

# *Water Garden*

## Lawrence Halprin and the East Capitol Campus

A report by the  
Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
and the Washington State Arts Commission

Commissioned by the Department of General Administration  
Division of Facilities Planning and Management

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*Water Garden, 1972*

Photo courtesy the Office of Lawrence Halprin

## Executive Summary: Findings and Recommendations

This report provides information to assist in an evaluative analysis of the *Water Garden*, a sculptural fountain created in 1972 for the East Capitol Campus in Olympia, Washington. Included is the history of the fountain's creation, background on the designer, Lawrence Halprin, an examination of the artistic context in which the fountain was created, comparison with other Halprin fountains in the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere in the United States, and recommendations for the preservation and restoration of the fountain on the East Capitol Campus.

Lawrence Halprin is recognized as one of the outstanding landscape architects of our time. He has created a broad range of fountains, landscapes and urban designs throughout the United



*Water Garden, 1972*

Photo courtesy  
the Office of Lawrence Halprin

States and abroad. He is one of only two landscape architects to be honored by the President of the United States for "outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth, support and availability of the arts in the United States."

*Water Garden* should be viewed not only as a sculptural element of the State Capitol Campus, but also for its significance within the larger scope of Halprin work within Washington State. Charles Birnbaum, Coordinator of the Historic Landscape Initiative of the National Park Service, observes that Washington state possesses a more extensive range of intact Halprin work covering perhaps his most creative period, from the late 1950's through the late 1970's, than any other state in the Union. These works range from Halprin's early role in the design of the Seattle World's Fair (1957), the Washington Water Power campus in Spokane (1959) to *Freeway Park* (1976), which is already earmarked for nomination to National Historic Landmark status.

Moreover, Halprin is one of the few successful landscape architects to be equally recognized and honored as an artist, truly melding the fields of art and architecture.

The East Capitol Campus is today undergoing sweeping change, and *Water Garden* will soon represent the last remaining visual element of the original East Campus design. Decisions about the future of *Water Garden* should be made with appreciation and understanding of the stewardship role General Administration and the State of Washington have as owners of a work representing an important stage of American design history.

The caring and often passionate affection for *Water Garden* held by state

employees, local residents, design professionals and the artistic community should also be taken into consideration. Four out of five state employees responding to surveys for this report appreciate the fountain's contribution to their work lives and environment, and wish to see it restored to operation. (The reader is encouraged to review the employee responses in the appendices.)

*"In high school in the mid-1970's, our 'May Court' had their photo taken in front of the fountain. It was beautiful back then. So my nostalgic side would love to see it brought back to its previous beauty, but my conservative side is concerned about the costs of fixing it."*

Teresa R. Graham, Employee  
Department of Transportation

Balancing all these considerations with the financial costs for restoration, it is recommended that the state seek to preserve and restore Water Garden to full operation.

### I. Landscape Design History and Public Art Context of the East Capitol Campus

*Water Garden*, by Lawrence Halprin, is a sculptural concrete fountain in a park-like setting located on the East Capitol Campus in Olympia. As described in a 1969 planning report, “the future ornamental pool is conceived as a carefully designed series of poured-in-place sculptural forms over which water would flow in a variety of ways terminating in pools and basins of varying depths. . . The pool would present a series of sculptural shapes varying in height from below to above eye level with the sound and presence of cascading water being the dominant feature.” (Capitol Campus, item 13) The purpose of the artwork was to “break up the expanse” of the courtyard formed from the top of one of the parking garages. In a September 3, 2004 conversation with James Haseltine, who was the Executive Director of the Washington State Arts Commission at the time, he recalled that he was asked by then-Governor Dan Evans to prepare an art proposal to present to the State Capitol Committee. Haseltine worked with Seattle architect Jerry Williams and composed a list of Northwest and California artists to consider. Walker, McGough, & Foltz of Spokane, the architects of the East Capitol construction project, recommended Lawrence Halprin for hire. Contracted for in 1967, *Water Garden* was designed by Lawrence Halprin & Associates of San Francisco, and was completed in 1972. The primary designer for the project was Angela Danadjivea.



Water Fountain by Lawrence Halprin, Seattle Center, (1962, now demolished)

Lawrence Halprin first became involved with the development of the East Capitol Campus in January, 1967 when he was placed under contract as landscape architect to develop patterns for landscaping for both the East and West campuses (SCC 1/10/67 145) Halprin was selected by the architectural firm of Walker & McGough of Spokane, the lead architects for East Capitol Campus projects, based on Halprin’s experience working with large projects, and likely influenced by Halprin’s previous work designing the Washington Water Power campus in Spokane (1959). Governor Daniel Evans noted during a December 15, 1967 meeting of the State Capitol Committee that “the job of landscaping would make or break the total effect of the campus plan,” further stating that “they would eventually spend perhaps \$50,000,000 and . . . it would be worth it to have the best man possible.” (SCC 12/15/67 180) Under pressure from Committee member Lt. Governor John Cherberg, who favored the employment of local architects, Walker & McGough also retained William Talley of Seattle to work with Halprin. By 1976, the landscape architectural firm of Jongejan/Gerrard/Associates had taken over overall East Campus landscape design responsibilities.

In 1968, Governor Evans suggested that for every building built on the East Capitol Campus, money be included for landscaping and artwork, laying the groundwork for the incorporation of both interior and exterior public art into the East Capitol Campus. (SCC 4/12/68 201)

The first mention of water features incorporated into the landscaping of the East Capitol Campus appears in 1969, (SCC 1/6/69) and that the Washington State Arts Commission was to be involved to help guide art acquisition and the incorporation of water features. James Haseltine presented the State Capitol Committee with a guidance report titled “Sculptural Treatment on East Capitol Campus Plaza.” (SCC 1/28/69 Exhibit B) This report suggested that as a guideline, one to two percent of construction costs should be made available for the acquisition of artwork. The report also emphasized that generally, the use of Washington artists should be given priority, though “...the overriding consideration is that quality work, appropriate to the

*“Given that we have one of the most beautiful and thoughtfully conceived capitols in the country, I think if it is feasible, it is well worth spending a reasonable amount of money to restore the fountain to its original state. Since the original campus was designed by the infamous Olmstead Brothers of Central Park and Boston Commons fame, saving this work of art by a renown artist (for) a subsequent generation can only add to the artistic depth and importance of the entire campus.”*

Paula Connelly, Employee  
Department of Transportation

site, must be obtained. Artists from other areas should not be ruled out.” (ibid) Lawrence Halprin & Associates were to be involved in the selection of artists and artwork, as the company had noted

that “...sculptural responses and treatments are essential for proper landscape planning.”(ibid)

The original concept for public art was a clustering of sculptural work around a fountain on the south plaza area, with a budget of between \$150,000 and \$200,000. One year later, this was amended to recommend expending \$200,000 for public art in the entire East Campus area.

The first design presentation before the State Capitol Committee for the proposed fountain was June 13, 1969. Dave Held from Halprin & Associates explained their plans for a large fountain, “...with volumes of water falling over a variety of concrete forms of different heights, and thus creating little spray,” with the fountain “...designed to allow those viewing it to have a sense of involvement – to walk into the fountain, and thus experience the feeling of the coolness, wetness, ...instead of just looking at it.”(SCC 6/13/69) Bruce Walker, of Walker & McGough, assured the Committee that the parking garage would have the capacity to sustain the fountains and plantings. James Haseltine stated his belief that “...it is a beautifully integrated design, and will make the East Campus an equally beautiful and exciting area to the West Campus.” (ibid) State Commissioner of Public Lands Bert L. Cole stated his excitement for the proposal, noting “...it should enhance not only the area, but the morale of the employees, too.” (ibid) Estimated cost for the fountain, lighting and water functions was \$250,000 (separate from the \$200,000 for public art noted above).

The fountain was not without its detractors. Lt. Governor Cherberg was particularly opposed, saying “...it was more suited for a playground or a recreation area than for a State Capitol campus.” He had visited Halprin’s Lovejoy Fountain in Portland, and said that “...three well

dressed people came by and left after a few minutes. Thirteen people were there at one time, seven of whom were hippies and one student and two people ... and children with the hippie types (who) went wading in the pool.”(SCC 8/4/69) James Haseltine responded that “...the fountain in Portland has a lilt, a joyfulness, a sense of play. The fountain proposed for the campus has a sense of dignity and rectangular design with water playing subtly over surfaces, thus allowing people from all walks of life to enjoy it.”(ibid) Governor Evans noted that “...the committee has the best landscape architect in the country,” and that “...Halprin’s plan hangs together well.” (ibid) Authorization to proceed with the basic construction to support “*Water Garden*” was given at the April 3, 1970 meeting of the State Capitol Committee, with the proviso that the Washington State Arts Commission explore the possibility of citizen contributions to pay for the actual fountain. Mr. Cherberg voted no. The Arts Commission reported back at the June 4, 1970 meeting that there was little interest in the private sector in contributing to the project. Final approval to proceed with the fountain’s construction was given the following year, and it was completed in 1972.

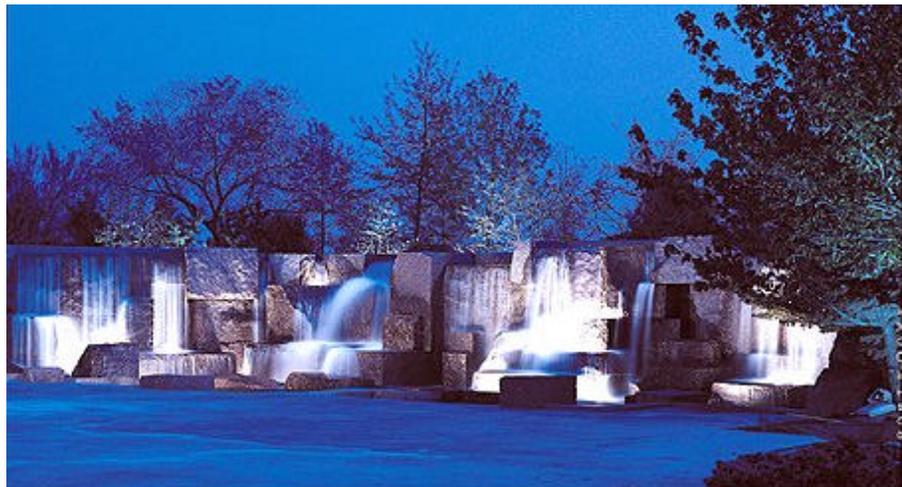
*“I’m so grateful to have an opportunity to vote on this at all. I’m really sentimental about the fountain and hope it could be updated and restored. I appreciate the design and the way it differentiates itself from the surrounding area’s tone and feel. It’s ‘grotto-like’ in its serenity and offers some quiet. I loved going in there for a few moments to re-balance!”*

Catherine Rucker, Employee  
Employment Security Department

campus has a sense of dignity and rectangular design with water playing subtly over surfaces, thus allowing people from all walks of life to enjoy it.”(ibid) Governor Evans noted that “...the committee has the best landscape architect in the country,” and that “...Halprin’s plan hangs together well.” (ibid) Authorization to proceed with the basic construction to support “*Water Garden*” was given at the April 3, 1970 meeting of the State Capitol Committee, with the proviso that the Washington State Arts Commission explore the possibility of citizen contributions to pay for the actual fountain. Mr. Cherberg voted no. The Arts Commission reported back at the June 4, 1970 meeting that there was little interest in the private sector in contributing to the project. Final approval to proceed with the fountain’s construction was given the following year, and it was completed in 1972.

## II. Lawrence Halprin in Context

Lawrence Halprin was born in 1916 in Brooklyn, NY. He attended Cornell University School of Agriculture in New York, and University of Wisconsin, Madison, in the Department of Horticulture. In 1942 to 1944, he attended Harvard Graduate School of Design and studied under former



*Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial (1997)*

Photo © Carol M. Highsmith 1998

Bauhaus architects and designers Walter Gropius, Marcel Breuer, and lecturer Laszlo Moholy Nagy as well as landscape architect Christopher Tunnard. His classmates included architects Philip Johnson, I.M. Pei and Paul Rudolph. After serving in the Navy during World War II, Halprin was employed by Thomas Church, landscape architect, based in San Francisco.

In his mature designs, “Halprin prefers abstraction to imitation, but he engages landscape processes more fully, distinguishing between ‘copying nature’s pictures’ and ‘using her tools of composition.’” (Spirn, 198) His works feature water as a strong design element and a score, a term that Halprin started using after his collaborations with his wife, dancer Anna Halprin,

beginning in 1947. The score to a piece is the basic guiding force to the action of the people interacting with the plaza or fountain area – what they do, where they go to first, how long do they walk to a certain point, the contrasts of noise versus quiet areas, the up and down vistas, the resting areas, etc. Central to this thinking is a plan to determine the scope of the work. Halprin began developing his methodology in the 1960s with colleagues like architect Charles Moore called “Experiments in Environment”, a series of multidisciplinary events ”to explore the how of creativity and how process affects results. This approach was different from the customary linear, object-oriented attitudes of most designers and planners” of the time. (Neall, 44) The use of these sessions, developed about the same time as Happenings, performance and experience based artwork in New York, set the groundwork for Halprin’s approach to design

*“We believe the fountain is an integral part of the East Campus and deserves to be retained and restored. We also recognize that it is one of very few Halprin sculptures in our state, created specifically for the current site. These factors add to its value and distinctiveness. We believe that protecting and maintaining significant works such as the Halprin fountain is congruent with the state’s goals of historic preservation and that we should work to integrate it as part of the renovation that is now taking place.”*

Alan J. Hardcastle, President  
South Capitol Neighborhood Association

problems. A score was developed from these sessions of participatory design called “The RSVP Cycles” meaning Resources (the raw materials used for the project, including spaces, Scores (the symbolic description of the process leading to the product, Valuation (a Halprin-ism meaning ac-

tion-oriented analysis of what’s been accomplished at each stage of the project), and Performance (the tangible outcome of the scores, the design itself.) (Schoen, 14) The process includes participation by the professionals involved as well the people who will be using the park or fountain area.

Halprin's many other accomplishments include the development of the Sea Ranch community along the coast by San Francisco, Ghirardelli Square, the design for converting the Seattle Center into a permanent site with architect Paul Thiry and the FDR Memorial in Washington D.C.

At age 88, Halprin is still active at his design office. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the ASLA Gold Medal and elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, both in 1978, a solo exhibition of his work at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in 1986 and the National Medal of Arts in 2002, one of only two landscape architects in America to receive this award (Ian McHarg was so honored in 1990). The National Medal of Arts is the highest award given to artists and arts patrons by the United States Government. The National Medal of Arts is awarded by the President of the United States to individuals or groups who, in his judgment, "...are deserving of special recognition by reason of their outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth, support and availability of the arts in the United States."

III. Capitol Campus Memorials and Artwork

*Water Garden* is one of eighteen Memorials and sited artworks on The State Capitol Campus. Many have been donated and solicited from a number of funding sources, some in response to a singular person or organization’s request for memorial or marker. In an attempt to place *Water*

*Garden* in context with the other works, the pieces have been placed into three classifications: objects, sites and fountains.

An object is a singular piece of sculpture that is freestanding, does not feature the use of water and could exist anywhere. This group makes up the majority of the works on campus, including the *Story Pole*, *Winged Victory Monument*, *POW/MIA Memorial*, *Medal of Honor Memorial*, *Territorial Sundial*, *Woman Dancing*, *Killer Whale* (since relocated to the Whatcom Museum of History and Art in Bellingham), *The Shaman* and *Mysteries of Life*.

Next are the sites. Here the work may contain an object or series of objects but is designed and installed in such a way as to engage the site about it and visually directs the viewer through the work, introducing new elements and vistas. Included in this group are the *World War II Memorial*, the *Vietnam Veterans Memorial*, the *Korean War Memorial*, *Untitled*, *Boiler Works* and *Water Garden*. One other work loosely included is *Sea to Sky* as it is an object but is directly site-specific to the façade of the garage of the Natural Resources Building.

The last group are fountains. A fountain is a site or object that utilizes water to complete the artist’s vision. These include the *DuPen Fountain*, *Tivoli Fountain* and, again, *Water Garden*. While there are several other objects and sites on the East Campus, *Water Garden* is the only fountain among the sites, and the only one on the main East Campus Plaza.

