISUNION, AND THE CIVIL WAR: MANIFEST DESTINY AND WINNING THE WEST (CONTINUED)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To what degree will the effort be localized focusing on the ways Georgia's government created laws that made manumission almost impossible and limited the lives of the enslaved people drastically?• How will the enslaved be humanized? Will their resistance be highlighted? Will you touch upon the slave revolt of 1526?• Will the contributions of enslaved people be highlighted in the city of Stone Mountain? in GA? in the nation?• Some 100,000 white southerners fought for the Union. Will this be acknowledged?

It is a dangerous attempt to reframe the Civil War as a clash of economic interests, rather than a clash of visions of equality and the meaning of the Declaration of Independence, which fits right into the Lost Cause mythology. It is a fiction that the Northern United States was made up of “small farmers, small towns, and small business.” There was some of this, but overall, the North was industrialized. It is also a fiction that the North was “afraid” of the South’s economic power, and it is CERTAINLY not true that westward expansion was the result of Northerners’ desire to keep America small and rural.

Southern slave interests were very eager to expand slavery west; they feared further loss of economic and political power to the industrial North if unless they expanded slavery westward.

Warner Museums Proposal

Interpretive Themes/Exhibits	Warner Recommendations	SMAC Comments
3. MONUMENTS AND MYTHMAKING: THE EVOLUTION OF COMMEMORATING CIVIL WAR DEAD	<p>This exhibit area will impress on visitors how those who died during the war were memorialized during and immediately after the conflict ended*. This interpretation will make use of artifacts, imagery, personal stories, and interactive technology to illustrate how monuments moving from cemeteries to the center of town as iconic statues representing the South’s reverence for the character of the Confederate soldier. It should be noted that the importance and contributions of African Americans to Union victory were overshadowed and marginalized by efforts to commemorate the valor of white soldiers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• *Confederate memorials (like Stone Mountain) were erected 50 to 100 years after the Civil War in order to intimidate black people and others fighting for civil rights.• Will the suffering and sacrifice of Union Soldiers be addressed?• It should be noted that many white Southerners contributed to the victory of the United States over the Confederate insurrection. It should also be noted that the Confederate army had a staggering rate of desertions. According to Jefferson Davis in September 1864, “Two-thirds of our men are absent – some sick, some wounded, but most of them absent without leave.” The Confederacy lost support across the South throughout the war, and by the end was widely recognized as a horrible mistake. The Confederate soldier venerated by those statues was a creature of myth, concocted deliberately to supersede the actual memories of the soldiers who fought in the war, and their families.• Twenty Slave Law/Food Riots• Not only do these statues venerate a minority of soldiers who stuck with a losing cause, that cause is contrary to American unity.



Warner Museums Proposal

Interpretive Themes/Exhibits	Warner Recommendations	SMAC Comments
<p>3. MONUMENTS AND MYTHMAKING: THE EVOLUTION OF COMMEMORATING CIVIL WAR DEAD (CONTINUED)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The post-war reverence for Confederate divisiveness prompted the pledge of allegiance (“one nation, indivisible”) as a counter to this disturbing trend.• Will this exhibit highlight the role that the champions of the first carving effort like John Temple Graves played in encouraging racial violence that led to the Atlanta Race Massacre of 1906?• Will the exhibit highlight the ways that the Black press and Black teachers pushed back against the Lost Cause narrative? Karen L. Cox, <i>No Common Ground: Confederate Monuments and the Ongoing Fight for Racial Justice</i> as well as Jarvis R. Garvin's <i>Fugitive Pedagogy: Carter G. Woodson and the Art of Black Teaching</i> provide a wealth of examples.• The post-war reverence for Confederate divisiveness prompted the pledge of allegiance (“one nation, indivisible”) as a counter to this disturbing trend.

