

Approved Minutes
Art and Architectural Review Board
September 5, 2025, at 10:00 am
Patrick Henry Building, West Reading Room
1111 E. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219

1.0 ADMINISTRATION

10:06am **1.1 CALL TO ORDER**

Members Present: Lynden Garland (Chair), Anca Lipan (Vice Chair), Jill Nolt, Anne Smith, Megan Melinat

Absent: Stanley Rayfield, Gaby Rengifo

Department of General Services Staff Present: E.Y. Boggs, Kästle Aschliman, Sarah Burns

**A quorum was established.*

1.2 PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

1.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to Approve: Jill Nolt

Second: Megan Melinat

Vote: 5-Y 0-N

1.4 OTHER BUSINESS

None.

2.0 CONSENT AGENDA

**2.1 Old Dominion University (ODU) / Chartway Arena 45th Street Mural
(Final Approval)**

Chartway Arena is a 220,000 SF multi-purpose arena which hosts large scale events in the Norfolk area and hosts the ODU Men's and Women's basketball teams. The arena can host 7,319 spectators and 862 priority club spectators. The facility is three stories and oval shaped with the primary façade facing west towards Hampton Boulevard. The building is primarily comprised of brick in a stacked bond with alternating colors between brick courses. The primary façade utilizes a curtain wall envelope in conjunction with precast stone panels. The primary roof shape is flat and hosts the catwalk for large scale events and mechanical equipment. The prospective mural wall is composed of the same stacked bond brick with alternating brick colors between courses. The wall has an aluminum flash cap to divert water away from the brick. The proposed mural will keep the flash cap in place.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Comments: DHR has not reviewed this and does not need to unless required by another agency.

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval: Jill Nolt

Second: Anca Lipan

Vote: 5-Y 0-N

**2.2 Science Museum of Virginia (SMV) / Mockingbird Sculpture Installation
(Final Approval)**

The project is the installation of a much bigger than life-size, cast bronze sculpture of a Northern Mockingbird on the southwestern corner of the Science Museum campus. The site is at the corner of Broad Street and Terminal Place, on a site intended to receive a sculpture in the master plan for the Green, a master plan previously reviewed and approved by AARB. The bird is of interest as a species native to the region and the site and for its personality expressed in the pose. The bird is drinking from a puddle of water- also cast in bronze.

Appropriate to the Science Museum, the bird sculpture doubles as the gnomon of a large sundial to be inscribed in the plaza. The granite paving around the bird will match the existing granite and will be flush with the surrounding paving. Rough finished cobbles to the rear of the bird will serve as a tactile warning for the overhead tail per ADA requirements. The sundial rays with inscribed hour numbers will be set flush into the pavement in bronze to match the cast bird. Accent lighting will be installed to illuminate the sculpture in addition to the existing ambient lighting at the site.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Comments: DHR has not reviewed this and does not need to unless required by another agency.

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval: Jill Nolt

Second: Anca Lipan

Vote: 5-Y 0-N

2.3 Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation (VDCR) / Ranger's Residence Renovation

(Final Approval)

The existing Ranger Residence was constructed as a single story, with a basement. It is built into a sloping hillside, which exposes the basement level, allowing for a walk-out condition. No deck was constructed at the rear of the upper level, but doors were installed. Currently, the doors are blocked so that inhabitants cannot walk out and fall. The proposed project renovates portions of the interior of the structure and creates new bedrooms and bathrooms. At

the exterior, a new deck is proposed to limit the fall hazard and create more usable exterior space for the inhabitants. The new deck covers the basement walk out, and connects the rear of the house to grade at the front with a wrapping section.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Comments: DHR has not reviewed this and will need additional information regarding the mapped project location in order to understand if review is required.

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval Pending DHR Comments: Jill Nolt

Second: Anca Lipan

Vote: 5-Y 0-N

2.4 Longwood University (LU) / McCorkle Cooling Tower & Chiller Replacement

(Final Approval)

This project will demolish the existing cooling tower and greenhouse outside McCorkle Hall and install a new air-cooled chiller and brick screen wall. The enclosed area covers approximately 1,400 square feet.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Comments: DHR has not reviewed this and does not need to unless required by another agency.

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval: Jill Nolt

Second: Anca Lipan

Vote: 5-Y 0-N

2.5 Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) / Larrick Center Demolition

(Final Approval)

Demolition of the Larrick Center will make way for the New School of Dentistry building to be constructed on the site.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Comments: DHR has reviewed this, and the demolition will not adversely impact historic resources.