#### IV. Artistic Context of *Water Garden*

*Water Garden* can be recognized as a sculptural fountain done in the Modernist style. Other Modernist works on the Capitol Campus are *Woman Dancing* (by Phillip Levine), *The Shaman* (James Hansen), the *World War II Memorial* (Simon Kogan), the *Vietnam Veterans Memorial* (Deborah Copenhaver Fellows), *Untitled* (Lee Kelly) and *Boiler Works* (Thomas Jay). They all share the Modernist aesthetic of form through abstraction. *Woman Dancing* and *The Shaman* are more akin to the early abstract expression artists from the 1940s to 1960s. Although the *Korean War Memorial* was completed recently, in 1993, its site treatment and figurative style are very traditional and are quite static. *Untitled* and *Boiler Works* come from the same tradition but are more structure oriented and more minimal in content. *Water Garden* comes from the Modernist style also, but with more of a Bauhaus-type rigor. Halprin’s work of the time all shared the same rugged

board-formed concrete and the almost rigid geometric formations. Two of the more recent additions are *The Vietnam Veterans Memorial* and the *World War II Memorial*. They are al-

“Removal of this landmark would present both a cultural loss and public loss not only to the State of Washington, but to all of those who know the positive advantages of having a garden with flowing water as a respite in the midst of their work-a-day world.”

Sarah Sutton, ASLA  
President  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
Northern California Chapter

most post-modern in style in their acquiring of shapes and styles of other periods and recontextualizing them into an abstract narrative. A large number of the memorials are important because of the content but are not significant works of art. Acknowledging the State’s desire to bring a sense of quality to the campus through WAC 236-18-010, (3), that “works of art on state capitol grounds are evaluated using a deliberate process,” it is hopeful that the quality of new

works will be as high as the last few additions.

Other sculptors active at the same time as *Water Garden* were working in the Minimalist style, which was in full bloom. Donald Judd, Richard Serra, Carl Andre and Tony Smith were all constructing large outdoor pieces, rigidly defined objects that were true to the industrial materials they were using. Mark di Suvero was more lyrical in his use of steel I-beams, Henry Moore was making larger versions of his bronze biomorphic forms, Claes Oldenburg was installing large-scale versions of everyday objects and John Chamberlain used crushed cars like abstract expressionists used paint. These artists were, by contrast, not doing Minimal work but were continuing their own individual style.

Earthworks, large sites shaped with heavy equipment, were created in remote sites by Robert Smithson, *Spiral Jetty*, 1970, Michael Heizer, *Double Negative*, 1969-70, and in land reclamation projects, notably one by Robert Morris in Kent, Washington in 1979. Nancy Holt created *Rock Rings* on the campus of Western Washington University in 1977-78, where she worked with local craftsmen to build an interior room within a room, walled off from the outside but also creating ideal views through open windows. Concrete as an art material for public works was being explored by artists like Michael Heizer in Seattle's *Adjacent, Against, Upon*, using formed poured concrete in 1976 and by Lloyd Hamrol in *Gyro Jack*, 1979. Alice Aycock built *A Simple Network of Underground Wells*, 1975, a series of interconnected underground rooms below grade out of concrete and concrete blocks and Donald Judd constructed an untitled piece in 1977 of two concentric circular poured concrete walls, measuring 15 meters in diameter. Another example of concrete as a sculptural component was by Moshe Safdie in 1968 with his module housing units, *Habitat*, for the Montreal Expo.

Contemporary artists have explored the idea of the garden as art, especially in the postmodern movement, but one of the earlier pieces is *Time Landscape*, a "natural sculpture" by artist Alan Sonfist, started in 1965 and created on a plot of land on the corner of Houston and La Guardia Place, New York City. Sonfist has spoken about the role of "Natural phenomena as Public Monuments":

"Civic monuments ... should honour and celebrate the life and acts of the total community, the human ecosystem, including natural phenomena. Especially within the city, public monuments should recapture and revitalize the history of the natural environment at that location. As in war monuments that record the life and death of soldiers, the life and death of natural phenomena such as rivers, springs and natural outcroppings need to be remembered." (Sonfist)

In the context of Sonfist's observations, it is interesting to note in regards to *Water Garden* as there was a creek that ran through the area where the parking garage, and *Water Garden*, are now sited.

Fountains by artists from that time period are not noted for their originality or quality, with the odd exception of the photograph by Bruce Nauman, *Self Portrait as a Fountain*, 1965-70.

## V. Regional Context of Halprin Fountains

As a comparison, *Water Garden* should be placed in context with Halprin's other fountains in the Northwest. Major projects include *Lovejoy Plaza*, *Ira A. Keller Forecourt Fountain*, both 1965 in Portland, OR, and *Freeway Park*, 1970 – 76, in Seattle.

The *Lovejoy* and *Forecourt Fountains* are part of the Portland Open-Space Sequence designed by Halprin in 1965. In his notes about the work, Halprin talks about "urban gardens" and how "they reveal a relation to the rest of the city, emphasizing movement through the malls." (Neall, 23) The visitor can walk from the open *Lovejoy Plaza* to the green *Pettigrove Park* to dramatic *Forecourt Fountain*. Again, the idea of the choreographed movement through artwork is intensely important.

Beginning with the wide-open stepped concrete plaza at *Lovejoy*, the visitor is brought into Halprin's vision of the rocks of the High Sierra, where the board-formed steps echo the ledges of rocks recorded during Halprin's hikes for inspiration. The fountain is successful in developing a variety of vistas and water modifiers, that is to say, ways to make the water perform in both active and contemplative manners. The large open areas and the accompanying wooden wing-like structure, designed by architect Charles Moore, invite the public's participation. Indeed, many weddings and ceremonies have been performed here. The sound of the water pervades the area.



*Lovejoy Plaza*, Portland, Oregon



*Ira A. Keller Auditorium Forecourt Fountain*, Portland, Oregon

A short walk takes the visitor through a small green space, with a large bronze sculpture by Portland artist Manuel Izquierdo, and then to the *Ira A. Keller Auditorium Forecourt Fountain*. Placed into a hillside, the work faces the Auditorium building. The work is all but invisible from the street above. Perhaps the more dramatic of the two fountains, *Forecourt* also has multiple vistas and water features. Large planes of water fall over the front of the work, while

smaller channels emerge from quiet pools above. There is even a spot to go behind a waterfall, the visitor remaining dry while marveling at the rush of water overhead. The area at the base is built for gatherings and events.

*Freeway Park* in Seattle shares many of the same features as *Forecourt*. Built at multiple levels and sites, the park incorporates the same concrete board-formed structure and water pools. At both *Forecourt* and *Freeway*, the water is contained in rectilinear boxes, swelling up and overflowing in falls. Also, similar to *Forecourt* but unlike *Lovejoy*, lush plantings surround the water and plinths. The height at *Freeway* is over fifty feet and the sound of the water masks the noise of the cars on Interstate 5, located directly below. The same sense of the score, or the choreography for the path, is very evident here. The path is never forced but new vistas, sounds and water features draw the visitor along.



*Freeway Park* 1976

The smaller *Water Garden* uses elements from the previous three but with some additions and deletions. The *Water Garden* uses jets of water to break the surface of the water. The nozzles of the vertical jets are positioned slightly below the apparent water level, directing the water up between the two adjacent plinths, thus creating a new layer of water movement. The height was between six to eight feet, according to what a teenaged Jack Mcguire remembers in a September 27, 2004 conversation (Mcguire is now Project Lead for General Administration’s East Capitol Plaza Repairs Phase 4). It brought a new

sound into the interior of the space.

The other regional works use variations of height of viewing platforms as opposed to the single ground plane in the *Water Garden*, which is less active and less engaging for the visitor. The shared elements include the rectilinear boxes with overflowing water, the board-formed plinths and the plantings. Another shared element is the sense of the walled enclosure. Both *Forecourt* and *Freeway* have enclosed passageways with high concrete walls, which today seem



*Levi's Plaza*, San Francisco, California

almost cramped. *Water Garden* also has the appearance of walls but the layout of the plinths and water boxes is remarkably open. The plantings are overly mature and could be trimmed back to allow in more light into the middle of the space. The walls bring a sense of both safety and, conversely, containment. The walls, plinths and seats define the interior and exterior but the empty pools only suggest its past grandeur. It is a “model of orderly paradise. It has a wall around it to exclude the messy outside world, in its center is a water source.” (Moore, 13) The missing element is the water. The title, *Water Garden*, by definition has water at its core.

The strength of many of Halprin’s designs is the thoughtful response that his work gives to each site. In Portland, the craggy *Lovejoy Fountain* stands in stark contrast to the vertical walls of the non-distinct modernist buildings surrounding it. The *Forecourt Fountain*, buried in the hillside, gives a surprising respite from downtown noise and clutter. *Freeway Park* works with the freeway, rather than against it. “The trick,” Halprin explained, “is to perceive the old freeway as part of the cityscape and tame it, rather than complain about it.” (Spirn, 67)

“This fountain was always a sanctuary and place of reflection. It is beneficial to all staff who visit it for a few minutes during the day or week. It should be restored with water running, or moved to an area that will allow its natural purpose for citizens and state employees.”

George Mante, Employee  
Employment Security Department

The *Water Garden* sits in a concrete and grass bowl-like area with concrete steps forming the perimeter and office buildings stepping away from the center plaza. The proportions of the exterior walls of the *Garden*, their height, length and depth, harmonize well with the space. As the work can also be seen from above, the tops of the walls form a pleasing linear composition. Now that the vegetation has grown in, it forms a green oasis in the center of the concrete. The sculpture is “made of concrete because it must be part of the environment, not an object with in.” (Halprin, *Notebooks*, 193)

Halprin always includes the interaction and movement of the visitor in the planning process. Without access to the design documents, it is impossible to say how much audience survey was used to guide the design. However, in discussions with people at the site, each person spoke highly of the ability to escape into the interior of the *Garden*, to sit in the quiet space away from the prying eyes of the office buildings. They all did say that they missed the sound of the water. On one early evening site visit, there were a group of boys using the structure as a play fort, climbing up to the lookouts and scaling the cliffs in mock battle.

As his fountains age and the neighborhoods evolve where the artwork is located, Halprin has been called upon to respond to those changes. For example, for Denver’s *Skyline Park*, the artist was called in 1973 to develop



*Water Garden*, 1972

Photo courtesy  
the Office of Lawrence Halprin

a refuge in the blight of downtown. It became a landmark for the city but years of mismanagement and lack of maintenance allowed the work to fall into disrepair. In 1998, it was scheduled for renovation or probable removal. After numerous studies, Thomas Balsey Associates was hired for a redesign. Balsey consulted Halprin. The new park is a mix of the old and the new, but still many of the fountains are not yet turned on due to lack of funding.

Halprin is also currently actively involved in a redesign of the *United Nations Plaza* in San Francisco. A representative list of Halprin work in the latter half of the 20th Century is included in the appendices.

## VI. Current Condition of *Water Garden*

It is highly desirable to have a prescribed system of evaluation for conservation for all public artworks. Public art, by nature, receives much more wear and tear than private or museum pieces. The maintenance of the *Water Garden* site (though not its mechanical workings) is of high quality and the concrete structure reflects that care. As the water is no longer flowing, it is apparent that the work has undergone operational changes that have a direct impact on the artist's original intent. An internal General Administration memo from April, 1991 detailed nine specific areas of concern, including rusting pipes, concrete deterioration, trees outgrowing their original design specifications and cracking cement, as well as concern over the fountain as a safety hazard. (Taipale)

As *Water Garden* has had almost continual water loss problems, with the resulting maintenance shut-offs until it was permanently turned off in 1992, it is valuable to compare it as a static, dry work to other sculpture of the period. Even when it was operational, there was no water flowing between October to April for seasonal shut-offs. The state of the work is not optimal. The plantings are fully mature and actually beginning to encroach upon the concrete forms. There are stumps of trees cut down



*Water Garden*, 2004

Photo by Marygrace Jennings

on the interior of the space. The concrete itself appears to be in relatively good condition and graffiti-free during both of the site visits. The presence of the water is, of course, still the major element that is missing. Without the water, it is not a strong, freestanding sculptural piece.

## VII. Maintenance of Halprin Fountains

Owners of other Halprin fountains around the country were contacted for comment on any particular maintenance issues or concerns that had arisen with their structures.

*Grotto Fountain* was installed in 1993 at MGM/UA Plaza in Santa Monica, California. Colin Monahan, chief engineer for the complex, reported there have been no problems with the Halprin water fountains over the years. In 2003, they took advantage of a \$23 million remodeling project surrounding the fountains to replace all the piping, even though there weren't problems at that time. He described it as opportunistic preventative maintenance.



*Sculpture Garden, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia*

Jim Hughes, maintenance manager for the Portland Water Bureau reported:

“In 1996 we completely upgraded Forecourt (now called Ira Keller) fountain (at a cost of \$1 million ). We put in a treatment system, replaced all plumbing, electrical, lighting, and concrete troughs and the basin, but did not change the aesthetics of the fountain itself.

“Lovejoy just continues to plug along with no major renovations as of yet. Basic maintenance is all that has been done. We're not sure what's going to happen to the surrounding park so are holding off any major work.

“Overall we continue replacing all cast iron piping with schedule 80 PVC, upgrade electrical and upgrade/install treatment systems to all recirculating fountains. We are finding this investment has reduced overall operating and maintenance costs.” (Hughes)

Ron Moorehead, a state employee who worked for GA and helped maintain the *Water Garden* fountain in the 1970's and 1980's, noted that the main problem with maintenance was that no one on the GA maintenance staff was trained in how to maintain the fountain. The only maintenance the fountain received was when something broke. Other park maintenance staff

contacted in Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Virginia reported that with regular maintenance, their Halprin fountains continue to perform with consistency and very few mechanical failures. The Heritage Plaza fountains in Ft. Worth, Texas, are currently shut down for repair.

If *Water Garden* is restored, clear roles, budget and responsibilities for the care and routine maintenance of the fountain must be established.

### VIII. Public Commentary on Options for *Water Garden*

Comment was solicited from employees of the Employment Security Department (Maple Park buildings) and Department of Transportation, East Campus. The form of request was by e-mail requesting open-ended comments, observations and suggestions about the *Water Garden*. Ninety five responses were received from DOT employees. Of those, 75% favored restoration or retention of the fountain, 16% favored its removal, and 9% were basically neutral.

Sixty four responses came from ESD employees. Here, those favoring restoration or retention were somewhat higher, at 87%, with 9% favoring removal, and 4% having no opinion one way or the other. This is perhaps because the ESD buildings are closer to the fountain complex, and used more extensively by the employees.

*“Our fountain, even dry, is a haven. It is a shady place for a lunch-time catnap, a place for neighborhood children to play hide-and-see, a great spring-time garden location for a meditative morning break, and a tribute to excellent design. The trees planted in and around it are familiar friends to those of us who have lost our beloved cherry trees during the renewal of the plaza. I encourage the state to renovate the fountain and restore it to full function. The relaxing and healthful benefits of running water and a quiet nook cannot be overstated, whether for state workers or community members. The Halprin ‘Water Garden’ is a treasure and deserves to be preserved for the future.”*

Megan Davis, Employee  
Department of Transportation

Many in both groups remembered when the fountain functioned with water, and recalled fondly its calming effect. Most noted that the fountain area offers the only sheltered area on the plaza, allowing employees to gain a sense of escape from their work environment, commenting that going into the fountain helped

reduce stress levels from their work. It is worth noting that this is exactly what Land Commissioner Bert Cole had predicted the fountain’s effect would be some thirty five years earlier during deliberations of the State Capitol Committee. Full transcript of employee comments is included in the appendices.

Among those favoring restoration or retention of the fountain, almost half asked that it be retained even if water could not be restored to operation. Suggestions included adding planting in the pools, retaining the landscaping and adding lighting. Comments were received both opposing allowing smoking in the area, as well as appreciating the shelter offered to smokers.

The South Capitol Area Neighborhood Association was solicited for comment, as well as the Olympia Arts Commission. Both indicated their desire to see the fountain restored to operation. Their letters are included in the appendices as well.

The American Society of Landscape Architects, both Washington and Northern California chapters, submitted letters (also in appendices) in February, 2004 supporting the restoration of the fountain.

Many people observed a historical relationship between the community and the fountain. People who had grown up in Olympia had played in the fountain area as children, and were now working as state employees in the surrounding buildings. Now their children were enjoying the fountain as a playground.