Warner Museums Proposal

Warner Interpretive Themes/Exhibits	Warner Recommendations	SMAC Comments
<p>4. THE MYTH OF RECONCILIATION AND REUNION: EMANCIPATION, THE FAILURE OF NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION AND THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE</p>	<p>Although the Federal war effort against the Confederacy was to defeat the secession movement and restore the Union, it quickly evolved into a war to destroy the slave system itself*. Many factors combined to produce this transformation, but the shift was quickly enshrined in the nation's collective memory as a benevolent deliverance for former slaves, with Abraham Lincoln beautified as the Great Emancipator.</p> <p>Even as this memory was being created, it was divorced from the reality of Reconstruction's attempt to reorder the former slave states and the insurgency war led by ex-Confederates to regain control of southern legislatures through intimidation and violence. However, by the late 1870s, a new collective memory of the war emerged to help soothe the trauma of defeat that had little to do with national reconciliation or reunion, and at the expense of social justice and racial equality for African Americans whose own collective memory of slavery and Reconstruction became a casualty of Manifest Destiny. Black leaders, such as Frederick Douglass, battled with Confederate sympathizers over the emerging black collective memory and significance of slavery and the Civil War as a struggle for freedom.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was a US Military effort• *is Warner suggesting the slave system should have been preserved? It became a war to liberate humans.• No mention of the work of abolitionists in the North and South• Address the rebirth of the KKK and the role of the Venables and other notable Atlanta families• How will Reconstruction be portrayed?• How will the shifting political alliance of the Reconstruction period be portrayed?• How will the marginalization of black political power be portrayed?• How will the murder of George Ashburn be portrayed?• Will the Camilla Massacre be portrayed?• How will the Redemption period be portrayed?• What does "... African Americans whose own collective memory of slavery and Reconstruction became a casualty of Manifest Destiny" mean?• The 1868 state constitution called for free public schools, debt relief, enhanced property rights for women.• The ideological divisions that existed before and during the war continued after the war, albeit under different circumstances, and continue to exist.

Warner Museums Proposal

Warner Interpretive Themes/Exhibits	Warner Recommendations	• SMAC Comments
<p>5. REMEMBERING THE WAR: THE COLLECTIVE MEMORY RESHAPED THE CAUSE, OUTCOME, AND MEANING OF THE CIVIL WAR</p>	<p>This exhibit will immerse visitors in the role white Southerners played in the decade following the end of regional Reconstruction in fashioning a collective memory of the war that justified secession (states' rights) and discarded slavery (a central canon of every seceding southern state constitution) as a Confederate cause. Though defeated, they refused to acknowledge they had been on the wrong side of the nation's divine history and should be recognized once more as an integral part of another emerging collective memory - the American military tradition - being brought to bear against the enemies of westward expansion - especially Native Americans. In the 1890s, organizations like the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Sons of Confederate Veterans materialized as promoters of Lost Cause ideology, using the Lost Cause memory of the war to build monuments and veterans' homes, support Confederate-based education initiatives, encouraged federal and state-mandated racial segregation and the disfranchisement of African Americans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Cancel Culture” The UDC and SCV rewrote history in their white supremacy narrative. Confederate Monuments were placed throughout the country, not just the south.• The “collective memory” described here was never accepted as fact by many in the South, was not based on facts, and has no place in a museum devoted to telling the truth.• Why does the carving face the north?