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval: Jill Nolt

Second: Anca Lipan

Vote: 5-Y 0-N

2.6 Radford University (RU) / Preston Hall HVAC Replacement

(Final Approval)

This project provides for the construction of the replacement of the HVAC system in the office area of Preston Hall, including some minor interior finish upgrades. The new system will include a new rooftop air handling system that will be visible from the Preston Hall parking lot. We are proposing the addition of a new mechanical unit screening system to improve the aesthetic appearance. The color of the new screening system will match the color of the existing brick and completely conceal the new rooftop mechanical unit.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Comments: DHR has not reviewed this and does not need to unless required by another agency.

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval: Jill Nolt

Second: Anca Lipan

Vote: 5-Y 0-N

2.7 Loudoun County Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure / Bus Shelter Program

(Final Approval)

Bus shelter pad and shelter installation. Approximately 70 square feet of area. Please refer to Shelter details plans for exterior materials, dimensions and visual.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Comments: DHR has not reviewed this and has not received notification from VDOT or a federal agency that our review is required.

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval: Jill Nolt

Second: Anca Lipan

Vote: 5-Y 0-N

2.8 Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) / Natural Tunnel State Park Pool Complex Renovations

(Final Approval)

The existing pool complex features a wading pool that is being converted into a sprayground/splash pad. The existing pool equipment building is inadequate in size, and poorly located to serve the new splashpad. It will remain in service to serve the existing swimming pool. A new equipment building is being proposed to house the equipment for the new splash pad. This is located at a low-visibility area of the site, behind more prominent buildings.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Comments: DHR has reviewed this, and the project will not adversely impact historic resources.

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval: Jill Nolt

Second: Anca Lipan

Vote: 5-Y 0-N

2.9 State Corporation Commission (SCC) / SCC Tyler Building Signage

Improvements

(Final Approval)

The SCC requests approval to locate one (1) new exterior identification building signs on the exterior façade of the SCC building. Currently the main entrance of the SCC building does not include identification other than the address of the building. In efforts to improve navigation for customers, adding the SCC logo and name to the exterior of the building at the main entrance is needed.

Confidential The SCC would also like to add the SCC seal to the other side of the entrance. The seal is currently located on the building at the Bank Street entrance, which is no longer utilized as a main entry point. Adding the seal to the front of the building, along with the SCC name, will enhance the entry point and allow for easier identification by customers.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Comments: DHR has not reviewed this and does not need to unless required by another agency.

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval: Jill Nolt

Second: Anca Lipan

Vote: 5-Y 0-N

2.10 Old Dominion University (ODU) / Rollins Hall Renovation Phase II

(Final Approval)

This project involves removal and replacement of single-pane steel windows on the rear/west end of the building, removal and replacement of hollow metal doors on the rear/west end of the building, and removal and replacement of 8,730 square feet of existing built-up roofing on the west side of the building. The steel windows will be replaced with replica windows to maintain the existing aesthetics of the building and the existing hollow metal doors will be replaced in-kind.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Comments: DHR provided technical assistance comments on 8/6/25 regarding the proposed window replacement and provided the following comments, "We understand that the windows in your scope are original windows on the rear of the building. The intent of the

A/E's design is to uphold continuity by matching the style of the adjacent aluminum windows that were replaced in 1985. DHR recommends retaining or replacing the historic multi-lite windows in-kind and not replacing them with the proposed non-historic, 1985 design. DHR does not believe replacing these windows would necessarily constitute an adverse impact to the building, but if further work is done going forward that continues to degrade the historic fabric, the cumulative effects could constitute an adverse impact to the ca. 1936 Rollins Hall."

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval: Jill Nolt
Second: Anca Lipan
Vote: 5-Y 0-N

2.11 Norfolk State University (NSU) / Walkway Lighting Upgrades

(Final Approval)

During the Working Drawings resubmission for the New Science Building (after the AARB Final Presentation for the New Science Building), reviewers noted that the existing campus pedestrian walkway light fixture does not comply with CPSM 6.16.9.16.16.9.1 and Virginia State Law § 2.2-1111, *Purchases to be made in accordance with the Virginia Public Procurement Act*. Approval to construct and occupy the New Science Building is contingent upon providing outdoor light fixtures that meet these requirements. In providing an appropriate light fixture for the New Science Building, it is NSU's intention that the new Lumenpulse Pure V light fixture also becomes the new campus standard. Norfolk State University has received capital funding to replace the pedestrian walkways fixtures campus-wide as part of the infrastructure upgrade project. The campus-wide project will begin once the funds are released.