### IX. Visual Artists Rights Act

In consideration of the possibility of removing *Water Garden* completely, the federal Visual Artists Rights Act (VARA) of 1990 should be discussed. “VARA provides protections to both artists and certain forms of art through enforcement mechanisms available under the Copyright Act. It recognizes and protects three rights: the right of ‘attribution,’ i.e., the right to be recognized, by name, as the creator of the work. Second, the right of ‘disassociation,’ under which an artist can prevent the use of his or her name as the creator of an artwork in the event it is distorted, mutilated or otherwise modified. Third, the right to the ‘integrity’ of an artist’s creation, namely the physical condition of the work of visual art. This right enables an artist to prevent any intentional distortion, mutilation, or other modification of a work of visual art that would be prejudicial to his or her honor or reputation.” (Davidson, 5) As the sculpture was completed before 1991, there are no VARA protections. However, as the work is included in an active program of collecting, the spirit of the law and perception of what is correct is as important as the right itself. VARA protections extend to the year of the artist’s death and as Halprin is alive at the time of this report, it would only seem prudent to contact the artist before any alterations are made on the artwork. As seen in the media coverage (see *Sources* at the end of this report) about Denver’s *Skyline* and San Francisco’s *United Nations Plaza*, bringing the artist into the discussion early is important on many levels.

It is of concern that in WAC 236-18-040 (3) it states, “the original artist or designer holds no rights to any work commissioned, donated, or purchased for display on state capitol grounds, including reproduction, access, modification relocation resale, etc., unless such rights are specifically allowed in formal written agreement between the director and the artist. The state reserves the right to relocate or remove works. Relocation will include consultation with the original artist or interested parties whenever practical.”



Washington Water Power campus (1959)  
Photo courtesy Avista Corporation

Again citing WAC 236-18-040 (3), there is no language for the process of deaccessioning. A collection of high quality and valuable artworks owned by a public entity should have a procedure for both accessioning and deaccessioning that is clear and reflects the common good for the artwork, the artist and the owner. RCW 43.34.080 does describe the structure of the committee for the artwork and it does refer to the attainment of “excellence in design”, but it does not articulate standards or policies for accessioning or deaccessioning. The maintenance and deaccession policy for the Washington State Arts Commission, and accessioning and deaccessioning policy for the King County Public Art Collection (administered by 4Culture) are included in the appendices. Included in the policies are the sections for the maintenance, stewardship and conservation for public artwork. Through documents prepared with the artists and the owner, a clear understanding can be defined of the on-going maintenance requirements for specific artwork.

## X. Conclusions and Recommendations

Public art should actively engage the user of public spaces. The interaction by the visitor is what gives the work its special quality and appeal. The work should be a source of pride for the community, a resource for art education and touchstone for the people and times that created it. Not all old art is outdated nor is all new art immediately recognized for its value. Deciding the lifespan of a piece of public art is a difficult decision. One factor cannot be that the art is out of style. Looking at *Water Garden*, there are many factors to consider:

1. Is the work viable? Yes. The structure above ground is still in good condition. However, the water system is not working at all. The pumps, electrical systems and pipes will all need to be replaced. The plantings are past their prime but could be replaced. Is it complete without the water? No, the water is a vital element to Halprin’s design. It is a fountain, and, therefore water is necessary.
2. Does the work fit the site? Yes, it was originally designed to be site-specific, scaled for the plaza/rooftop where it sits. In the new plan, the area will retain the bowl-like appearance, eliminating the concrete steps on the perimeter, and will include an ellipsoidal pathway. In a September 27, 2004 conversation with Michael Romero from EDAW, he said that *Water Garden* would fit “rather neatly” into the new setting. Another consideration is the adjacency

of the work to the *Korean War Memorial*. During a recent site visit, the author spoke with two State employees during their break out by *Water Garden*. They brought

*“The combination of ‘rock’ and water at the fountain provided visitors with a visual and an aural respite from the tension of the campus. The Halprin fountain provided a quiet, reflective space surrounded by the awful amplification of the traffic noise reflecting from those angular east campus buildings. I’ve always enjoyed the fountain for lunches or breaks, but just walking through the fountain was enough to reenergize me. I’ve missed it; I’d like to have it back.”*

Jim Culp, Employee  
Department of Transportation

up the issue of the *Garden* area being an important place of solace and reflection for the visiting veterans to the Memorial. This is a worthwhile observation.

3. Is it at or above the acceptable level of quality relative to the rest of the collection? Yes, it is a fine example of a sculptural fountain work from the time period. The type of work is unique to the collection and adds value to the plaza. The artist has a proven track record of creating excellent work that has received high critical praise. Halprin has received international distinction for his life's work.
4. Are the repair costs higher than the value of the work? It is likely to be substantial. To bring the fountain back into working order will require ingenuity and thoughtful planning. If the work is completed at the time of the renovation of the plaza, there should be construction credits available to assist in the repair costs. As the garage roof is resealed, the plinth bases and pools can be included. As the soil cap is regraded and landscaped, new planting can be included. The Olmsted Axis line that extends from the West Campus can be planted to suggest a pathway to the *Water Garden*. Costs for ongoing operations and maintenance must also be considered.
5. Can the work be moved? Physically, there are ways to do it. From the as-built drawings, the plinths appear to be hollow, which makes them lighter. However, "lighter" is relative term. Just as an old, rickety house can be moved down the highway, these sturdy boxes could be transported, though this would be very costly. Here, the more important question is "Can it be moved and still be the same work?" If there is another location on the campus that has the same scale, the same concave landform, the same office building vantage points, the same open space around it and the same user/visitor needs for a place of rest, shade, and contiguous location to a major memorial for use for contemplation. It is not evident on the campus map.
6. Will it fit aesthetically into the new East Plaza plan? Judging from all of the plans, discussions and site visits, it will be better than ever. The removal of the concrete steps will only enhance the vertical concrete forms. If retained, the nearby stairwells will actually complement the *Water Garden*. New plantings will revive the interior. In a discussion with Lawrence Halprin, he asked how the piece would look at the new site. He said if it looked "obnoxious" then it should be removed. However, if it fits and the architects are interested in incorporating it, Halprin would be interested in participating. Halprin can be reached at his San Francisco office, (415) 248-5890.

While a modest example of Halprin's fountain designs, *Water Garden* is nonetheless a significant work in the context of Olympia and the state of Washington. It is a fountain that, in its operational heyday, was a quiet respite, an oasis on the East Capitol Campus. Even in its

current waterless form, it is appreciated and enjoyed by hundreds of state employees and residents of the surrounding neighborhood.

The growing importance of retaining Halprin's work is of such national scope that the New York Times published a substantial article July 10, 2003 outlining the important role Halprin has played in landscape design in America, and the threats posed to some of his works, including *Water Garden*. Charles Birnbaum, Coordinator of the Historic Landscape Initiative of the National Park Service, believes *Water Garden* is an excellent candidate for future nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, while *Freeway Park* is a strong future candidate for designation as a National Historic Landmark, the highest level of Federal designation. (Birnbaum)

Halprin has a significant history with Washington state as well, including his design of the Washington Water Power campus in Spokane, Freeway Park, his Seattle Center design contributions, and contributions to the University of Washington landscape. For all these reasons, it is appropriate for General Administration to give serious and due consideration to its stewardship responsibilities for this important sculptural work within the revitalized East Capitol Campus.

*Contributing writers to this report include Greg Bell, Curator and Collections Coordinator with 4Culture, Seattle; and Donovan Michael Gray, Preservation Design Reviewer, Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Olympia.*

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Seattle World's Fairground Design Commission (with Minoru Yamasaki, Paul Thiry, Perry Johansen and others) to advise on site selection and overall development (1957).

Washington Water Power Corporate Headquarters, Spokane (1959). Brooks & Walker, architects.

Navajo Nation Master Development Program, Window Rock, Arizona (1960). John Carl Warnecke & Associates, architects, Livingston & Blayney, planners.

U. S. Science Center (later Pacific Science Center) gardens design (1961). Minoru Yamasaki, architect, Charles Eames, exhibit designer.

St. Francis Square, San Francisco (1963). Master plan and landscape design. Award-winning 300-unit apartment complex. Marquis & Stoller, architects.

Portland Open-Space Sequence, including *Auditorium Forecourt Fountain* (now the Ira Keller Fountain), *Pettygrove Park*, *Lovejoy Plaza* and the *Portland Transit Mall* (1965-1973). Smithsonian Institution Fifth Biennial HUD Award, Project Design 1972, American Association of Nurserymen Commercial Landscaping Award 1972, Smithsonian Institution Design Review, Industrial Design Award of Excellence 1968, and AIA Award of Honor 1978.

Nicollet Avenue Mall, Minneapolis (1967). Pioneering redesign of downtown street into pedestrian and transit mall.

Gardens for University of California, Santa Cruz (1967-70). Landscape plan for three interrelated colleges campuses in Santa Cruz Mountains. AIA Honor Award, 1968. Fourth Biennial HUD Award 1970. P/A Design Award, Education, 1964.

Ida Crown Plaza, Israel National Museum, Jerusalem (1967).

Ghirardelli Square, San Francisco (1968). Master plan and landscape design. Wurster, Bernardi & Emmons, architects. AID Award of Merit 1966, Governor's Design Award of Exceptional Distinction, State of California 1966.

Embarcadero Plaza and Fountain (now M. Justin Herman Plaza), San Francisco (1972). With Mario Ciampi & Associates, and John Bolles & Associates, architects. HUD Design Award 1974.

Freeway Park, Seattle (1970-76). *Design and Environment* magazine Award of Excellence, 1976. Association of Landscape Contractors of America, First Place Award, 1976. American Society of Landscape Architects, Merit Award, 1977.

Lake Merritt Channel Park, Oakland (1972).

Walter and Elise Haas Promenade, Jerusalem (1986).

Bunker Hill Steps, Los Angeles (1987).

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Washington D. C. (1997).

*(Dates listed indicate date of construction. Design dates are generally earlier.)*

## WASHINGTON STATE ARTS COMMISSION

### STATE ART COLLECTION MAINTENANCE AND DEACCESSION POLICIES

The Washington State Arts Commission is authorized by RCW 43.46.040 to adopt rules and is authorized under RCW 43.46.090 to administer a visual arts program, the Art in Public Places Program. (Authority--WAC 30-40-020)

The legislature recognizes Washington State's responsibility to foster culture and the arts and its interest in the viable development of artists and crafts people. The legislature has declared it to be a priority of Washington State that a portion of appropriations for capital expenditures be set aside for the acquisition of works of art to be placed in public buildings or on public lands and to provide high quality works of art in public places in the state of Washington.

Artworks generally enter the public environment through a careful process informed by the best available professional judgment and advice from the public interest affected, and are created by artists especially for the public context.

#### **State Art Collection**

The "State Art Collection" means all works of art and select design models acquired under the auspices of the Art in Public Places Program (AIPP). Individual works are held in trust under the terms of an inter-agency agreement by agencies working in partnership with the commission. Development, administration and management of the overall collection, including conservation, deaccessioning and loan policies, archival record-keeping and documentation, shall be carried out by the commission. Under this authority, the Commission develops, maintains and presents to the public the State Art Collection.

#### **I. MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Maintenance means the ongoing upkeep required for artworks to retain their structural and aesthetic integrity. The Agency (where the artwork is sited) is responsible for all routine maintenance operations required on a periodic basis as specified by the artist in his/her technical and maintenance specifications report. The Commission is responsible for making all necessary repairs and restorations of the work, as well as any extraordinary repair or unscheduled maintenance required to restore a structurally or aesthetically diminished artwork to its original intent and function. The Arts Commission's responsibility for repairs and restoration of the work is, by law, contingent upon the receipt of adequate appropriations for this purpose. When possible, the artist shall be consulted as to his/her recommendations regarding repairs and restorations being made. To the extent practicable and in accordance with accepted principles of professional conservation, the artist shall be given the opportunity to accomplish repairs and restorations and shall be paid a reasonable fee for the services.

## II. DEACCESSION RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Washington State Arts Commission is mandated by statute (WAC 30-40-060) with the responsibility for "deaccessioning," or removing works from the State Art Collection by sale, exchange or disposition. The biennial verification of inventory provides the continuous assessment of the State Art Collection and is the responsibility of the Washington State Art Commission. Deaccessioning and disposal are a legitimate part of the formation and care of the State Art Collection and are intended to maintain the integrity of the collection. This process requires exceptional care and should reflect policy rather than reaction to the exigencies of a particular moment or circumstances. Standards applied to deaccessioning and disposal should be as stringent as those applied to the acquisition process and should not be subject to changes in fashion and taste. This decision must be made only after careful consideration of the factors at issue.

### II.A. Deaccessioning Procedures

Works of art will be removed from the state art collection only if reasonable cause has been established by one of the following:

- (1) has been lost or stolen
- (2) presents a safety hazard in its present condition; or that
- (3) the restoration of the work's structural or aesthetic integrity is
  - (a) technically infeasible (beyond repair).
  - (b) disproportionate to the value of the work.
- (4) the environment/architectural support (on which a site-specific work depends) is to be destroyed or modified as to distort the artist's initial intent.

The process of deaccessioning and disposal, begins upon receipt of the Verification of Inventory Form or written notification from the site agency. The Art in Public Places program will submit a report to the Executive Director for approval to convene a deaccession committee. This committee's membership should include the Chair of the Washington State Arts Commission's Visual Arts Committee or the Chair of the Washington State Arts Commission and outside experts in conservation and restoration. The Art in Public Places program will present the cases to be reviewed and the program's evaluation to the committee. The committee's recommendations will be presented to the Visual Arts Committee for advancement to the full commission. The final authority to deaccession and dispose of works of art rests with the members of the Washington State Arts Commission.

In order for the recommended deaccession to be carried out, the following conditions must be met:

- (1) assurance that the recommendations are based on professional expertise.
- (2) third-party review and appraisal will be provided in the case of objects of substantial market value.
- (3) ratification of action by Washington State Arts Commission.

- (4) artists whose work is being considered for deaccessioning shall be notified by reasonable means. "Reasonable means" is a written notification to the latest known address on file at the Washington State Arts Commission.

II.B. The Art in Public Places Program staff, in consultation with the Washington State Arts Commission's Executive Director, shall have the authority to initiate action that may lead to deaccession to the extent necessary, for the purposes such as safety and liability.

#### II.C. Methods of Disposal

Every effort should be taken to identify and evaluate the various advantages and yields available through different means of disposal. Works that are recommended for deaccessioning can be removed in one of the following ways:

- (1) The work, in its current condition, may be offered to the Artist at Salvage Cost.
- (2) Sold--Sale may be through auction, gallery resale, or direct bidding by individuals.

Provision Changes and Resale of the WSAC contracts for commissioning and purchase of artwork states, "While recognizing that the state does not have legal mechanism permitting the sale of works of art, the state agrees that if in the future the state does sell the WORK during the life of the ARTIST the state shall pay the artist a sum of fifteen percent (15%) of the appreciated value of the "WORK". The remaining 85% shall be assigned for acquisition of artwork through the Art in Public Places program, to become part of the State Art Collection.

- (3) Exchanged. Trade may be through artist, gallery, museum or other institution. The Commission may accept the exchange of the artwork for one or more other artworks that the Commission is willing to include in the State's collection and that has/have an aggregate appraised value equal to the fair market value of the Commission's artwork. "Fair market value" is based on appraisals by a minimum of two independent professionals.
- (4) Destroyed. In the event the artwork has been destroyed, or damaged beyond repair at a reasonable cost, or has no or only a negligible value, it may be disposed of as scrap.