Warner Museums Proposal

Warner Interpretive Themes/Exhibits	Warner Recommendations	SMAC Comments
<p>6. SHERMANTOWN: LIVING IN THE SHADOW OF STONE MOUNTAIN</p>	<p>In the decade following the war, Shermantown, named in recognition of Union Gen. William T. Sherman, emerged as a small African American community at the base of Stone Mountain. Many black residents, like their white neighbors, worked as both farmers, with the railroad, or in the granite mines. It is unknown who or how many were once enslaved or who were slave descendants but many of their stories have been lost in time or have been overshadowed by Stone Mountain’s descent into the abyss of post-Confederate ideology. Their collective memory of the past has taken a much different trajectory. This exhibit is an opportunity to explore the evolution of Shermantown, their distinct relationship to Stone Mountain, and possibly make use of the 200 interviews collected by Federal Writers’ Project in the 1930s with former enslaved Georgians on the conditions of the institution and life in the post-war South.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is an opportunity here to explore how the Venable’s and others oppressed this community while fostering the belief that their welfare depended upon the good graces of their white benefactors.• From its inception, Shermantown showed the creative ways that Black communities resisted white supremacy.• After the Ebenezer Creek Massacre, Reverend F. M. Simmons, the pastor of Bethsaida Baptist Church, along with other members of Southern African-American Churches met with General William Tecumseh Sherman in Washington in 1865 to discuss the treatment of freedmen and women. This group of leaders led Sherman to pass Field Orders 15 granting former enslaved Americans land.• In the 1880s when many Black men in Shermantown worked in the quarries of Stone Mountain, they created interracial unions to push for better working conditions.• Though these interracial coalitions dissolved as Georgia government codified Jim Crow laws and lynchings increased in the 1890s, Black residents found ways to escape white supremacy. They built their own churches, businesses, and sport leagues within Shermantown.



Warner Museums Proposal

Warner Interpretive Themes/Exhibits	Warner Recommendations	SMAC Comments
<p>6. SHERMANTOWN: LIVING IN THE SHADOW OF STONE MOUNTAIN (CONTINUED)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When the Ku Klux Klan transformed Stone Mountain into its spiritual base, Black families leveraged the wealth of the Venable family, local leaders in the Klan, to receive patronage for community improvements. For example, the Bennefield brothers pushed the Venables to donate the stone for Bethsaida Baptist Church in 1919.• Even when Georgia created equalization schools to avoid integration after Brown v. Board of Education, Shermantown made Victoria Simmons School into a space where their children thrived under the guidance of well-educated members of the community.



Warner Museums Proposal

Warner Interpretive Themes/Exhibits	Warner Recommendations	SMAC Comments
<p>7. REINVENTING THE LOST CAUSE: STONE MOUNTAIN AND THE EMERGENCE OF THE “AMERICAN WAY”</p>	<p>This section of the main gallery will immerse visitors in the expanding urban environment that defined the country leading up to the entry of the United States in World War I. As African Americans left the Jim Crow South and new waves of European immigrants flooded American’s industrial cities, the Ku Klux Klan reemerged as a national organization using elements of the Lost Cause to promote racial segregation, anti-immigration, along with anti-Catholic and antisemitic violence in not just the South but in major northern and western cities, too. Fittingly, D.W.Griffith’s 1915 landmark film, Birth of a Nation, a play on protecting Anglo-Saxon heritage, helped to inspire the formation of the new Klan and served as a catalyst for the creation of the Stone Mountain monument.</p> <p>In the late 1920s, however, the movement lost momentum as the Great Depression transpired. The twin shocks of the market collapse and the rise of dictatorships in other parts of the world caused numerous Americans to search for a way to imagine (a new collective memory) a United States that represented a contrast to this world of failure and extremism. The result became an imagined “American Way”: a narrative in which the nation represented a source of stability, order, and prosperity that made the country exceptional in a world order lost to aggression and conquest, revolution, and massive destruction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The first carving effort demonstrates that the entire nation bought into the Lost Cause and white supremacy. A northern lawmaker proposed the bill that led the US mint to issue the Stone Mountain half dollar. Republicans like Henry Cabot Lodge voted for it. People and institutions (Coca-Cola) across the nation brought the coins. The bill for the commemoration coin was also the same year that the harshest immigration law of US history passed with Klan support.• Original plans included depicting the KKK in the carving.• The sequence of events surrounding the carving and why work was suspended is off by at least a year and a half.• How exactly does this “American Way” interact or counter the racism and xenophobia of the 20th century, and how does this specifically relate to Stone Mountain?• No mention of burning crosses and annual gatherings at Stone Mountain?• Impact of the Venable family?• How did other notable Atlanta families support the memorial? The Candlers? The Woodruffs?



