



## **Capital City Subcommittee Project Updates**

*December 3, 2019*

**Capital City Subcommittee Mission:** To develop ideas for execution in the Washington, D.C. area to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. To cultivate concepts for events, congressional, and/or presidential involvement. To assist and facilitate relationship building and opportunities to produce deliverables.

**Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission Duties:** 1) to encourage, plan, develop, and execute programs, projects, and activities to commemorate the centennial of the passage and ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment; 2) to encourage private organizations and state and local governments to organize and participate in activities commemorating the centennial of the passage and ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment; 3) to facilitate and coordinate activities throughout the United States related to the centennial and passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment; 4) to serve as a clearinghouse for the collection and dissemination of information about events and plans for the centennial of the passage and ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment; 5) to develop recommendations for Congress and the President for commemorating the centennial of the passage and ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

### **I. Lucy Burns Museum**

The WSCC has purchased statues of suffragists Dora Lewis and Lucy Burns for permanent loan to the Workhouse Arts Center/Lucy Burns Museum. The total cost of the two statues is \$116,000. The Museum will open in early 2020.

### **II. Women's Suffrage Week 2020**

The WSCC staff is partnering with the Library of Congress, National Archives, National Park Service, Capitol Visitor's Center, and National Portrait Gallery to coordinate a nationwide "Women's Suffrage Week" at institutions and historical sites from May 10-17, 2020. Women's Suffrage Week will be a week of robust, innovative, and dynamic public programs, including scavenger hunts, documentary screenings, panel discussion, author talks, and more. The WSCC will work to bring in other cultural institutions, museums, state Commissions, and suffrage history groups from across the country to participate. We will also host the official Suffrage Week page on our website, and use the budget allocated for this program to support national advertising and publicity.

### **III. Library of Congress Book Festival**

With the help of Commissioner Colleen Shogan, the WSCC staff is working with the Library of Congress Book Festival team to feature women's suffrage history authors in the August 2020 LOC Book Festival. We expect to finalize a partnership MOU and contract in the coming weeks.

IV. **Bi-Partisan Women's Caucus**

The WSCC continues to work closely with the Bi-Partisan Women's Caucus to continue collaborating throughout 2020. Commissioners Susan Combs and Colleen Shogan, along with WSCC staff, met with the Co-Chairs of the Caucus in November 2020 to discuss 2020 collaborations.

V. **Turning Point Suffragist Memorial**

The WSCC has purchased statues of suffragists Alice Paul, Carrie Chapman Catt, and Mary Church Terrell for permanent loan to the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. The total cost of the three statues is \$100,000. The Memorial will open on August 26, 2020. We attended the groundbreaking of the memorial on Thursday, November 14, 2019, and Commissioner Shogan spoke at the ceremony on behalf of the WSCC. Nearly 250 guests were in attendance. In addition, Chairwoman Susan Combs is working with the Department of the Interior and the White House in hopes that we will be able to secure a portion of the historic White House fence for display in the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial.

VI. **Berkshire Conference**

The WSCC team and Commissioner Shogan have finalized our plans with the Berkshire Conference to provide up to two busses for historians to visit the leading federal suffrage exhibits in May 2020. We will be sponsoring and coordinating a public program in the evening featuring the three curators of the three leading federal suffrage exhibits. We are working on a formal MOU with the Berkshire Conference now, and expect that our materials, website, and buttons will be circulated at the conference.

VII. **Suffrage Legislation**

There are five pieces of commemorative suffrage legislation in the House and the Senate. The WSCC worked closely with the sponsors of the commemorative coin bill to secure additional support, and as a result, the bill has passed through the House and the Senate and is on the President's desk to be signed. In addition, we are currently doing outreach on behalf of the commemorative quarter legislation and have testified in two hearings in support of the commemorative suffrage memorial bill.

VIII. **Commemorative Medal**

Thanks to the support of the WSCC and guidance of Commissioners Carranza, Combs, and Shogan, the Commemorative Medal is now in the final design review process and is expected to be struck in early 2020 and on sale in spring/summer 2020. We will continue to work closely with the Treasury on a possible Rose Garden ceremony, commemorative strike in Philadelphia, and to sell the medal (once available) on our webstore.