II.D. Complete and accurate records, including photographs and circumstances of disposal, will be maintained on each object removed from the collection. When disposing of an artwork, all records for the work are removed from the active files, both hard copy and electronic artwork files are placed in a deaccessioned collection file.

revised 2/99

## **King County Public Art Collection Accession and Deaccession Policy, 2004**

### ACCESSION AND DEACCESSION

- 1.1 **ACCESSIONING ARTWORK.** Accessioning is the formal acceptance of an artwork into the King County Public Art Collection. Accessioning artwork into the Collection indicates the intent to apply professional standards of care, display, and maintenance over the life of the artwork, or until the artwork is no longer displayable and is deaccessioned from the Collection.
- 1.2 Artworks will be accessioned into the King County Public Art Collection only upon completion of all facets of the commissioning or purchasing contract.
  - 1.2.1 The artist's signed contract transferring title for the artwork and clearly defining the rights and responsibilities of all parties will accompany every acquisition. In the case of Interagency or Interlocal Agreements, a copy of the agreement, and signatures of all parties will be kept in the County Public Art offices.
  - 1.2.2 Acquisitions result from the projects of the King County Public Art Program, except in the case of gifts, which will be reviewed and accessioned in accordance with the King County policy on gifts.
- 1.3 **DEACCESSIONING ARTWORK.** The deaccessioning of artwork is the removal of an object from the King County Public Art Collection. This includes the removal of the artwork from its public site, removal from the maintenance cycle, and moving of records, both hard copy and electronic, into a Deaccessioned Collection file.
  - 1.3.1 **CONTENT.** Once an artwork has been accessioned, it may not be deaccessioned on the basis of content.
  - 1.3.2 **GROUND FOR DEACCESSIONING.** An artwork may be considered for deaccession under the following conditions only:
    - 1.3.2.1 **THEFT.**
    - 1.3.2.2 **DAMAGE BEYOND REASONABLE REPAIR.** The artwork has been damaged beyond repair, damaged to the extent that it no longer represents the artist's intent, or damaged to the extent that the expenses of restoration and repair are found to equal or exceed current market value of the artwork.

- 1.3.2.3 LACK OF SUITABLE SITE. The artwork is not, or is only rarely, on display due to lack of a suitable site.
- 1.3.2.4 SITE ALTERATION. For site-integrated or site-specific artworks, the site for which the artwork was specifically created is structurally or otherwise altered and can no longer accommodate the artwork, is made publicly inaccessible as a result of new construction, demolition, or security enhancement, or has its surrounding environment altered in a way that significantly and adversely impacts the artwork.
- 1.3.2.5 SITE ACQUISITION OR SALE. For site-integrated or site-specific artworks, the site for which the artwork was specifically created is sold or acquired by an entity other than King County.
- 1.3.2.6 TEMPORARY ACQUISITION. The artwork was purchased as a semi-permanent acquisition and the County's predetermined period of obligation is terminated.
- 1.3.2.7 SAFETY. There is a documented history of incident(s) that shows the artwork is a threat to public safety.
- 1.3.2.8 DISASSOCIATION UNDER VARA. The artist legally exercises the right of disassociation granted by the Visual Artists Rights Act of 1990, preventing the use of his or her name as the creator of the artwork.
- 1.3.2.9 EXCESSIVE MAINTENANCE. The artwork requires excessive maintenance.
- 1.3.2.10 COMPARABLE QUALITY. The artwork has been determined by the Public Art Commission's deaccession process to be of inferior quality relative to the quality of other works in the collection or the County wishes to replace the artwork with a work of more significance by the same artist.
- 1.3.2.11 PROVENANCE. At the time of accessioning, complete information on the provenance of the artwork was not available, or more information has since become available, indicating that the artwork should not be part of the King County Public Art Collection.

1.3.3 DEACCESSION PROCESS. At the conclusion of the Cyclical Maintenance Survey, staff will prepare a recommendation for deaccession of artworks from the Collection for review, evaluation, and action by the King County Public Art Commission. Artists whose work is being considered for deaccession shall be notified by mail using the current address provided by the artist. At a regularly scheduled Public Art Commission meeting, King County Public Art Program staff will present reports on artworks to consider for deaccession that include:

- a) Reasons for the suggested deaccession accompanied by such other documentation and information as may be relevant.
- b) Acquisition method, cost, and estimated current market value.
- c) Documentation of correspondence with the artist.
- d) Photo documentation of site conditions (if applicable).
- e) In the case of damage, a report that documents the original cost of the artwork, estimated market value, and the estimated cost of repair.
- f) In the case of theft, an official police report and a report prepared by the agency responsible for the site of the loss.

The Commission may decide to seek additional information and/or designate an advisory panel composed of visual art professionals.

1.3.4 The decision to deaccession artwork will result from a majority vote by the King County Public Art Commission. Upon this decision to deaccession artwork, the Commission will consider what action should be taken, with priority given to public benefit from the Collection. Every step will be taken to arrive at a mutual balance between observing the rights of the artist and public benefit. Actions in order of priority:

- a) Trade through artist, gallery, museum, or other institutions for one or more other artwork(s) of comparable value by the same artist.
- b) Long term/indefinite/permanent loan to museum collection or governmental agency.
- c) Sale through art auction, art gallery, dealer, or direct bidding by individuals. The original artist shall have first right of refusal to purchase his or her artwork at its current market value. Any pre-existing contractual agreements between the artist and the County regarding resale shall be honored.
- d) In special situations, the King County Public Art Program staff can negotiate the transfer of an artwork to another entity. For site-integrated or site-specific artworks, when the site for which the artwork was specifically created is sold or acquired by an entity other than King County, the ownership of the artwork can transfer to that entity. Artwork in the Public Art Collection should be in exhibitable condition and

continue to reflect the artist's original intent. Should the artwork selected for transfer need to be repaired cleaned, or restored, the negotiated transfer will include conservation provisions and, unless negotiated otherwise, the receiving entity pays for the restoration. The receiving entity should have an art plan that defines their commitment to the artist and the continued care of the artwork.

- e) Destruction or recycling of materials comprising the artwork so that no piece is recognizable as part of that artwork.

- 1.3.5 In the event the artist disagrees with the decision of the King County Public Art Commission, the artist may request reconsideration of the deaccession. This request must be filed in writing within 30 days of the Commission's deaccession decision, and it must be based on information that was not considered during the Commission's meeting on the deaccession.
- 1.3.6 The Personal Property and Inventory Control sections of the County will be notified after the King County Public Art Commission's action regarding deaccessioned artworks.
- 1.3.7 **DISPOSITION** The artwork, or its remains, shall be disposed of by the King County Public Art Program staff, or its agents, upon deaccession action. It is the obligation of the King County Public Art Program to ensure that all disposals with regard to the Collection be formally and publicly conducted and adequately documented.
- 1.3.8 A permanent record of the artwork's inclusion in the King County Public Art Collection, and reasons for its removal, shall be maintained in a Deaccessioned Collection file, and will be kept as a separate section of the King County Public Art Collection records.
- 1.3.9 No artworks shall be sold or traded to staff of the King County Office of Cultural Resources or members of the King County Public Art Commission, consistent with King County conflict of interest policies.
- 1.3.10 All proceeds from the sale of any artwork from the King County Public Art Collection shall be deposited in the Public Art Fund. Funds from artwork sales may be used in any manner consistent with the enabling legislation of the Public Art Program and County policies regarding public artwork.

## 2 COLLECTION FILES

- 2.1 All information with regard to accessioned artworks shall be maintained in an accurate, orderly and retrievable form. All artworks accessioned into the collection will be documented in the following manner:
- 2.1.1 The artwork will be catalogued with accession number, determined by year of accession and sequence of placement into the collection.
  - 2.1.2 Maintenance will be evaluated and established.
  - 2.1.3 A hard file, with a copy of pertinent contract information, maintenance scheduling, and information about the artist, including current address, and a site contact person, shall be established.
  - 2.1.4 Photographic documentation of the artwork will be provided by the artist: one black and white 8" x 10" photograph and two color slides.
  - 2.1.5 Artworks having multiple pieces or intricate parts may be required to have additional documentation and/or replacement parts.
  - 2.1.6 Photographic documentation will also be placed in the file after extensive maintenance, remodeling, or cleaning of an artwork.
  - 2.1.7 A written report by the project manager shall accompany all acquisitions and shall include the following:
    - a) A statement from the artist outlining the intention, aesthetic, symbolism, and cultural or ethnic basis of the artwork, as applicable.
    - b) "Care and Information sheet" completed by the artist, with specifications regarding specialty materials, paints, grouts, tiles, etc., used in creating the artwork, to assist in any maintenance and/or replacement artwork.
    - c) A statement describing intended public access, site relation, longevity, jurisdictional information, selection method, funding sources, and identifying all parties on record.
    - d) Any and all negotiated agreements with other county or non-county agencies and/or entities.

- 2.1.8 Artworks designed to be ephemeral or semi-permanent may be accessioned into the collection for a predetermined length of time. Records of those artworks will be kept in the County Deaccessioned Collection file after deaccessioning.

### 3 SITING AND ACCESS

- 3.1 Artworks in the King County Public Art Collection may be sited on County-owned or non-County property, as long as public access is ensured, and professional standards of display and/or presentation are followed.
  - 3.1.1 When County-owned artworks are sited on property which has been or will be conveyed to another agency, the King County Public Art Program may remove the work prior to the conveyance of the property, or may enter into an Interlocal Agreement with that entity which specifies the rights, responsibilities, and remedies of all parties with regard to stewardship, maintenance, and presentation of the artwork.
  - 3.1.2 When County-owned artworks are sited on County or non-County property and conditions around the artwork change, the King County Public Art Program will evaluate a staff recommendation with regard to potential courses of action. These may include, but are not limited to, the resiting of the artwork or negotiating with the non-County entity toward conveyance of the work. If title to the object is conveyed, the artwork will be deaccessioned in accordance with deaccession policy.

### 4 MAINTENANCE

- 4.1 The King County Public Art Program has an ethical obligation to assure the safety and preservation of its artworks and art sites. The King County Public Art Program will review all artworks for safe exhibition, public interaction and/or use, transport, and evaluation through regular condition surveys and conservation activity.
- 4.2 Artists are required to provide accurate maintenance information through completion of the Care and Information sheet attached to commission and purchase contracts. Artwork will not be accessioned without this information.
- 4.3 Artworks within the King County Public Art Collection shall be maintained, to the extent reasonable, in accordance with the Care and Information Sheet or maintenance manual provided by the artist upon completion of commission or time of purchase.

- 4.4 Artworks will be surveyed and maintained on an annual basis, in accordance with the established Cyclical Maintenance Plan, as proscribed in the report Maintaining Public Art: A Collection Survey and Condition Report on the King County Arts Commission's Public Art Collection, prepared by Erin Younger, Visual Arts Coordinator and Robert Randlett, Project Consultant, in Sept. 1989.
- 4.5 MAINTENANCE DEFINITIONS. The following definitions will be used to assess the maintenance needs of the artworks in the King County Public Art Collection:
- 4.5.1 REGULAR MAINTENANCE: The upkeep of the visual aspect of an artwork, including dusting, surface cleaning, and continued visual access and intended use, generally monitored by the client agency.
- 4.5.2 EXTRAORDINARY MAINTENANCE: The upkeep of structural aspects of an artwork, including integrity of overall surface (which may include paint, sealant and/or finishes), internal skeleton or surfaces, replacement or recreation of individual elements, and changes in the immediate environs of a work, generally overseen by the Public Art Program staff.
- 4.5.3 STEWARDSHIP: The moral responsibility for the integrity of artwork in terms of record keeping, provenance, including display and/or loan of artworks and images, visual documentation and use of said documentation to represent the original artwork and the King County Public Art Collection. Stewardship also implies a respect to the intentions of the principal partners in the commission or purchase of the artwork including the artist, client agency, and the mission of the King County Public Art Program.
- 4.5.4 EXCEPTIONAL MAINTENANCE: The King County Public Art Program recognizes that some artworks need exceptional, ongoing maintenance, beyond the scope of the annual maintenance survey, which is a negotiated responsibility of the client agency. This commitment must be approved by the client agency, before such artworks are accessioned.
- 4.6 MAINTENANCE STANDARDS
- 4.6.1 When artworks are found to be in need of repair, relocation, restoration or conservation, the King County Public Art Program shall be responsible for taking corrective action, and for assuring that the maintenance

work is undertaken in accordance with appropriate professional standards.

- 4.6.2 Non-integrated artworks should be sited appropriately with preservation and conservation as a significant consideration. Artworks may be removed if site changes compromise the safety or integrity of the artwork.
- 4.6.3 Integrated artworks and Artist Made Building Parts will be accessioned to the Collection only after a clear written agreement of partnership is forged between the client agency and the King County Public Art Program to determine appropriate standards of maintenance.

April 1991

TO: Richard Bennett

FROM: Loren Taipale

RE: **PLAZA WATER GARDEN - 1) DETERIORATION; 2) MAINTENANCE CONCERNS**

1. Supply piping imbedded in concrete is rusting and flaking very badly. Pencil sized hole found in suction pipe.
2. Top eight inches of water level leaks out at a rate of 74 gallons/hour. Not running fountain now until suspect areas can be patched. Repair assessment will be made at that time.
3. Concrete deteriorating:
  - a. Around skimmers
  - b. Cracked at base of tubs
  - c. Cracks in sinking and raised concrete walkway
4. Inside of tub needs to be patched this summer.
5. Water jets imbedded in concrete thus removal for repair difficult and would jeopardize seal integrity.
6. Rocks still breaking loose from base.
7. Surrounding trees have outgrown original design specifications:
  - a. Roots cracking cement
  - b. Continuous dropping of needles, cones and branches;These should all be removed.
8. Very easy to vandalize; every week one finds bottles, cans, rocks and/or clothing in water.
9. Safety hazard - is a very attractive play area on and off hours. Have witnessed people:
  - a. Climbing on cement
  - b. Walking through water and over water jets

This water is chemically treated with pool grade chlorine but there is no signage or means of keeping people out of the water. Someone could get seriously hurt or even drown in this remote area with no quick emergency response available.

Page Two

The above mentioned problems have created a maintenance requirement very hard, if not impossible, to meet with present staffing. In view of this, recommendations are as follows:

1. Funding for extensive overhaul of plumbing cement work and leak repair.
2. Remove all surrounding trees.
3. Install signage and chain link fence around tubs and ponds to restrict access.
4. Increase staff size by .5 FTE.
5. Discontinue use and fill in with dirt.



ASLA

February 25, 2004

Rob Fukia, Director  
Department of General Administration  
State of Washington  
PO Box 41000  
Olympia Washington 98504-1000

Dear Mr. Fukia:

It has come to my attention that The Water Garden on the capitol grounds in Olympia, Washington is in danger of demolition because it has become an obstacle to redevelopment of the area.

As the President of the Northern California Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, I urge you to consider options for preserving this landscape architectural landmark. The Water Garden design, by Lawrence Halprin, was a precursor of important, award-winning Halprin-designed projects in major U.S. cities, as well as projects world wide. Mr. Halprin is a highly-regarded member of our profession, whose work has influenced generations of future landscape architects.

The original design of fountains and landscape garden was to provide a green haven for employees and visitors to the capitol grounds, as the sound of the cascading waters provided them a much needed "refreshment."

Removal of this landmark would present both a cultural loss and public loss not only to the State of Washington, but to the all of those who know the positive advantages of having a garden with flowing water as a respite in the midst of their work-a-day world.

We believe the preservation and eventual restoration of Mr. Halprin's Water Garden could once again become nature's "jewel" on the State of Washington capitol campus.

Sincerely,

Sarah Sutton, ASLA  
President

AMERICAN  
SOCIETY OF  
LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTS  
NORTHERN  
CALIFORNIA  
CHAPTER  
5 THIRD STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO  
CA 94103-3200  
415-974-5430  
STAFF@ASLA-NCC.  
ADMN.ORG

October 15, 2004

Donovan Michael Gray  
Preservation Design Reviewer  
Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
[donovang@cted.wa.gov](mailto:donovang@cted.wa.gov)

Dear Donovan,

On behalf of the Olympia Arts Commission, thank you for coming to the board meeting on October 14, 2004, to collect community feedback for the report on the Halprin Fountain.

While the Commission's role is to act in an advisory capacity to the Olympia City Council, and not to weigh in on matters of the State Public Art Collection, the board nevertheless appreciated the opportunity to make individual comments.

Commissioners expressed general interest in the possibility of retaining the Halprin Fountain in our community. Some of the individual observations are as follows:

- Restoring the fountain would add an additional, and much appreciated urban water feature to our community.
- The restored fountain would again create a living refuge among the broad paved plazas and concrete buildings of the East Campus, especially appreciated by pedestrians and neighbors in the South Capitol Neighborhood.
- As an expression of its time, the piece is worth saving from a historical as well as an aesthetic perspective.
- The possibility to undergo restoration of the fountain under the guidance of the artist himself is an invaluable opportunity, given the age of the artist and the esteemed reputation of his work.