Warner Museums Proposal

Warner Interpretive Themes/Exhibits	Warner Recommendations	SMAC Comments
8. CRUMBLE INTO DUST: STONE MOUNTAIN AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT	<p>After the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the desegregation of public schools in its 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision, white demagogues pledged to defy federal law and oppose the movement for civil rights. Their response also included embracing Confederate symbols. In 1956, the Georgia legislature replaced horizontal red and white stripes on the state flag with the Confederate battle flag that featured a St. Andrew's cross. The State of Georgia, who purchased the Stone Mountain site in 1958, officially resumed construction in July 1964, less than a year after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. recognized Stone Mountain in his "I Have a Dream" speech, during the March on Washington. Eight years later the carving was completed. A dedication ceremony for the monument was held May 9, 1970, with Vice President Spiro Agnew in attendance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How will the museum portray the popular sentiment to keep the carving unfinished?• Will the museum explore the role of James Mackay in the development of the Park?• Unpaid enslaved prison labor built the park that Marvin Griffin promised to be "The great memorial carved in the living granite on its face will be a reminder to the Ages that we are a people proud of our traditions, our heritage and our way of life." Agnew spoke but where was the President?• Rev. William Holmes Border spoke and therefore James Venable and the KKK boycotted the ceremony.• Role of George Scott Candler, Sr, Hollins Randolph, George Willis, James Key, Matthew McWhorter, Phil Cambell, Glenn Hicks, Curtis Branscome, Ray Smith?• No mention of Governor Walker, Talmadge, Griffin and Sanders?• What about Atlanta Mayor's public support like Hartsfield?• There was a movement to keep the carving unfinished

Warner Museums Proposal

Warner Interpretive Themes/Exhibits	Warner Recommendations	SMAC Comments
9. A GRANITE CANVAS: THE ART OF BAS-RELIEF AT STONE MOUNTAIN	<p>As a work of art, the Stone Mountain carving is the largest bas-relief sculpture in the world and is one of the oldest types of artistic expression. Some of the earliest known bas-reliefs are on the walls of caves, carved perhaps 30,000 years ago. The most famous American relief is Mount Rushmore, the huge monument sculpture memorializing the great American presidents, started in 1927 and completed in 1941 by sculptor Gutzon Borglum, the initial artist for Stone Mountain.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How is this relevant to the mission statement? This is glamorization pure and simple.• Mount Rushmore is not a relief. The Borglum era with the memorial should be highlighted for his relationship with the KKK and the UDC.• There should be full disclosure of how original plans included the KKK in the carving.• The proposal's focus on the art of the carving comes across as a distraction from its purpose – to tell historical truths.• To avoid this at Warner's museum, the relationship between Borglum and the KKK should be emphasized, and that Walter Hancock's original design did not include finishing the carving.• This exhibit should also focus on the way that the ceremonies over various key moments in the first carving effort, the gift shop named the Studio that remained between carving efforts, and the ceremonies and advertising around the last carving effort all reinforced the Lost Cause narrative.

Warner Museums Proposal

Warner Interpretive Themes/Exhibits	Warner Recommendations	SMAC Comments
10. ENVISIONING THE FUTURE: THE REDEMPTIVE POWER OF CIVIC IMAGINATION	<p>To realize the full potential of our communities, build on our past, and chart paths forward, we need to be able to imagine what better worlds would look like. Civic imagination enables communities to think creatively by connecting with others in new ways and tackling challenging issues through imagination. This exhibit encourages people to share their memories, dreams, and hopes with each other. Such diverse perspectives provide the social foundation for civic life, and to talk across their differences. It explores how various peoples and cultures across the country and around the world have used the power of storytelling and imagination to envision real world spaces and places as a first step in overcoming our differences and building real-world blueprints for the communities of tomorrow. Through large screen interactive monitors that record and shares their plans, visitors, as cultural architects and civic agents, will be able to envision their own idea of the future. This information will be gathered and available to other visitors to Stone Mountain or online through the Stone Mountain website. This project can also be administered through workshops and educational programming expression.</p>	<p>Why? What does this have to do with the mountain or the carving or the creation of the Park?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who would be responsible for this?• Given lack of representation of the demographics of the surrounding community and the state of GA within the management of the memorial and its board it is difficult to view this without skepticism.



