



Keep the Promise!

A Project of the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center

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LOCAL NEWS

War memorial gets new life

Violence overseas adds urgency to completion of 75-year-old project

By Joshua Sabatini
Examiner Staff Writer

The City is marching ahead with a project to honor the nation's veterans with a memorial conceived of 75 years ago.

The War Memorial Complex is located across from City Hall and abuts Van Ness Avenue. Two large buildings are separated by a courtyard.

But financial constraints and apathy have kept the memorial from becoming a reality, say supporters of a new campaign to have one in place by 2013, with a formal dedication planned for Nov. 11 of that year — Veterans Day.

The effort could bring new popularity to the Civic Center area. Memorials can "become magnets for visitors," said Luis Cancel, director of Cultural Affairs for the Arts Commission.

One of the reasons the effort has returned with such determination is because of current military sacrifices and the desire to honor them, Cancel said. "We have been in a state of war now for a number of years so this is very present in people's minds."

The proposed memorial would be located in the Memorial Court



MIKE KOGEMAN/SPECIAL TO THE EXAMINER

Decades in the works: Financial constraints and apathy have kept a war memorial at the Civic Center from completion, but the project may be finished in 2013.

where there is an octagonal grassy area that contains soil from the battlefields of World Wars I and II and Vietnam. The area is between the War Memorial Opera House and the Veterans Building.

The City has issued a request for teams of artists to propose memorials, with a June 25 deadline. The Memorial Board of Trustees, with advice from the Arts Commission and a public process, would make the ultimate design decision.

The request for proposals offers

broad criteria for the design, but emphasizes a preference for a water feature as symbolic of spilt blood, a marker at the entryway for information about the memorial, a "serene setting where visitors can pause and reflect" and seating.

The San Francisco War Memorial Board of Trustees and the San Francisco Arts Commission will conduct a selection process for an artist and an architect to develop a proposal for a tribute to the military veterans.

Veterans Memorial Project

What: Proposes to fulfill a 75-year promise to our nation's military veterans by building a memorial equal to the sacrifice of service.

When: Application deadline is June 25; formal dedication Nov. 11, 2013.

Cost: \$2 million estimated from private fundraising.

Who is involved: Steering committee chaired by George P. Shultz and William J. Perry. has initiated a capital campaign to raise the funds to complete this project.

Source: Arts Commission

The estimated \$1.3 million to \$2 million to pay for the project is expected to come from fundraising through the efforts of an ad hoc board.

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SF MANDATE

Feds reverse health policy

A San Francisco law requiring businesses to pay for employee health care now has the support of President Barack Obama's administration.

The Golden Gate Restaurant Association is trying to overturn a 2008 Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision that upheld the Healthcare Security Ordinance, a requirement that businesses such as restaurants put money into each employee's health care fund. The contributions help fund The City's health care program, Healthy San Francisco, which has signed up more than 50,000 people.

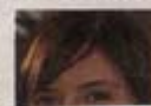
The U.S. Supreme Court will now decide whether to review the case without the support of the administration. President George W. Bush's administration had come out against the mandate. — Brent Beggs

THE 3-MINUTE

INTERVIEW

Erin-Marie MacEwen

The third-generation San Franciscan founded HatchMyHouse.com last year for her own wedding



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