Feel free to add this summary to your report, and again, thank you for inviting community response concerning the Halprin Fountain.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Johnson  
Arts & Events Manager  
City of Olympia  
Via email

***SOUTH CAPITOL NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION (SCNA)***

October 12, 2004

Mr. Donovan Gray  
Preservation Design Reviewer  
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Dear Mr. Gray,

The South Capitol Neighborhood Association board of directors recently discussed your survey concerning the Lawrence Halprin fountain sculpture on the East Capitol Campus. The Board has voted in favor of issuing this letter of support for restoring and maintaining the fountain at its current location.

**The South Capitol Neighborhood is a Registered National Historic District, and while the Halprin fountain is certainly a modern structure by comparison, it has nonetheless become part of the extended cultural fabric of our neighborhood. Board members agree that, ideally, the structure should be restored to its original, functional state, for the enjoyment of our residents, state employees, and our community.**

As you know, our neighbors frequent the east campus grounds; it is a pleasant walking area that contains many unique artworks and features. We believe the fountain is an integral part of the East Campus and deserves to be retained and restored. We also recognize that it is one of very few Halprin sculptures in our state, created specifically for the current site. These factors add to its value and distinctiveness.

We believe that protecting and maintaining significant works such as the Halprin fountain is congruent with the state's goals of historic preservation, and that we should work to integrate it as part of the renovation that is now taking place. Removing the structure may have the unintended effect of uprooting an important cultural and artistic anchor that provides our neighbors and other citizens with a sense of community and heritage.

Thank you for asking for input from our neighborhood. We appreciate the opportunity to express our Board's support for maintaining and restoring the Halprin fountain.

Sincerely,

Alan

Alan J. Hardcastle  
President, South Capitol Neighborhood Association  
406 18th ave SE  
Olympia, WA 98501  
360/786-9297  
ahardcastle@earthlink.net





STATE OF WASHINGTON

**Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation**

1063 S. Capitol Way, Suite 106 • Olympia, Washington 98501  
(Mailing Address) PO Box 48343 • Olympia, Washington 98504-8343  
(360) 586-3065 Fax Number (360) 586-3067

October 5, 2004

To: Employment Security Department Employees  
Maple Park Building  
Olympia

Fm: Donovan Gray  
Preservation Design Reviewer  
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Re: “Water Garden” Fountain User Survey

Our office has been contracted by General Administration to study future options for the Lawrence Halprin fountain sculpture immediately north of your building on the East Capitol Campus. For those not familiar, it is the collection of concrete structures sheltered with trees just southeast of the Korean War Memorial. While the fountain originally had water as one of its features, the water was shut off in 1992 due to perpetual leaks that couldn't be repaired at that time.

The work can be viewed at <http://www.ga.wa.gov/visitor/WaterGarden/Garden.htm>

As part of Phase V of the East Capitol Campus redevelopment, the fountain may be restored, removed or altered.

I'd like to hear from employees in the area who have opinions about the fountain, what you like and don't like about it, and what you would like to see happen with it in the future. I've not designed a "multiple choice" or other structured survey, but would like to have you e-mail me your thoughts in an open-ended format.

Thank you for your consideration and time. If you would send me your responses by Friday, October 8, that would be much appreciated. You may also call me at 586-3088 if you need further information in order to respond.

mailto: [donovang@cted.wa.gov](mailto:donovang@cted.wa.gov).

ADMINISTERED BY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY, TRADE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Employment Security Department, Maple Park Buildings  
Employee Survey Responses

I suggest that the fountain be removed and replace by some type of functional design that would allow staff to take their breaks at. In the summertime and in good weather, I see a lot of staff outside sitting at the tables or the concrete structure north of ESD.

*Howard Nanto*

Please Keep The Halprin Fountain Sculpture...Thank you!

*Kimberlee Holder*

The fountain, in my estimation, was always psychologically beneficial and soothing when it had water running in it. It was a gentle respite, easy to escape too from the office, a place of solitude that offered relief from the stressful activity of the job. I would like to see it go back to its original condition as a flowing water receptacle.

*Bill McDonald*

I work at Maple Park and would prefer the fountain be restored. I love being able to go "inside" that area and feel sheltered from external influences.

*Craig Baldwin*

If the water feature can be restored, that would be my preference. I would enjoy that. Thanks for asking.

*Mike Michener*

Please just repair it!! It has brought me a lot of GREAT memories! Please do not destroy it.

*Bob Watson*

My name is Freda Williams and I work in the Maple Park Bldg. I have worked here for a very short time and have never seen the fountain, however I was told that there was a fountain at one time and everyone I spoke with seems to have enjoyed the scenery of a fountain

when it existed. I personally would also enjoy the sight. I know it must be costly to have such an item and I would imagine that ultimately the cost would be a determining factor. I hope though it could be budgeted. Besides, the Soldiers need something beautiful to look at all day! (smile)

*Freda Williams*

I THINK THE STRUCTURES SHOULD BE TORN DOWN AND REPLACED WITH SOME KIND FLOWER BEDS THE STRUCTURES ARE A HAZARD AS THERE ARE ALWAYS LITTLE CHILDREN CLIMBING ON THEM AND WE HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE SO FAR THAT NO ONE HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY HURT. A FLOWER OR SHRUB PLANTING WOULD LOOK MUCH NICER AND NOT BLOCK THE VIEW OF THE REST OF THE PLAZA

*Tim McBride*

I would like to see it restored to its former state with the water running if at all possible. It would need to be cleaned as well.

*Lori Wallace*

I have been disappointed by the lack of water in the fountain. I have spent time at the Freeway Park fountain in Seattle and at the fountain in Portland and have found them lovely. The only weakness in the fountain beside the lack of water is that it is so enclosed, rather than open to the wider Capitol campus.

I hope that the fountain is retained, with water, as it was intended to function.

*Steve Hodes*

I love this structure it brings a uniqueness to the Plaza. If the fountain was activated with running water and more flowers/plants would inhabit the area than that would be really beautiful.

Of course, it would be costly to maintain the fountain and there would be a need for regular surveillance. But I would love to see it stay.

*Pamela Hoang*

I don't use that area often but when I do, it's in the summer. That is the coolest place in the area. Amazingly it stays very cool in the summer heat. It provides a nice little get away without being that far from our building. I think with a few little fixes, it would be fine as is (more

greenery to be more of a garden). I do see a lot of other staff strolling though the sculptures and I am sure they are looking for a cool, quiet place to take a break. Thank you for asking our opinion, we don't get that often.

*Clara Roberson*

Restore to its original splendor and incorporate new technology.  
Thank you!

*Alicia Cárdenas-Short*

I would love to see the fountain repaired and working!

*Sharon Hitt*

This fountain was always a sanctuary and place of reflection. It is beneficial to all staff who visit it for a few minutes during the day or week. It should be restored with water running, or moved to an area that will allow its' natural purpose for citizens and state employees.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

*George Mante*

If at all possible, I would like to have it repaired and again function as a fountain. It's like an 'oasis' in the middle of all this concrete and brick. With the surrounding trees, it was quite pleasant to sit and vegetate, even if for a few minutes. I think people that used the area appreciated the sound of the water - helps de-stress. Also, it was nice to sit and enjoy the coolness during particularly hot days.

I've worked with the state enough years - in the DOL building across the plaza - when the garage and plaza were being constructed - from the time the Olay High School was demolished to the ground excavation and building of the plaza. I look forward to the completion of the repairs to the plaza, due to the earthquake damage. We truly have a beautiful capitol campus.

*Joan Macmillan*

I wasn't here when it had water in it but now it is a sad looking thing. I think it looks unsafe and I never walk by it in the evening or early morning as I feel it gives someone a place they could hide. I think a fountain is always a wonderful refreshing item to have but this would not be it. I like the Korean Memorial and realize that it will be relocated. I would appreciate places to sit

and look at beautiful trees and gardens.

*Barbara T. Burgener*

I would like the old cement removed since kids like to hang around it & skateboard. It seems very dangerous to me.

I would however like to have the trees remain there and/or a covering installed for the smokers or anyone who wants to be outside when the rains hit us. Thanks.

*Laurie Collier*

I think it would be a great meditation garden

Monica Tanner

I would love to see the fountain restored or replaced with some kind of water garden.

Thanks for asking for our input .

*Taghi Ghanaie*

I barely recall when the fountain had water, but now that you mention it I would vote strongly in the YES category for restoring the fountain so that water can once again flow. I love fountains and find them extremely soothing and beautiful.

It does seem, however, that children have been allowed to play on and around it for some time and this would be a hazard. Actually, without the water it seems like it would be a liability issue anyway.

You may find that some employees don't even know it is/was a fountain! Thanks for asking!

*Mary M. Mendoza*

I really would enjoy it if the water could be returned to the fountain. I am not particular about what the final product looks like, I would just really enjoy a working fountain.

*Debbie Calcote*

Good afternoon - I would love to see the fountain fixed - I love to go there, I can sit and relax on my break and I think it would be a great place once finished for all to enjoy.

*KaSandra C. Schoelkopf*

Thanks for your inquiry about "what to do" opinions.

I have lived in Olympia since 1966, and do recall how great that fountain was when filled with moving water. Very calming and soothing. My vote would be to restore it to it's original condition.

Also, I might add the trees should be trimmed back quite a bit. As is, they create hiding places for such as teenagers wanting to sneak in there to do whatever illicit acts. I have noted some empty beer cans there, so that is a concern. It is not practical to police the grounds 24 hours a day (maybe they do, I do not know). At any rate, less privacy would help to reduce this sort of thing. Also, tree trimming would create more of an airy, open, feeling and lend to the original beauty of the structure.

Thanks for the opportunity to share my opinions.

*Kay Jarvela*

I appreciated the fountain when the water was a part of it. Since then, I think it has presented somewhat of a danger. I see children playing on it frequently and am concerned they could fall and be hurt, due to its height. They also use it for skate boarding, another risk. I do like the seating area. If there could continue to be some sort of seating that would be great!

*Pat Iyall-Barnes*

I would like to see that the sculpture be restored to what it once was. I don't like to see it removed from the capital campus.

*Michelle Shepro*

The sculpture is the only cool place to sit on a hot sunny day. The tables and benches are, for the most part, out in the sun. We don't have hundreds of hot days in the summer but it is nice to have someplace where we can be outside and out of the sun without sitting on the lawn.

I do also think the sculpture is unique but my main concern is an attractive, peaceful, cool place to spend breaks in the summer.

*Linda Huggett*

We don't need it there (my opinion)

Thank You,

*MinhXuan Nguyen*

Thank you so much for the opportunity to respond your water fountain "open-ended" survey. I understand from your memo that the fountain can be restored, removed or altered. I believe the fountain is a real asset to the plaza and suggest both restoring and altering the structure. I realize that budget constraints must be considered, however, I suggest altering the structure to allow for more open viewing of the fountain. The current design hides the fountain. I assume the designer wanted to create a serene internal setting. Maybe this serene setting can be maintained by removing some of the cement structure and planting additional trees. Thank you.

*Susan Harris*

This is a nice area for employees to use. It offers a degree of privacy while being accessible to several major state buildings. To loose it would be a shame. I would suggest that come of the shrubbery be removed to open the space up and reduce maintenance due to leaves and then restore it to working order.

*Chip Kormas*

For what it's worth, here is my opinion.

I have only worked at this building for about 7 years so I wasn't around when the fountain was functional. I've heard a lot of stories though. (good and bad) I've always thought that it would be nice if it could be restored to it's original condition. I was told by a co-worker that the designer of the fountain was somehow famous now and that it would be a shame to knock down one of his first pieces of work. (not sure if that is true or not though)

On the down side, in the summer we like to go there during break time because it provides shade for us. This gets difficult for us sometimes as there are school age kids playing there most afternoons. Running, yelling, jumping, throwing garbage, etc. Seems to be a popular "tag" spot. We have also found items such as a sleeping bag, clothes, towels.....evidence that maybe someone was living around there and used the area to "stash" their belongings. If the fountain was restored, there would have to be someone assigned to deal with these issues.

*Donetta Hanson*

I really enjoy that area. I wander through there frequently to relax from a stressful job. I enjoy the different flowers that seem to be flourishing in that protected area and I think moving water would make it even more relaxing and calming than it already is. Please do your best to keep that little refuge.

*Gail Nispel*

I would like to see the fountain turned back on.

*Wayne Sullivan*

If the fountain has historical value, I would like to see it moved to another location if possible so that the public may enjoy the fountain. I find it very peaceful and a place to relax.

*Sharon Epperson*

I would like to see the fountain restored. It not only adds to the look of the plaza, but it is calming to be able to sit by it on lunch breaks. Several times a week I cross Capitol Way and sit by the Tivoli Fountain to have my lunch.

I also hope we can keep our trees!!

I appreciate you asking for our opinion.

*Patty Reed*

In my short time here at ESD, I have enjoyed the garden in the plaza. It is a nice, quiet place to escape from work for a few minutes.

My only suggestion to improve the area would be to somehow fill in the areas of the former fountain that collect water. The purpose of this would be to prevent (further) mosquito populations from developing there. I don't know how this would be best done. You could fill in the reservoirs with coarse river stones or gravel, but water could still fill the area. You could fill in the area with soil, and plant shrubs, but again, there might be a drainage problem.

Thanks for asking for our ideas.

*Sophie Mayer*

I used to enjoy sitting by the fountain and eating lunch or reading--it was a nice quiet place with the sound of water & flowers. Now, it's more intimidating than peaceful, it's dirty, no water in the fountain, not well maintained. Someone yesterday asked me where it was, they didn't even realize there was a fountain.

I hope something can be done to make it a nice place again.

*Cheryl McBride*

As I was growing up, I loved visiting (and I'll admit, playing in) this fountain with my dad. I would love to see this fountain restored to a working state.

*John Cunningham*

I'm so grateful to have an opportunity to vote on this at all. I'm really sentimental about the fountain and hope it could be updated and restored. I appreciate the design and the way it differentiates itself from the surrounding area's tone and feel. It's "grotto-like" in its serenity and offers some quiet. I loved going in there for a few moments to re-balance!

I remember very clearly when the water aspect worked and so much appreciated it. Thanks for the chance to speak up about it!

*Catherine Rucker*

I'd love to see the fountain restored. I use the area now for a quiet escape, and without the water it is a beautiful relaxing place to sit and clear your head. With the water running it would be even better.

*Marie Thomas*

Thank you for asking our opinion. I really like the structure even if it doesn't have water. It is a place to enjoy during the warmer seasons, spring, summer and fall to sit and read and or reflect during breaks and lunch time. It usually is quiet and also provides some shade. I hope that you do preserve and don't remove it.

*Yvonne Dunn*

I think it would be nice to have the fountain working again, whether it stays the same or is re-modeled.

*Kathryn Riske*

I would like to see the Halprin Fountain restored. It is very nice to look at.

*Judy Johns*

Personally I would like to see it used as a water fountain. For the longest time I had no idea what it was. If it is not going to be used for the purpose it was intended, why have it at all? Thank you asking for opinions from employees.

*Sharon Martin*

Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts on the Lawrence Halprin fountain. I have to admit that I never knew the name of this fountain. There is nothing there to identify it.

It would be so nice to keep the fountain in some way there and labeled. It is such a nice little sanctuary in the middle of the Capital campus. What would even be better is if there could once again be water flowing through it.

Every day I walk through this structure to feel that little bit of peace in a somewhat hectic world. These are my thoughts on the fountain, and again I thank you for the opportunity to express them.

*Kari Newitt*

I came to work for Employment Security in April of 1993, so I never have had the pleasure of seeing the fountain in operation. Personally, I think it would be kind of a shame to see it go! After all, even though it hasn't functioned as a fountain for more than a decade now, it still has always earned its place on the campus grounds. It serves as a playground, a picnic area, a quiet retreat, & an oasis in the summer from the heat. I guess, I just think that once in awhile on our way to the future, it's nice to save something from our past! Thank you for listening & I'll be anxious to see what happens.

*Susan Shrable*

I have recently started working here at ESD. Honestly, I didn't even know what those huge blocks of concrete were till I received this memo. I don't visit the garden simply because all the

people who smoke congregate there. I don't smoke so I don't go there. I think it would be cool to have the water running through there but I can't say I would enjoy it anymore than I do now simply because of the smokers. I don't have a problem with people who smoke, I'm just giving you my honest opinion.