SMAC Comments and Recommendations

INHERENT CONFLICT: "TELL THE TRUTH" WHILE MAINTAINING A SUITABLE AND APPROPRIATE "MEMORIAL TO THE CONFEDERACY"

Memorial Hall? Memorial Lawn? Confederate Battle Flags?
Confederate Terraces? Robert E. Lee Boulevard?

If this is meant to be an educational and intellectually honest endeavor how can streets, the buildings and addresses housing these experiences continue to be named "Memorial Hall" and "Confederate Hall" and "Robert E. Lee Boulevard"?

This perpetuates the SMMA's Lost Cause Mission.

A Global Rebranding must be considered.



SMAC Recommendations

Key Concerns	Summary
ROBERT E. LEE	Provide historically accurate context on his role in the CSA and his support for the institution of slavery.
JEFFERSON DAVIS	Same as above. Also highlight his capture in GA as his only time in the state and his unpopularity as well.
STONEWALL JACKSON	Same as above.
STATE OF GEORGIA	Provide historically accurate context for Governor Joe Brown's support for the institution of slavery, secession and his lack of support for the Civil War effort. Governor's Talmadge, Griffin, Sanders and their roles supporting segregation and the SMCMA/SMMA.
CITY OF ATLANTA	Highlight the support of the lost cause movement (participation in the SMCMA, SMMA, UDC, SCV) by the elite establishment in the city of Atlanta including the Venables, Candler, Woodruffs, Hartsfield, Randolph, and others.
CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN	Impact on the city including the vestiges of the KKK that remain (ie Leila Mason Park)
OTHER NOTABLE POLITICIANS	President's Carter, Clinton
GONE WITH THE WIND	Debunk the GWW narrative and provide accurate context. Highlight the park's attempt to capitalize on the movie.
GA LEGISLATIVE HISTORY	Summarize the state laws from the Governor Marvin Griffin era, Governor Roy Barnes efforts to change the state flag which led to additional protections to Stone Mountain, laws passed in 2019 to further protect confederate monuments to the latest bills such as GA HB 794 that calls for the renaming of the Stone Mountain Memorial Association to the Stone Mountain Park Association. An exhibit should showcase the push for protection of the lost cause myth and the consistent call for change at the park in the GA legislature.



SMAC Recommendations

Key Concerns	Summary
STONE MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION PRISON	The SMMA utilized prison labor to build and maintain the Memorial from the 1960's to the 1990's. This museum project should identify where the prison was on the premises, who ran it, the demographic makeup of its inmates as well as the attempt to erase this important fact from its past.
PLANTATION AND SLAVE CABINS	Nothing in the Warner proposal addresses the use of these buildings by the SMMA to perpetuate it's lost cause narrative.
UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY AND THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS	Lack of acknowledgement of the perpetuation of the lost cause and proliferation of monuments throughout the United States by the UDC is concerning. Impact of the UDC and its impact on the education system is warranted for context.
1996 ATLANTA OLYMPICS	<p>The city of Atlanta's winning bid to host the 1996 Olympics brought the SMMA into focus for its negative past. The original exhibits in Memorial Hall where replaced? Why? Where did they go?</p> <p>The Atlanta Olympic Committee spent millions to build an Olympic Tennis Facility on the Memorial's premises that shortly thereafter fell into disrepair and were eventually sold to Gwinnett County. This land remains undeveloped. What happened and why?</p>
ROADS, STREETS, BOULEVARDS AND LAKES	These are named after individuals known to be confederate leaders, members/leaders of the Klu Klux Klan, devout segregationists and white supremacists. These relevant facts should be part of the new exhibits.
MEMORIAL DRIVE	Explain the true history for the renaming of Fair Street and the efforts to build a highway from the steps of the Georgia State Capitol directly to the Stone Mountain Memorial.
PRIVATIZATION EFFORTS	The SMMA contracted with Hershchend Family Enterprises and Marriott Corporation to expand and manage certain operations in 1997. Both entities, along with other corporate partners cancelled their partnerships and contracts in 2020. Why?



