



Press Release

Doris Duke Monument Foundation

51 Touro Street

Newport, Rhode Island 02840-2932

Tel: 401.849.7300

Fax: 401.849.0125

www.ddmf.org

Press Contact: Morgan Devlin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Morgan Devlin

401-849-7300 x14

morgan@newportrestoration.org

Internationally Renowned Artist Maya Lin to Design Project in Newport, Rhode Island to Honor Preservationist Doris Duke

(Newport, R.I.) A new project by Maya Lin, an internationally renowned artist and designer, will be located at Queen Anne Square in Newport, Rhode Island. The installation will honor the preservation work of Doris Duke, who created the Newport Restoration Foundation (NRF) in 1968 to preserve the city's 18th century buildings. Chosen for her skill in creating artistic and architectural installations sensitive to the context of the site, Ms. Lin will work with accomplished landscape designer Edwina von Gal. They will create a space that embodies the historic personality of the city and is well-matched to the scale of the park. New features include a fountain, additional tree plantings, and seating areas created from historic stone foundations. Distinguished Newport stone carver Nick Benson, whose family has collaborated with Maya Lin on past projects, will also contribute to the project. The project's groundbreaking is planned for later this year, with completion anticipated in 2012.

Of the project Maya Lin commented, "I am excited and honored to be creating a work at the center of historic Newport. My interest in time, memory and history originally drew me to learn about the rich history of this area and discover the structures that once existed at this site. To be able to create a landscape that reveals the historic aspect of Queen Anne Square in which these physical structures, some of which have stood here for 300 years, hold the history of the people who lived and worked there through time, is an important aspect to me and the project. The design is about sharing these spaces with the public. The foundations are created from reclaimed stones that were once part of historic homes. In doing so, we are building foundations that represent home, family and

community through history. I imagine it to be a place where people gather together and also can reflect upon how Doris Duke helped preserve so many of these significant historic houses.”

The proposed project is titled “The Meeting Room,” with the design focusing on reassembling stone foundations that form outdoor rooms representing the scale of and type of materials used in Newport’s historic buildings. The stones for the project are reclaimed from local historic houses that have been re-sited and placed on new foundations. An exciting feature of the project will be a newly designed fountain by Ms. Lin. New tree plantings were chosen based on native species that historically grew in Newport. The height of the trees is designed to allow a view across the park, as well as of the steeple of historic Trinity Church, a city landmark which sits at the top of the park.

The site for “The Meeting Room” was chosen because Queen Anne Square represents one of Doris Duke’s most significant public works in Newport. Undertaken between 1976 and 1978, Queen Anne Square was a collaboration between Doris Duke and Trinity Church to create a town green in what had been a congested retail, commercial and warehouse area. The original creation of this public park paid tribute to Newport’s history through the relocation of 18th century houses and increased visibility for Trinity Church. Completed with funds from the NRF and Doris Duke, the upper area was deeded to Trinity Church while the lower portion was deeded to the city as a gift. The current project represents a second gift to Newport, with private funds being raised by the Doris Duke Monument Foundation (DDMF) to cover all aspects of the project, including long term maintenance.

“Doris Duke loved the city of Newport, Rhode Island,” explains her friend and DDMF President Mrs. Robert H. Charles. “During the architecturally bleak era of the ‘60s and ‘70s, she saw what needed to be done and poured her passions and resources into restoring a measure of dignity into its cobbled streets and neglected buildings. Newport has benefited immeasurably from Doris’s philanthropic efforts, which have literally changed the face of the city. Honoring her contributions with a tangible monument is long overdue. This project is preservation for the future.”

Pieter N. Roos, Executive Director of DDMF adds, “An important goal of the current project is to pay tribute to Doris Duke and the many other preservationists who have saved our city’s historic character. Newport exemplifies the positive effect of historic preservation as a catalyst for community revitalization. This project will provide the city with an asset which will create a more welcoming community space for local residents and tourists, as well as enhancing small business in the area. We feel that Queen Anne Square is a most appropriate site, as the creation of the original park was a gift from Doris Duke to the City of Newport.”

Recently formed as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the Doris Duke Monument Foundation (DDMF), is an offshoot of the Newport Restoration Foundation (NRF), currently drawing from the NRF’s board of trustees and its staff. It is raising funds for the project at Queen Anne Square through a combination of private and foundation support for both construction and future maintenance. Major gifts have come from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, van Beuren Charitable Foundation and the Newport Restoration Foundation. Private donations have also been made and further gifts will be welcomed. Over two-thirds of the fundraising goal has already been achieved. The DDMF will become a self-supporting friends’ organization which will oversee maintenance and administration for the park in the future.

Founded by Doris Duke in 1968, NRF was created to rescue Newport’s dilapidated homes, many of which were at risk of being demolished. Today, NRF owns 82 historic structures of which 70 are lived in by individual tenant-stewards. For this continuing work, NRF was honored with a Stewardship Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 2010. NRF operates three museum sites: Rough Point, the former home of Doris Duke; Whitehorne House, displaying a collection of early American furniture; and Prescott Farm in Middletown, featuring historic buildings on a preserved rural landscape. A non-profit institution, the foundation continues to be actively engaged in historic preservation, educational programming and scholarly research. www.NewportRestoration.org