*Holly Wezenberg*

I've always (for as long as I've worked in the 106 and 212 Maple Park buildings - about 17 years!) wondered why there was no water in the fountain!

If it could be repaired, I think that it would be delightful to hear the sound of moving water in the plaza area.....restful and relaxing for those visiting the war memorial or those taking a break from their work.

I hope that you'll decide to repair the fountain.

Thanks for the opportunity to give my opinion.

*Patricia M. Durston*

I have worked in the ESD building since 1990. I enjoy sitting in the fountain area when the weather is nice and sometimes when the wind is brisk. The walls provide a wind break and make it very pleasant. I personally would like to see the fountain working. Listening to running water is soothing. We are working under a lot of stress and pressure these days, every little break from that is welcome. Thank you for listening,

*Becky Richards*

Personally, I would like to see it restored. I have fond memories of how the fountain looked around 1975-1978. As I recall, there was the fountain, plus it had the feel of a Japanese flower garden. The soothing 'waterfall' sounds gave the area a serene, peaceful atmosphere and it was very popular spot in the spring and summer. Thanks for asking for my opinion!

*Sue Carlton*

Here are my two cents regarding the fountain:

Clean it up. Fill it. Turn it on. Maintain it. Make budgetary arrangements to keep it running. Beautify it over time with suitable plant material. Put in benches and picnic tables.

The entire plaza could use a facelift. If anything, commission more fountains and put in more gardens. Hit up Home Depot's and Loews' corporate philanthropy funds to provide the materials needed and collaborate with them to do a regional PR campaign touting their support. Open the place up to street level commerce. Put in some vendor locations and invite Dept. of Services for the Blind to get some coffee and sub sandwich franchises going. Put in some walking paths to bring people from the capitol and all of the agencies to see the improvements and patronize the vendors. The plaza is dead and it needs a kickstart -- otherwise, it's just wasted space.

Are we becoming a nation of worker drones who place no value on aesthetics in public life? I don't believe we are. Thanks for giving us the chance to comment.

*Rosalund Jenkins*

I think the Halprin Fountain is a nice place to get away on your break for some quiet time. I think restoring it would be best. I would love to see the fountain again. I am not familiar with whom the fountain is named after, but it would seem sad to the family to have something named after their family member destroyed or removed. I like the fountain and think it would be great to see life in it again.

*Karen R Mussman*

I worked here in Maple Park in the 80's when the fountain was filled with water. It was a wonderful place to sit, listen to the water and relax during our breaks. I would like to see it resurrected in some fashion so that it included a water feature. I don't know about liability issues, but I would love to again sit by the water on break.

Thanks for asking.

*Karen Malo*

Speaking for myself, I work on that side of the Maple Park Building and would like to see the fountain restored or altered. Even though there is no longer water in the area, it is still a nice place to go to get out of the building, and when it's hot during the summer it is a cool place to go out of the sun. From my understanding the trees will be gone, but a restored or altered version of what is there would be nice. Thank you for thinking of us that work in the Maple Park Building. Thank you.

*Jodi Twidwell*

I have worked in the 212 Maple Park Building since 1990, and have enjoyed the Halperin Fountains.

Because we enjoy good coastal rain for so much of about 7 months out of every 12, the fountain feature, while attractive, seemed a bit too much. I notice that lots of people like to climb on or sit upon the structures, but don't when they are wet.

I suspect that some artistic person could design an alteration that would simulate one or more fountain waterfalls, with lights or other features, yet would invite high-touch usage such as we enjoy today. I would not appreciate a "look-but-don't-touch" fountain as much as what we have today.

*Darrell Wallace*

First, thank you so much for asking!

The current Fountain structure is the only "island" out on the plaza where you can get any peace and privacy. When it rains the trees afford some shelter until fall and winter. There is no other "island of peace" out on the plaza.

If the fountains can't be fixed, a covered gazebo type structure with some kind of greenery for privacy. Something pretty to counteract all the technical work we do and the barren plaza.

Please brighten and soften our space!!

*Lucinda L. Boyd*

I am very sad about the cherry trees that have been eliminated in the front of the Maple Park Building and the other trees on the campus that have been removed. It's a shame that something couldn't have been done with them before they got to the condition that they had to be removed. The sculpture of the dancing girl has also been moved and I hope returned when this project is finished.

Now you are asking about the structure that used to have the fountain. The trees in and about it add much beauty to this part of the campus. I would hope that the structure and the trees can be preserved. The trees should be kept. The fountain should be a part of this campus area. It adds a lot of interest to the area during the day and provides for seating. There should be lights at night as it feels unsafe when you are walking by after dark.

I appreciate you asking for comments. The process for the other changes was unclear. You just see in the newspaper that trees are being removed and it is a done deal. I often wonder if the right consultants are involved in these projects. We won't see trees like the ones recently removed here and in the park downtown again in my lifetime. Such a shame. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

*Barbara Flaherty*

In my 20 plus years at Employment Security I enjoyed watching the fountain in the courtyard and miss the beauty and peaceful place to visit on my breaks. The area is still nice to visit but does not have the same affect so I don't visit the area as much. I would so like to see the restoration of the water feature again as I know of lots of co-workers that would too.

*Sue Boyd*

The removal of the Lawrence Halprin Fountain would be cost effective in the long run. Water will be conserved. I recommend that in its place a structure that draws people to it, a focal point in the plaza that flows with the current landscape project going on. Or a focal point that breaks away from the current landscaping to break up lines in the plaza. The structure that comes to mind would be a "Pergola" where people can gather. Something in the european style or more contemporary. Thank you for letting me have input on this subject.

*Ric Ybarra*

I was raised in this wonderful city. is nothing going to remain the same around here? My vote is to fix whatever is necessary to keep it going. They are doing quite enough around here!!!!!!!!!!!!

*Joy Collins*

I didn't realize it had been shut down for so long..... I say fix it and fill it..... it was always nice to sit there during breaks and lunch on a nice day

*Jim Schodt*

Mr. Gray, thank you for the opportunity to respond. I don't know the preservation issues you face regarding this structure, and I'm sure those may make your task more difficult. I've been concerned about the fountain area for quite some time. Children and teens love to climb up on top of the high walls, which seems like an accident waiting to happen. Except for them, from what I've observed, the area is rarely used. The improvements on the rest of the plaza, which have lowered the height of the structures, have given the plaza an open, inviting feeling. By contrast, the Halprin fountain and the tall concrete planters near our building seem oppressive and make you feel you're entering a bunker of some sort. The fountain area, in particular, is so cut off from view that I've been concerned both regarding safety of individuals in there, and the possibility persons malicious intent could hide there, stash explosives etc. (It makes me sad we have to think this way anymore.)

Again, thanks for the opportunity to provide input.

*Nikki Barnard*

I would like to see the fountain restored to its original beauty, the trees maintained, and the entire area worked into the design for this side of the plaza. It is such a delight to look out at a piece of nature in bloom along with seeing the birds, squirrels and other critters that use the fountain and its surrounds for shelter, food, etc.

Please keep the Fountain!!

*Rosie Lee*

I wasn't working here at Employment Security when the fountain was live. I joined the agency in 1993. Once in awhile during the summer's good weather, our staff have had our meetings in that area. We're out of site of the building, and it's a bit cooler.

Since I generally enter our building through the front door and work at the front of the building, I seldom see what's at the back of the building. I think that I'll wait and see what delight you have in store for us.

Thanks for asking.

*Karen Davis*



STATE OF WASHINGTON

**Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation**

1063 S. Capitol Way, Suite 106 • Olympia, Washington 98501  
(Mailing Address) PO Box 48343 • Olympia, Washington 98504-8343  
(360) 586-3065 Fax Number (360) 586-3067

October 6, 2004

To: Department of Transportation Employees  
East Campus  
Olympia

Fm: Donovan Gray  
Preservation Design Reviewer  
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Re: "Water Garden" Fountain User Survey

Our office has been contracted by General Administration to study future options for the Lawrence Halprin fountain sculpture immediately west of your building on the East Capitol Campus. For those not familiar, it is the collection of concrete formed structures sheltered with trees just southeast of the Korean War Memorial. While the fountain originally had water as one of its features, the water was shut off in 1992 due to perpetual leaks that couldn't be repaired at that time.

The work can be viewed at <http://www.ga.wa.gov/visitor/WaterGarden/Garden.htm>

As part of Phase V of the East Capitol Campus redevelopment, the fountain may be restored, removed or altered.

I'd like to hear from employees in the area who have opinions about the fountain, what you like and don't like about it, and what you would like to see happen with it in the future. I've not designed a "multiple choice" or other structured survey, but would like to have you e-mail me your thoughts in an open-ended format.

Thank you for your consideration and time. If you would send me your responses by Friday, October 8, that would be much appreciated. You may also call me at 586-3088 if you need further information in order to respond.

mailto: [donovang@cted.wa.gov](mailto:donovang@cted.wa.gov).

ADMINISTERED BY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY, TRADE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Department of Transportation, East Campus  
Employee Survey Responses

I, for one, would like to see the water garden restored. The photographs of it look wonderful and we need something peaceful like that.

*Ed Boselly*

I'm fine with taking it out due to the cost of running it and the waste of electricity and water (although it was beautiful). I'd love to see some other artistic natural element there if it could be maintained at low costs.

*Tuesday Serra Shean*

Please fix and keep the fountain.

*Jan Rohr*

This was a great fountain when it was running. It is still a great place to walk through. It would be great to see it restored and back in operation.

*John Anderson*

In response to the water garden fountain. PLEASE restore it. I always loved that fountain as a child and have been sad to see it everyday in such a sad state of disrepair, and would be sadder still if it were removed entirely.

*Thomasa W. Hume-Pontius*

I strongly feel that the state of Washington should repair the Lawrence Halprin fountain. When I was in high school (a million years ago), the fountain was working and it was a wonderful place to come and visit. Very peaceful, almost meditative. The water and vegetation worked well in contrast to the cold concrete forms to create a special spot for everyone. I remember little kids, especially loved coming there. Make it whole again and it will be a centerpiece for the whole campus!

My two cents,

*Streator Johnson*

I really enjoyed the fountain when it was working back in the 90's. I would favor fixing it. I believe its current non-functionality is a detriment to the projection of a positive image of state government to the public.

*Keith W. Anderson*

I am delighted that you have asked for opinions about the future of the Halprin fountain near the Transportation Building on the East Capitol Campus.

I have enjoyed the fountain, despite its lack of water since 1992, ever since I came to work at the Transportation Building in 1991. I read an article about it in an architecture magazine once, that pointed out the benefits of the "negative ions" created by running water, and also mentioned that Lawrence Halprin was the designer of Portland's famed People Fountain (which I also have fond memories of enjoying!)

Our fountain, even dry, is a haven. It is a shady place for a lunch-time catnap, a place for neighborhood children to play hide-and-seek, a great springtime garden location for a meditative morning break, and a tribute to excellent design. The trees planted in and around it are familiar friends to those of us who have lost our beloved cherry trees during the renewal of the plaza.

I encourage the state to renovate the fountain and restore it to full function. The relaxing and healthful benefits of running water and a quiet nook cannot be overstated, whether for state workers or community members. The Halprin "Water Garden" is a treasure and deserves to be preserved for the future.

Thank you again for asking for input. I would be pleased to talk with you further if I can be of help.

*Megan Davis*

Good Morning, I enjoy walking through the ( would be ) fountain area. I can imagine how nice it was when it was operational and wish that it would be again. It is a shame that we have such a resource to make our campus area more appealing just sitting unused and not maintained to the fullest potential. I for one hope it can be restored and made possible to become a working unit in the near future. Thanks for asking our opinions since we see it on a daily basis.

*Leta Jo Burgess*

Since I began working for WSDOT 6.5 years ago, I have been wondering what that concrete maze was intended to be. The fountain is not attractive to me. I do like the shading and solitude that it provides; although it is not a particularly good spot for sitting. My suggestion is to get rid of the fountain and replace it with a natural looking space that has trees and shade and provides some semblance of privacy. Make sure it is a no smoking zone--as soon as you add a place to seat, someone is going to smoke it up and essentially make it off limits to people with asthma.

One question--If it is decided that it will be replaced, what input will the public have on the fountains' replacement?

*Joel Gjuka*

It's a great idea to break up the monotony of the courtyard, an interesting structure with many opportunities to sit and find your own personal space. As long as you don't mind the cigarette smoke. Water might improve the air quality.

If you're thinking of restoring the site... it might be better to take the same idea, nooks and crannies, places to sit, a water feature, and create something approaching a natural look. The buildings here are so square, boring, and unnatural, there's already too much cement, too many blocks and straight lines. The plaza could serve as a relaxing lunchtime getaway, a spot of green amidst the square lives of cubicle inhabitants.

Just a thought.

*Liora Van Natta*

So it's a fountain? That's a great idea. It's a nice sanctuary for people who want to think, or for kids who want to play hide and go seek. We don't have many water features on the campus, and I think it would be great to have it restored to its original function.

*Albert Perez*

It would be a shame to remove a structure of historical and architectural significance because we are unable to identify where the water leaks are located. I would like to see this feature restored to its original beauty. I don't know how much more it would cost to restore this fountain compared with removal and re-landscaping. Even if it is marginally more expensive, it would be a good investment to restore this feature for the benefit of employees and visitors to the Capital Campus.

Thank you,

*Mark Gaines, PE*

All I can say is I have occasionally wandered thru the fountain over the years wishing I could have seen it when it was in operation. As far as restoring or tearing it out the costs should be assessed against the value to which it enhances the Plaza to make that decision. Too bad we couldn't have saved the money that was spent just a few years ago renovating the fountain in the WSDOT courtyard which was recently torn out to build elevators. Makes it look like GA has money to burn.

*Dennis Hamblet, P.E.*

The water feature itself should be eliminated. The walls should be kept. Fill in the area where water used to be and plant native flora. Wherever possible on the Capitol Campus native flora should be used. Since Campus is a tourist attraction as well as a functioning government office area, there should be interpretive signs identifying the flora and perhaps giving some of its natural history as well as its role in the State of Washington.

*Steve Rutkowski*

I've been in the WSDOT building for 6 years. I never knew that concrete structure was supposed to be a water fountain. I have never, personally, liked the structure because it appears intimidating to me because it is so dark and shadowy inside it. In fact, I try to walk as far away from it as possible after dark because it looks as though someone could hide in it without detection quite easily.

I would recommend it be opened up on a couple sides or removed entirely. Maybe a few benches underneath those trees would be more friendly.

*Joan Neff*

I truly believe the Water Garden Fountain should be preserved or repaired. The few times a year I visit the capital, I have observed all kinds of people enjoying the solitude and shade, by reading, knitting, thinking, exercising, and sometimes children playing in and around these great concrete structures. It would be a shame to remove something so well used and aesthetically pleasing. Save the structure, even if no water ever moves through there again and it must stay in it's present state.

*Scott Britain*

Thanks for the opportunity to chime in on this issue. I frequently sit on the water garden structure at lunch to read. I have often thought about what is needed there. While I think the design is dated and not really very attractive, I agree with the original concept of breaking up the large expanse of the plaza.

I would support leaving it there, and if it were not feasible to restore the functionality of the fountain, the structure should have some basic work done to make it more usable and finished looking. An inexpensive solution would be to leave the structure in place, remove the exposed plumbing, clean out the basins and fill them with dirt, and plant annual bedding plants or perennial shrubbery. It would still serve to make the plaza seem less massive, offer an area for readers (and smokers I'm afraid) to sit, and be more attractive than it is at the moment.

A full restoration, while it would be quite pleasant, would be expensive and might entice hippies to come and bathe there, and we wouldn't want clean hippies around would we?

Thanks again,

*Tim Hilliard*

Restore it under the condition that our parking fees aren't raised again to pay for the work!

Thanks for the opportunity to respond,

*Bryan Newbury*

I have been a WSDOT employee since 1976 and would like to see the fountain RESTORED !!!!!

Thanks for asking us to share our opinions.

*Patrisha Ballentine*

I tend to be someone who hates to see things change and feels strongly that our heritage should be preserved. But in this case, so some out-of-state guy decided we needed something to fill space and designed a water sculpture that didn't work properly right from the beginning. No real ties to our state, no special significance, it's only been here since the 1970's, and it hasn't worked at all in a dozen years.

Save the trees and dump the sculpture.