As the project is now in the early stages of construction, the CM (SB Ballard Construction Company), A/E Team, and NSU seek approval to proceed with procurement of a new campus-standard light fixture for the New Science Building. The proposed fixture, the Lumenpulse Pure V, fits within the project's GMP budget and has been approved by NSU President, Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Comments: DHR has not reviewed this and does not need to unless required by another agency.

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval: Jill Nolt
Second: Anca Lipan
Vote: 5-Y 0-N

2.12 George Mason University (GMU), Mason Innovation Partners (MIP) / Arlington Campus Expansion Signage Updates

(Final Approval)

Mason is resubmitting this project, previously submitted and recommended for final approval on December 8, 2021, with updated exterior signage.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Comments: DHR has not reviewed this and does not need to unless required by another agency.

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval: Jill Nolt

Second: Anca Lipan

Vote: 5-Y 0-N

2.13 Virginia Tech (VT) / Demolition of Four University Buildings

(Final Approval)

The university proposes the demolition of four outdated structures located in the Center Woods area of the Blacksburg campus. These include:

- Building No. 0578 (Trailer): 696-square-foot trailer at 401 Inventive Lane, formerly providing office/storage for Fish & Wildlife Conservation staff.
- Building No. 0583 (Forestry & Wildlife Storage): 3,245-square-foot support/storage structure at 697 Inventive Lane, no longer functional for program needs.
- Building No. 0584 (Aquaculture Facility – South Wing): 3,837-square-foot section of the Aquaculture Facility (constructed 1976) at 756 Inventive Lane. The newer 1989 addition will remain in active use.
- Building No. 0589 (Amphibious Lab): 806-square-foot, two-room laboratory at 756 Inventive Lane, deteriorated and beyond useful life.

Together, these demolitions will prepare the site for the Improve Center Woods capital project, which will deliver modern, consolidated research, teaching, and outreach facilities for the College of Natural Resources and Environment.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Comments: DHR has not reviewed this, and we are required to review all demolitions of state-owned property.

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval Pending DHR Comments: Jill Nolt

Second: Anca Lipan

Vote: 5-Y 0-N

2.14 Virginia Tech (VT) / Demolition of Greenhouse F6

(Final Approval)

Building No. 0124A (Greenhouse F6) is a 1,978-square-foot, self-contained hoop-structure greenhouse built in 1973. Constructed of fiberglass, polyethylene, and polycarbonate materials, the facility is now worn and tattered, having deteriorated beyond its useful life for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' needs in plant research and instruction. The project proposes demolition of the structure to allow for future replacement with a modern Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) greenhouse that will more effectively support the college's research and instructional mission.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Comments: DHR has not reviewed this, and we are required to review all demolitions of state-owned property.

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval Pending DHR Comments: Jill Nolt

Second: Anca Lipan

Vote: 5-Y 0-N

3.0 PROJECT REVIEWS

3.1 Virginia Tech (VT) / Improve Center Woods

(Preliminary Approval)

The Improve Center Woods Complex will replace outdated and undersized facilities with a modern, integrated research, teaching, and outreach hub that directly supports the College of Natural Resources and Environment's mission. Designed at the edge of a mature forest and adjacent to the existing research cluster, the facility brings together classrooms, wet and dry laboratories, animal husbandry areas, equipment storage, and fleet support in a single, cohesive complex. This consolidation will elevate the visibility, efficiency, and capacity of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, which currently operates from four deteriorating structures that no longer meet safety or programmatic needs.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Comments: DHR has reviewed this, and the project will not adversely impact historic resources.

Board Comments:

1. Elaborate on the longevity of and consider alternatives to concrete as a material.
2. Consider incorporating wood into the south elevation to break up the linearity.
3. Elaborate on the use of the wood screen and how it connects to the other wood detailing; explore ways to add fluidity and consistency between the elevations.

4. Continue studying the composition of the exterior facades and the use of materials.

Motion to Recommend Preliminary Approval with Board Comments: Anca Lipan

Second: Anne Smith

Vote: 5-Y 0-N

3.2 Virginia School of the Deaf and the Blind (VSDB) / Lewellyn Gym

Renovation

(Final Approval)

Lewellyn Gym is a three-story, approximately 33,600 square foot gymnasium, locker room and classroom space built in 1951. The main floor level serves as a basketball gymnasium, with associated offices and classrooms. The gymnasium serves as the main indoor athletic facility for the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind. This project will renovate Lewellyn Gym to meet current codes, and the standards established by the Consolidation Project in its new construction and renovation of facilities.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Comments: DHR reviewed this and no historic resources will be adversely impacted by the project.

