

## **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission**

The following summaries describe the Commission's actions taken on each proposal at its December 18, 2013, meeting.

### **Baskervill-- Represented by Mr. Burt Pinnock**

**Time of Presentation: 10:15 a.m.**

The Commission was impressed with the futuristic style of the monument but expressed concern that too many students, young people, and other persons who do not know the story of slavery and Emancipation may fail to properly interpret the message of the monument. Therefore, after extended discussion, the Commission voted to request the artist to explain the specific materials that will be used in construction and modify the structure as follows for its consideration.

1. Provide interpretive medallions and signage which tell the story of slavery and Emancipation
2. Include seating to accommodate visiting school children and others who want to engage in a moment of reflection
3. Develop a scaled model in order that the monument can be envisioned within the context of the environment of Brown's Island where it would be placed.

### **Daub & Firmin Studios--Represented by Mr. Eugene Daub and Dr. Rob Firmin**

**Time of Presentation: 10:45 a.m.**

The Commission liked the bold statement and captions of key historical eras depicted by the monument; however, it expressed concern that five pieces of art may be overwhelming. The proposal provided options from which the Commission could choose. The Commission selected (i) slavery represented by the shackled foot; (ii) abolition represented by Frederick Douglas; and (iii) Constitutional Freedom represented by Charles Hamilton Houston. The Commission determined that the selected pieces of art will connect slavery and Emancipation. The artist was requested to modify the Monument as follows for the Commission's consideration.

1. Rotate the foot, shackles broken to symbolize freedom, to the very front so that it is the centerpiece of the Monument and occupies the main view when crossing the bridge onto Brown's Island.
2. Situate Douglas and Houston appropriately around/near the foot so that visitors can interact with the three pieces that compose the Monument.
3. Keep the interpretive medallions and signage.
4. Include seating to accommodate school children and other visitors, in compliance with the ADA requirements.
5. Develop a scaled model in order that the monument can be envisioned within the context of the environment of Brown's Island where it would be placed.

### **Charles Fagan and MJ Synergy Group, LLC--Represented by Mr. Carlos Davis and Mr. Charles Fagan**

**Time of Presentation: 11:15 a.m.**

The bold style and statement of the monument captured the Commission's interest and attention. However, the Commission noted that many people do not know the history and effect of slavery, and ultimately, the legacy of slavery and Emancipation on the African American family structure then and now. The Commission opined that the Monument should be modified to make a bolder statement as follows.

1. Place the man's broken chains and shackles on his wrists in front of him (may be even raised) so that it is very clear and visible that he is free.
2. Include a woman and child (alongside or near him) to create a family structure to educate and remind persons that slavery and Emancipation affected men, women, and children. This would create an important connection to history and a teachable moment for teachers, parents, and students who visit the Monument.
3. Remove the inscription, "I AM," and select something related to Emancipation to replace it. The Commission is concerned that the currently proposed inscription, which is biblical, and once it is interpreted, would be unnecessarily offensive to some.
4. Develop a scaled model in order that the monument can be envisioned within the context of the environment of Brown's Island where it would be placed.