*Christie L. Vintilo*

I would love to see the Water Garden with water in it again. And please please don't tear it down. We have lost our beautiful trees, and if the water garden were to go too that would just be a shame. The water garden has always been a peaceful and lovely place to sit and eat lunch, but feel that it has fallen into disrepair, and of course no water. I've seen many children from schools and day care centers wandering thru, climbing on and just generally really enjoying the place. It needs to stay - that's my vote. Thanks.

*Laurel Gray*

I would like to see the fountain restored.

*Judy Millar*

I work in the Transportation Building. During the summer months the fountain is one of the few shady areas. I would like to see it restored.

*Alexandra H. Chavez*

I would like to keep some type of water garden on the Plaza. It is extremely soothing to sit by or when strolling. I would like to see something along the design lines of the Shaman sculpture. A series of reflecting ponds with water plants with a living eco system.

*Jan Leonard*

Personally, I'd like to see the garden restored but only if it's kept up. I think that instead of the huge trees, some sort of flowering bushes (like rhodys, azalea's, etc) that are low growing, little maintenance, should be planted instead. GA seems to have a problem over here keeping the flower beds nice and orderly. Thanks,

*Kay Murray*

I am in favor of doing whatever is most cost-effective from a long term perspective. Thus, having a functional water feature is probably not a good idea. Removal is okay with me. The more I think about it, the size of the concrete pieces is too large, and does not meet current personal security standards regarding having long sight lines. It is best to have either low lying shrubs or artwork that is under 1 foot high, or tall trees and artwork that have most of the structure above 8 feet. That way there are safe sight lines between 1 foot and 8 foot space.

Thanks,

*Eldon L. Jacobson*

I was a Senate intern in 2001 and enjoyed the beautiful Capitol Campus. This fountain (obviously not running at the time) did not add anything to my pleasurable experience on the campus. I suggest that you count your losses on this piece and destroy it. Use the money that would have gone into restoring the piece to a beautiful new fountain.

*Russell Kerwin*

I think the idea of a structure in the middle of the plaza is great. I've seen lots of school kids coming back from school field trips to the Capital, running and climbing on it while their teachers watch. Groups of people from the surrounding office buildings use it as a place to visit without being in the empty, bare landscape of the open plaza. People go out there when the weather's nice to eat lunch or have a cigarette. Neighboring children use it to play "hide 'n seek" or tag. It is an architectural element that brings excitement and life to an otherwise boring environment.

My personal preference would be to convert it from the rectangular geometric pattern that looks like oversized Lego blocks into something more harmonious with nature. Perhaps rounded rock-like structures like those used to practice rock climbing could be created. I think some features that have the appearance of rocks or mounds would complement the trees, especially this time of year when the leaves are changing color.

Whatever choice is made, I feel that the absence of any structure resulting in a large empty space would be a tragic loss of visual interest and recreational value.

*John McLaughlin*

Hello, thanks for allowing us the opportunity to comment on the future of the water garden.

My dad has worked in HQ as long as I can remember. Growing up, I often came to the Campus and got to run around and interact with all the features. I've probably ridden every bicycle I've ever owned on the roof of the garage. I've viewed the Lakefair parade from the east and west sides of Capitol Blvd. Of all the features throughout the Campus, the water garden is one of my favorites.

Recently, I walked with my girlfriend and her five year old son to the Capitol. Christian enjoyed the water garden sculpture as much as anything else we saw. Of course, there has not been water there in years, so we had fun climbing up, down, and around the various pieces. They make a great

maze for young children, and are the perfect height for a great view (without scaring his mother). I suppose now they will be rigged with razor wire and cameras, and climbing on the sculptures will be a crime.

Watching Christian play on the campus reminded me of how much I enjoyed visiting my dad and exploring the grounds. I do not remember when the water garden had water, but the photos on the website looked beautiful. As an adult, I would like to see them restored to their original glory. However, I enjoy the sculpture as is, and children probably enjoy climbing on it more. It could stand some cleaning, and the trees do interfere somewhat. Regardless, I am against the removal of this piece. Thanks for your time.

*James S. Wege*

I propose getting rid of the fountain. It has been an eye sore and really serves no purpose. An outside meeting area would serve multiple functions for not only state employee's but for the public as well. If it is something artistic make sure it incorporates some sort of functionality to the widest possible audience.

*Jeff Pelton*

I would like to see the Water Garden Fountain restored and altered. The walls need to be lower. When you enter the area, you feel like someone could be lurking there, waiting to jump out and grab you.

*Cynthia S. Dunnagan*

The few times that i made use of the fountain it was very enjoyable. what i appreciated was that it provided a secluded environment - i recognize that seclusion and security are opposing values and that it is difficult/impossible to provide both but..... the tranquility of the fountain was a pleasant thing. Frequently i was just walking by and would notice children playing in the fountain area - again i realize the children playing is a risk that the state may not want to accept/allow but it was an enjoyable experience for them and me.

thanks for seeking input.

*Tom Hanson*

I would like to see this structure removed, it is unsightly and give street people a place to hide, litter and sleep.

*Lori Beebe*

I have not used the water garden area very often since the water has been shut off. However, prior to that time, I would go out at lunch and/breaks to sit and listen to the water. I felt secluded and think the sound is enjoyable and relaxing. Without the water, it is not the same, but still is a change of scenery and somewhat refreshing. If it were restored, I would go out again. If it were moved, my use would depend on its location relative to the DOT building.

*Rich Gleckler*

I would like to see the fountain restored. It was one of my childhood play areas. I think that with a little cleaning and replanting it could be a wonderful attraction to people. When I was growing up it used to have flowers planted around it and there were plants in the water drainage areas. It would also be a good idea to add some picnic tables or benches for people to sit on and enjoy there lunch.

Thank you

*Tony Aulds*

I'd like to see the fountain structure restored if they've found a way to solve the perpetual leaking problems. It seems to me that the large trees that are still in the area would have a large root structure which may cause future leaking problems. Also, if they do decide to restore it, I'd like to see them keep the water in the structure moving so that it doesn't stagnate and cause algae to grow, or attract mosquitoes, or other critters.

I remember when the fountain did have the water feature. It was a nice place to sit at lunch and read, or just listen to the soothing sounds of the water.

Thank you for providing the opportunity for employees in the area to give their thoughts and opinions on this matter.

*Monika R. LaLonde*

I came to work for DOT in 1992, I used to love to sit out at the fountain and missed when they turned it off. I think it should be restored and water back in. It would be a lovely area if cleaned up, replanted and restored.

Thank You,

*Melinda Capps*

I've worked in the WSDOT HQ building for most of the 26 years I've worked for the state.

26 years ago, the fountain architecture fit in (it was, after all, still the 70's) quite well with other current building styles. Today, it's sadly dated - not old enough to be attractive to the "retro" set - just old enough to be symbolic of us other products of the 60's & 70's: kind of run down, not functioning as well as we used to, not exactly fulfilling the ideals we thought we could.

That cynicism aside, I think it's worth renovating. I still enjoy the semi-seclusion that the structure allows: I can find spots either in the sun, or shade, where I can read without feeling like the office buildings are all looking down on me. The walls, trees, and shrubs help block the city noises, and add to the feeling of privacy. At the same time, it's not so enclosed that it feels "spooky".

I'd like to see water in it again - I can remember when at least some of the fountains were working. I know that poses liability issues, but they have been solved for other campus fountains. I also think that in another decade or so, the architecture will be old enough to be appreciated again (just like the 50's). In that case, it will be one of the few examples left in Olympia, and it would be a shame to lose it now. (I have a different opinion of preserving the Transportation Building - good thing you didn't ask about it!)

Another nice thing about the structure is the variety of seating - sometimes I want a shallow seat with a backrest if I'm reading, but I prefer the higher, deeper benches when I'm eating my lunch. Back when the structure was newer and more regularly maintained, we even had small staff meetings out there.

One improvement I'd like to see - non-concrete sitting surfaces. There are days I'm not out there because I'm wearing clothes that couldn't withstand the contact with the dirty concrete benches. Adding iron seats similar to the other ones on the east campus would be an economical way to achieve

this. Not free-standing benches, just fabricating something to sit on top of the existing concrete & overhangs the exposed edge, to keep my stockings from snagging. I believe this factor is preventing the area from being used more often.

Anyway, if the existing structure has to go, please consider a similar environment in its place. The area doesn't have to look the same, but the function is valuable!

THANKS!

*Judy Berrian*

With each new renovation, new features replace the old. The beauty of the old should be preserved and enjoyed by more than just a few generations. Older countries are able to count their monuments in hundreds or thousands of years. The United States is a young country. We need to preserve what we have now so we can build a bridge from one generation to another.

The fountain is one of those items that should be restored. There is something soothing about the sound of running water. The fountain is a beautiful addition to the Capital Campus. I believe it should be restored.

*JoAnne Saunders*

I have worked in the WSDOT building on Capital Campus since 1979.

I remember when the fountain was operational. I loved it then, and would love to see it restored.

I always thought it was relaxing and interesting. I enjoyed the private nature of its orientation and the way it gave visitors different places to sit and contemplate.

It is also very people friendly, designed to attract and delight visitors. I would think this is an element we want to preserve on our campus, especially as other places on campus that have been redeveloped do not seem to share this quality. The areas around WSDOT that have been rebuilt seem to be designed to look good on paper but not encourage use by the public, and now places that used to have employees and the public congregating on nice days are now devoid of people.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

*Charlie Valentine*

I like the concrete garden, even without the water feature. I live in the neighborhood, and my kids certainly enjoy it. I would like to see it repaired instead of removed.

*Craig Swalling*

My vote - "remove it". Did not know it was a fountain.

*Wil Tanijo*

I agree with Tim (Hilliard) and think sealing and filling the basins with styrofoam and dirt and plants would be best.

*Bruce Smith*

If you have the budget, I'd like to see the Halprin fountain expanded! The fountain is really a hidden gem. Expanding it to fill more of the east campus desert would be a great improvement in the overall campus design.

Restoration of the fountain to its original condition is my second choice. The fountain offered east campus employees and visitors with a marvelously refreshing resting spot. It's interesting how such a small installation, dwarfed by the monumental buildings that surround it, can provide a setting that feels so "natural."

The combination of "rock" and water at the fountain provided visitors with a visual and an aural respite from the tension of the campus. The Halprin fountain provided a quiet, reflective space surrounded by the awful amplification of the traffic noise reflecting from those angular east campus buildings.

I've always enjoyed the fountain for lunches or breaks, but just walking through the fountain was enough to reenergize me. I've missed it; I'd like to have it back.

*Jim Culp*

I remember the fountain when it had water and it was a delightful experience for employees and visitors to observe. With the new plaza, it would seem prudent to get it operational again, perhaps by rethinking the water fall part so that it won't leak and be a maintenance headache. Thanks for asking.

*Rhonda Brooks*

My comments on the fountain and the campus redevelopment reflect my two primary uses of the space. I walk through the space frequently from my home in the South Capitol neighborhood or my office in the DOT building to locations downtown. And I eat sack lunches outside on the campus during nice weather.

I really hope that the fountain stays. It is by far most pleasant place on the east campus to sit outside for lunch on a sunny day. It is shaded, and the walls shield the interior from road and other noise. The style of the redevelopment has, to date, been pretty sterile, and we need something with some character and comfort to invite people to use the space.

For example, the placement of benches in the redeveloped sections does not encourage people to gather and talk while eating lunch. The benches are either too far away from each other for this purpose, or they are large but face outward rather than inward. And a lot of the features in the space seem primarily designed to discourage skateboarding (narrow, low, slanted horizontal surfaces, broken by small metal insertions on the edge) rather than invite people to sit and talk. The area that is nearing completion now had a much better feel prior to redevelopment--with large stretches of green grass surrounded by hard surfaces that people could sit on--than the sections redeveloped earlier around/between the DOT/OB2/DNR buildings. The redeveloped areas are marginally OK for walking (they increase the circuitry of paths between the Franklin/Maple Park intersection and downtown Olympia) and really uninviting places to have lunch--too open and exposed, and I'd rather eat inside than use them. The style of the recent redevelopment has always felt more appropriate to a desert climate (I think Arizona rather than Washington when I cross from Maple Park to the campus) than to one like Western Washington's. I understand that structure of the campus and the underlying garage were not designed to support shade trees, and therefore that this limits the option to use trees to break up the spaces and provide shade. But this just means that you need to use other elements to do so. The fountain is one such element, and for this reason alone it needs to be retained.

Having viewed the web link you provided, and seeing the photograph of the fountain without trees, and understanding that foliage may have contributed to its failure, I would either leave the fountain as is, shut off but with trees, as a quiet semi-secluded space; or I would restore it to working condition and design the space around it to make it more of a gathering place where people can sit and more easily appreciate the fountain. A working fountain, even without trees, would be in much better character with the Western Washington environment than the redevelopment style implemented to date. I think it would be a shame to either remove the fountain entirely or to alter its basic structure. I had not realized that Halperin had designed it, but I think that is all the more reason to retain it.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or want to discuss my comments further.

*Ed Hillsman*

Being someone who has been in the area a long time, I remember back when the fountain operated. It was beautiful and I have nostalgic feelings about it. However, my thoughts are that it should either be repaired and cleaned up, or the whole thing torn down. I have avoided going near it as it depresses me to see it in it's current condition.

In high school in the mid-1970s, our "May Court" had their photo taken in front of the fountain. It was beautiful back then. So my nostalgic side would love to see it brought back to it's previous beauty, but my conservative side is concerned about the costs of fixing it.

Please keep me informed on this and thanks for the opportunity to give my input.

*Teresa R. Graham*

Thanks for giving me an opportunity to comment on the Water Garden Fountain problem. I believe the Water Garden should be repaired, if possible, or removed. Relocation doesn't make sense. One of the purposes of the Water Garden was to close the vast expanse of space. That is still a need. If it can be repaired, great! We can turn it back on and all is well. If not, please remove it and put in some sort of central park setting. I walk across the campus everyday and would appreciate an attractive site of some kind. The current view is quite unpleasant to the eye, so a change is needed.

Thanks again!

*Tim Flynn*

I would love to see the fountain working again.

*Debby Carr*

When I worked at the DOT building I sometimes enjoyed that area for it's seclusion. I don't know that it needs to have a water feature but the area is better for it.

Sure beats an open expanse of concrete.

*Scott Soper*

Frankly, I didn't even know the fountain existed. Nor has anyone I know been impressed significantly enough to tell me about it. Accordingly, I propose that we eliminate it and use the saved maintenance money to help fund homeless programs.

*Ralph Dornsife*

I would like to see the fountain restored. When it was operating, this was a quiet, peaceful place to sit and reflect. I find the sound of running water soothing and would welcome this as a retreat during the busy workday.

*Ann Briggs*

Unfortunately, I never saw the fountain when it was running with water. However, I would like to see, as part of the planning process, the option of restoring the fountain. I believe the trees would have to be removed to prevent continued root damage to the structure and maybe flowers and smaller plants put in place that will not further damage the piece. Also, I believe the artist, Lawrence Halprin is still very much alive and probably would be interested in providing input in renovating the structure if the decision is to keep it. So, my vote is to keep it!

*Jon Peterson*

Do whatever is the cheapest and least, or better NO COST, to the state.  
Thanks.

*Jeri Sivertson*

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the fate of the fountain in the plaza west of WSDOT. I have always wanted to see the fountain run especially after seeing Halprin's fountain in Portland. Halprin was one of those landscape architects that we studied in school and as a landscape architect myself, I would hate to see one of his works removed. The fact sheet was right, this work cannot be moved and I would not like to see it altered. In my opinion, the options are to restore or remove it. Since the trees may be a problem, then you may have to remove some of the trees in order to restore it. While that is not the most optimal solution, I would rather see that as opposed to removal of the structure. The surrounding area could be redesigned to put back the large tree elements but further away from the structure to reduce damage and maintenance.

Thank you for your attention to this. Please call if you have any questions.

*Mark Maurer, LA*

As I gaze out my office window (I'm lucky enough to have a 2nd floor view to the west) even now I see a large group of school children playing in and around the Water Garden. I had no idea of its original artistic merit and

significance. I personally I often go there for moments of solace from the daily grind, and would love to see it restored.

Given that we have one of the most beautiful and thoughtfully conceived capitols in the country, I think if it is feasible, it is well worth spending a reasonable amount of money to restore the fountain to its original state. Since the original campus was designed by the infamous Olmstead Brothers of Central Park and Boston Commons fame, saving this work of art by a renown artist from a subsequent generation can only add to the artistic depth and importance of the entire campus.