Board Comments:

1. Consider a bus drop-off lane that simplifies pedestrian walkways.
2. Confirm the width of the rear walkway to allow for door swing clearance.
3. Study ways to eliminate the guardrail and maximize the sightline on the patio.
4. Consider removing the EV charging station canopy, as it detracts from the building's historic aesthetic. Integrating photovoltaics on the roof instead would be a more visually compatible solution.
5. Explore options for patio seating and shade.

Motion to Recommend Denial requesting resubmittal showing development of patio, alternative bus drop-off, and removal of EV charging station canopy: Anne Smith

Second: Anca Lipan

Vote: 5-Y 0-N

3.3 Gunston Hall / Archaeology Center & Maintenance Building

(Final Approval)

The Archaeology Center was originally intended to be approximately 3,500 square feet (SF). However, after discussions with the user group during the programming phase, it was determined that a larger space of 5,400 SF would be

required to accommodate the necessary program spaces. The current design includes the addition of two accessible parking spaces directly outside of the building. Remaining guest parking will utilize the existing visitor center parking lot across the street.

Similarly, the Maintenance Building was initially planned to be 6,400 SF, with an additional 2,000 SF allocated for outdoor covered storage. Following discussions with the user group, adjustments were made to program spaces to align with the user needs, reducing the building size to 4,000 SF. This proposal includes the removal of the existing maintenance building and replacement with a new 4,000 SF building and 2,000 SF of outdoor storage. The site design includes 2 accessible parking spaces and 3 standard parking spaces for staff.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Comments: DHR received this project on 8/22/25 and we will have comments back to the applicant by 9/21/25.

Board Comments:

1. Reconsider the white window and building trim on the maintenance building; consider returning to the dark trim in previous presentations.
2. Consider moving ADA parking closer to the building entrance.
3. Further study the rain chain bases to ensure there is enough space to accommodate large volumes of water.
4. Reconsider the use of brick on the side of the building.
5. Consider an alternate design to the deconstructed gable end.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval with Board Comments and Pending DHR Comments, and with the understanding that a resubmittal is required if design elements are changed based on board comments: Anne Smith

Second: Megan Melinat

Vote: 3-Y 2-N (Anca Lipan, Jill Nolt)

3.4 Virginia State University (VSU) / BOLT Leadership Center for Social Responsibility

(Preliminary Approval)

The project is new construction that programmatically expands the amount of co-curricular space for the growth and development of Virginia State University's student body. The project is a 59,978 gross square foot, two-story, steel framed construction with an exterior skin comprised of masonry brick veneer, aluminum composite paneling, and curtain wall glazing. The project is non-separated mixed use with a primary occupancy of Assembly (A-3) with accessory occupancies of Business (B) and Storage (S-1 and S2).

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Comments: DHR received this project on 8/22/25 and we will have comments back to the applicant by 9/21/25.

Board Comments:

1. Provide additional campus sketches illustrating more clearly the origin of the building's form and axes and how they relate to the adjacent context.
2. Explore ways to clarify the hierarchies and simplify the designs to bring a sense of unity between elevations and renderings.
3. Further study the ellipse shape within the larger context of the site plan; elaborate on how the shape organizes the different axes.
4. Clearly define entry points on the ellipse side of the building to support optimal wayfinding.
5. Continue exploring the relationship between this building and the established campus buildings.
6. Provide renderings from the pedestrian's perspective.
7. Explore ways to bring cohesion and the spirit of innovation to the north façade.
8. Provide more insight into the window size on the brick portion of the building.
9. Provide more detailed renderings of the lawn.
10. Study ways to add cohesion to the center section between the meeting room and brick section.
11. Include the landscape plan, planting palette, and provide building materials in the final presentation.

Motion to Recommend Preliminary Approval with Board Comments & Pending

DHR Comments: Megan Melinat

Second: Anne Smith

Vote: 4-Y 0-N; 1 Recusal (Jill Nolt)

4.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 The next AARB meeting will be held on Friday, October 3rd, 2025, in the Patrick Henry Building in the East Reading Room.

5.0 MEETING ADJOURNED – 1:31pm