SMAC Observations

Key Concerns	Summary
<p>PROJECT SCOPE “Stone Mountain Park, Georgia, home to the largest Confederate sculpture and memorial in the country, seeks to reinterpret the site in order to “tell the truth” about the monument’s origins and the history behind the Lost Cause movement.”</p>	<p>Will there be an examination of the differences between the “lost cause” mythology and the facts of the failed Confederate government, a Southern population deeply divided on secession, and cruelty of slavery?</p>
<p>“Memorial Hall will serve as a “gateway for learning about Southern history.” The new exhibit will expand the “interpretation of the sculpture as art, the technological achievement it reflects, and its relationship to local history.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How broadly will Southern history be portrayed? Will it include Southern opposition to secession? • Expand on “interpretation ... as art.” The carving has about as much artistic merit as the face on a coin. • Expand on “relationship to local history.” Will the timing of work on the carving be related to highpoints in opposition to civil rights?
<p>“However, the largest draw within the park is the 90-foot bas-relief”</p>	<p>This is a myth perpetuated by the SMMA. Is there a feasibility study that supports this statement?</p>

SMAC Observations

Key Concerns	Summary
"Specialty Audiences"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Not listed at all are the visitors (predominantly the local community) who come to the park for exercise, with no interest in the history of the site, or who deliberately ignore offensive images. And yet are forced to walk, run and bike on roads and streets that glamorize confederate leaders, segregationists and KKK members.· Not listed at all are visitors who come to see the unique geological feature of the mountain itself.
From the "Vision Statement" – "... the proposed exhibit should explore the role that monuments to the Confederacy and its leaders, like the carving on Stone Mountain, have played in shaping how the public has remembered the Civil War."	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Will it explore the white supremacist intent behind manipulating the public's memory of the war?



SMAC Observations

Key Concerns	Summary
<p>“INTERPRETIVE DIRECTION</p> <p>“The interpretive themes developed for Stone Mountain will explore how the collective memory created by Southerners in response to the real and imagined threats to the very foundation of Southern society, the institution of slavery, by westward expansion, a destructive war, and eventual military defeat, was fertile ground for the development of the Lost Cause movement amidst the social and economic disruptions that followed. Using various interpretive methods, techniques, media, and public engagement, while employing the most current scholarship, we seek to create an exhibit not just about the past but about the future and place this vanquished history has in our national discourse.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Why lump all Southerners together – regardless of race, regardless of feelings about slavery. The concept of “collective memory” omits the reality that differences in experience and opinion did and do exist. It also sidesteps responsibility for the few who engaged in a deliberate propaganda campaign to replace history with myth.· No explanation of the role of slavery in Southern society can fairly omit the fact that it had a poisonous and divisive effect on the South, while enriching a relatively tiny minority.· The effect of describing slavery as the foundation of Southern society is to perpetuate a shallow yet deeply hurtful slander against Southerners – both white and black. This lacks context as it implies there was no racism in existence in the North nor profiteers in the North that benefitted from the institution of slavery.



SMAC Referrals

Key Community Leaders	Area of Expertise
Karen Cox	Effect of the Lost Cause on Georgian
Herman "Skip" Mason, Jr Mayor Beverly Jones Reverend Morris	Shermantown
Dr. Erin Thompson Julia Kendrick	Stone Mountain Memorial Association Prison
Amber Starks	Muscogee – Blue Wolf