I would also point out the extreme popularity of the Heritage Park fountain as further reason to save this use of public space. People LOVE fountains! And they love the works of art all over the campus. I see people from all over the country admiring them every day.

And finally to those who would say that its a waste of money, I say if the legislature could hand GA almost \$1 million to re-engineer a slope that they were advised not to alter in order to accommodate a memorial that could have been easily re-located, then they can find it in their means to restore this fountain.

I am happy to advocate any way I can

*Paula Connelley*

I have often wondered about that structure, as I work at WSDOT and often have lunch outside in nice weather.

I would love to see the water garden restored. Water features are so soothing and lovely. It would be a good thing to have in that area of the campus grounds. Lots of people use that area and I think it would be a wonderful attraction and give state employees a pleasant place to take a break and recharge their batteries.

Thanks for asking,

*Jamie Selby*

Thank you for providing opportunity to provide my comments on this fountain. I'm not familiar with Lawrence Halprin as an artist, however, I enjoyed the fountain when it was in operation and have always wondered why it had stopped being used. This fountain has provided me, when it was in operation, a sense of raw nature that is unavailable in most urban settings. I remember as a youth hearing the roar of the untamed river near our home,

charging along a path that it had cut long before my time. This fountain brings back those relaxing memories. My home is on the State register and I and the community from which I live are appreciative that it didn't fall victim to demolition as so many other homes and structures did during past revitalization projects. While not every structure can be saved or should be, those with a significant difference are worth saving. Although the fountain is a mere 30+ years old, it too, if given the chance, can continue to provide me a trip down memory lane or for others, an example of nature's wrath to gain freedom from the confines of itself.

*Art Veach*

I would like to see the fountain remain and operable. It is a very pleasant place to retreat from the office during lunch breaks. Running water would improve the fountain.

*Bill Osterhout*

Because of the kids that like to climb on it and jump off with their skateboards or whatever, I think it should be moved or dismantled to another location. It also breeds mosquitoes in the summer from any rainwater that collects.

*Bill Haag*

I have work on the Capitol Campus since 1977, most of that time was with GA, DCF. I had the opportunity to maintain this fountain and the equipment to operate it. I thought it was a shame to see it shut down and abandon and would love to see it restored to its former operation.

In reading the web site information I see in the maintenance history:

- Late 1980's—Due to the many problems associated with the water garden's operation, it was permanently shut off and drained. I like the wording that has been used "many problems" most of the problems were more politics and the grounds staff not wanting to maintain the fountain like it should be. The biggest problem with this fountain is the cost to maintain it. Any fountain or pond has a hire cost to maintain than just a flower bed. I know this from my private experience of installing and maintaining a 15,000 gallon pond and water fall at my house. I know GA and DCF well enough that they are pushing not to have the fountain due to the high cost of maintenance and are not considering the atmosphere the water garden/fountain provides for the east campus. Water gardens and fountain provide a very soothing environment in a fast pass world we live in today.

*Ron Moorehead*

Thanks for asking for opinions on the Water Garden Fountain.

I believe the garden, benches, trees, and water should be kept, in some form; either restored or altered. Definitely do not remove it.

It is a very nice, peaceful "oasis" in an otherwise uninviting surrounding. I admit that the changes to plaza may make the plaza more inviting, but the Water Garden is still a very nice touch that would fit in with whatever is done to the plaza.

Definitely clean it up, get the water flowing again, put some fish in it, and, most importantly, maintain it once it's been restored. If the decision is to alter it, I think it's important that the new plan include all the elements that the current Water Garden has (shade trees, benches, water, seclusion from the surrounding buildings, etc.) plus additional attractive features (for instance a small "waterfall", flowing water, expand the size of the garden, etc.)

So much money is being spent repairing the plaza garage, It would be nice if some could be spent restoring, refreshing, and maintaining the Water Garden Fountain.

Again, thanks for asking for opinions.

*Tim Carlile*

I was not aware that our little concrete fountain had a name or was even considered an art form. When the Transportation Building was being constructed in the early 1970's, the POP ART culture was in full swing. Governor Dan Evan's wife was on the art committee that supplied the required "art" for the campus area. She, unfortunately, was strongly influenced by this new art craze. A craze that would have us believe that even a can of Campbell's Soup could be art, if presented in the right medium and with sufficient hyperbole. So we were blessed with several Pop Art objects including a stainless steel cube monstrosity, a couple of rusty steel balls chained to the earth, and caricature of an outboard motor, called "The Shaman".

Of all of these works, the water fountain actually had a function. In it's own way, it provided a restful sanctuary when it was maintained and working properly. Now it is just an odd collection of concrete boxes with a curious wood grained effect.

I like the idea of a secluded restful area and it would be nice to have a structure that provide that. Security and maintenance would be an on-going problem, though. But I really do not feel that the Lawrence Halprin fountain sculpture is "art". Perhaps we could haul it and the other "art objects" out to the Evergreen College, where Dan and his wife went, and give them back? Or we could hide the fountain under a pile of dirt, for posterity, much as we have hidden the "Labors of Hercules" art over at the Legislature building. A nice, irregularly-shaped grassy knoll with randomly placed trees and shrubs would be a welcome relief from all the hard, linear lines of concrete we putting out there no w.

*Larry Hinson*

Do not remove it. When it worked it (years ago) it was a great place to relax and take a lunch break.

*Martin Eussen*

I would like to see the fountain restored and working, and keep the existing trees. It is just about the only natural looking, and pretty area on the east capital campus.

Bill Kelley

I would prefer that you fix it.

Thanks

*Dorice Midamba*

I would like to see the fountains operating as fountains! The GA grounds crew has done a nice job of keeping the area trimmed etc. - it would be nice to be able to once again hear the water. Thanks.

*Pamela Person*

I think it should be restored.

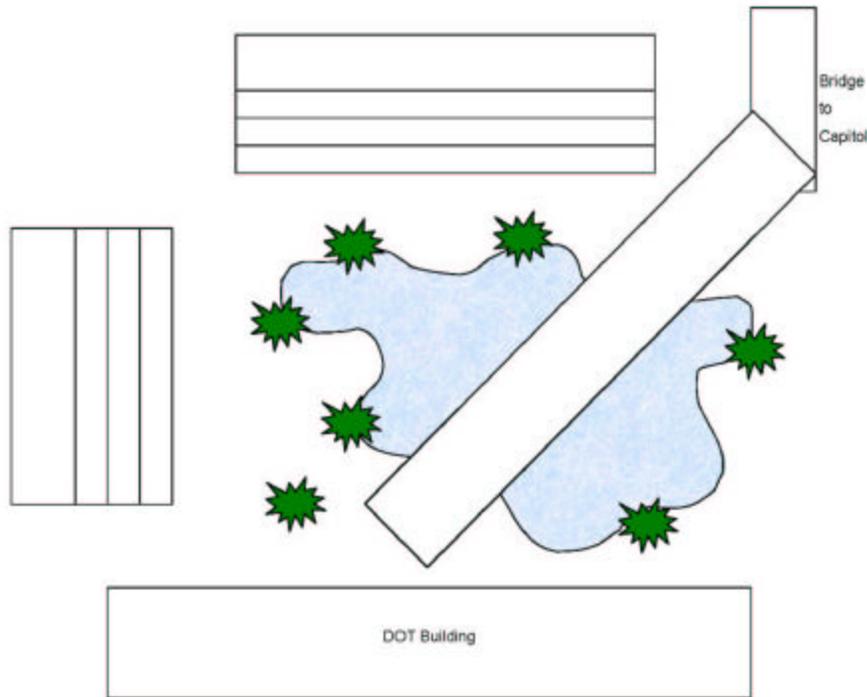
*Patrick H. Van Cleave*

First, avoid using Federal funds, especially anything having a USDOT nexus. Why have NEPA or 4(f) restrictions apply if you don't have to?

Second, I like having a fountain area, especially one with a comfortable scale and seating arrangement. I've assumed that a fountain or similar facility would be incorporated into the plaza-roof that has been undergoing construction lately, but am not sure. I don't see a lot of folks using the area, and presume that is related to the absence of water. However, the walls also block visibility into the area, and I wonder if that is a security concern for some people (being 6'4", normal height, it isn't for me). Perhaps a centrally located water feature, maybe with bridges (an Asian garden comes to mind) and low-walls with seating (or tables, similar to outdoor dining).

I believe a plan at the visitor's center shows an extension of the lines created by the roads on the Western campus as pathways on the Eastern campus. With that, plus the existing concrete bleachers, maybe the water feature could act as a buffer amongst the built environment.

See attached sketch. I don't remember where the extended line would go, just that there's a graphic at the visitor's center with what apparently was the idea for the overall campus.



*Illustration submitted by John Heinley, DOT*

I'm assuming that the diagonal 'block' would be a low-clearance bridge, probably leading to the bridge that goes across the city street.

This is just a wild guess, based on my view from the window at WSDOT. No idea what would be an issue regarding utilities, structural needs, leaf-resistance regarding the existing trees, vandal-resistant / hippie-resistant issues, freeze-thaw issues, etc. Good luck.

*John Heinley*

I enjoy walking through this garden and even laid down in the shade on the sitting area. I even remember when water flowed through this garden. I miss that...love water.

What to do with it?

I would prefer that the garden be not removed. You can turn it into a rock

garden. A Japanese garden. Make the garden bigger. Change the trees. Trim the rhodies. Put in a flowering apple tree, dogwood, magnolia. Add more picnic tables.

*Beva Ubias*

Restore.

*David Chenaar*

I didn't find anything to respond to in the enclosure sent - but personally I'd like to see the water restored. That area is one of the few shady spots close by in the summer.

*Claudia Lindahl*

I would like to see the walls cut down to a level so you can at least see the fountain. If that is done I hope we can keep the fountain as it adds to the beauty of the Capitol campus.

*David Mounts*

I like the water fountain, but have never seen it actually operating with water in it. With water, it could be a very nice feature on the campus - I like the quiet and tranquility in the confined space, as opposed to the wide open rest of the plaza.

*Charlie Howard*

The water fountain currently adds a nice artistic look to the grounds and helps break up the vast amount of concrete walkways and buildings that surrounding the fountain. It also provides a nice shady and cool refuge for people who want to escape the office on their break but don't necessarily want the heat on those hot sunny days. It is also a nice welcoming piece of art for visitors from out of town. At least I know that when I first moved to Olympia, I walked through the structure with curiosity and thought that it was a great place just to come sit and read a book or have lunch. I'm not sure if it should be fully restored due to the water loss issues that it had, but I don't think that it should be removed.

*Jodie Beall*

I'm all for restoring the fountain and found that to be one of the most enjoyable destinations on the Capital Campus grounds until the water was turned off.

*Mike Walsh*

In regards to the water garden on the east capitol campus and whether to remove it, renovate it, or do something else, I would like to see it restored or altered to be less problematic than it was in the past. I don't have any "great" ideas on how it should if it were to be altered, but I do feel that a water feature would benefit the east capitol campus area. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

*Karen D. Boone, P.E.*

I remember the fountain before it was converted to a planting area due to unrepairable leaks.

Since then, I have observed other State owned fountains My opinion is that all of them are difficult and expensive to maintain and many of them eventually are shut down or removed.

Examples:

The Tivoli Fountain on the Capitol Campus was closed for a long period of time for repairs.

The fountain in front of the former State Library building has been closed.

The fountain at the DOT building never did seem to work properly and was shut down and removed.

I enjoy fountains, but as a taxpayer I think they are a poor use of tax dollars.

Also, the concrete structures have also become an attraction for skate boarders.

I recommend removing the "Water Garden".

*Rick Glidden*

I would like to see the Water Garden restored as an operating fountain. This would require solving the water leakage problem, removing the exist overgrown plants and reinstalling ones that wouldn't plug the drains with debris.

But, I question whether it is feasible or not. It may be quite a chore to overcome a history of deferred 'maintenance' as well as normal aging problems.

I would not support retaining it in its present condition as some sort of monument to past failures.

*Steve Leach*

I think that fountain should be removed. It is an eye sore. I know people go in there to smoke and kids go n there to play or skateboard. I always wonder if there is somebody in there hiding every time I walk by.

*Mike Stout*

It would be absolutely wonderful if the Lawrence Halprin fountain could be restored. I love sitting there for lunch on nice days.

The grounds are beautiful and it is nice to take breaks and lunches whenever possible out of doors.

There is only one thing that I do not like about the area and it really applies to all the lovely grounds. It is sad that many smokers use the Water Garden Fountain area as a smoking room, one which they do not even respect enough to discard their cigarettes in a proper receptacle. This is true throughout the grounds. I abhor having to breath smoke when going out to enjoy the fresh air. The company I worked for before moving to Olympia did not allow smoking on the property. If one smokes let them smoke in their own vehicle with the windows UP.

If I don't smoke, I don't offend a smoker. Those who smoke offend those who don't. We end up stinking of smoke and some become ill immediately, others after long time exposure.

*Steinun Priem*

I work for DOT and would be very sorry to see the fountain (or sculpture) be removed. I've always thought it was beautiful and an interesting focal point of the Plaza. I walk around it and in it quite often and am always struck by the serenity it provides an otherwise unremarkable vista. Please consider the options of either retrofitting it or making it into a fountain again. Thanks very much for your time.

*Claire Barrett*

Personally, I would like to see it restored. I grew up here in Olympia, and enjoyed the beauty of the fountain, and to me, it is a landmark of the area. I don't live in Olympia now, but I work and shop etc. here and I would enjoy seeing it run again. I think others who knew the fountain as it was would also enjoy it running again in it's former beauty.

Personally, I would like to see it restored. I grew up here in Olympia, and enjoyed the beauty of the fountain, and to me, it is a landmark of the area. I don't live in Olympia now, but I work and shop etc. here and I would enjoy seeing it run again. I think others who knew the fountain as it was would also enjoy it running again in it's former beauty.

*Joy Wedeman*

I for one would be very saddened if this feature were removed. I find the trees, benches, pathways, and "mini maze" to be one of the more peaceful and relaxing places on campus. For years I have wished that the water feature would be fixed, as the only thing I can think of that would make this more pleasant is the sound of cascading water.

*Marc Mixon*

I did not see the original but think it would be a fantastic idea to restore the original fountain.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

*Jeremy Bertrand*

I remember sitting in the center of the water garden on a warm summer afternoon circa 1979-1981. The noise and mist from the water masked the traffic sounds from Capital Way and cooled the area down.

Given the current requirements to protect the plaza garage from water intrusion and remove weight from the Plaza, I thought the decision had already been made to remove the fountain.

I would suggest an "overlook" that is aligned with the south diagonal on the west capitol campus so you can sit and look at the winged victory statue.

An enclosed fountain that produces white noise and mist could be situated between the garage and capital way - but that is where the Korean War Memorial is tentatively being placed.

*Ralph Wilhelmi*

I like it, but if it was going to be demolished, I wouldn't cry. I don't see its functionality, but it does provide shade. Skateboarders like it. I counselled a friend one lunchtime in the midst of its shade, so it provided a bit of privacy and cool air. If the consensus was to keep it, I think flowers should be added to its interior. Also... a colorful mural should be painted on it.

Those are my thoughts. Thank you!

*Teri Hickey*

Hello. I received the survey on the Lawrence Halprin fountain on October 7. I work for the Washington State Department of Transportation, and live in the South Capitol neighborhood.

I think the Lawrence Halprin fountain is a wonderful feature. I would very much like it to be restored. I think it would be a tremendous loss to have the fountain removed. As far as alterations, it would depend on what is being proposed.

As a nearby resident, my family frequently walks around the East Campus area. The fountain is a unique and interesting feature even without the water. In addition, employees from surrounding building sometimes hold staff meetings inside the structure, and people frequently eat lunch there.

I understand that you've spoken with Alan Hardcastle, President of the South Capitol Neighborhood Association, and that he plans to discuss the survey with the SCNA Board on Tuesday night, October 12. I hope you will extend your deadline for comments. If I hadn't received the survey via work, I would not have known about it. I expect that a number of people in the neighborhood would like an opportunity to share their thoughts about the fountain.

Also, I serve on the Olympia Heritage Commission, and wonder if you plan to solicit comment from the Commission.

Thank you.

*Rebecca Christie*

I hope that GA will find a way to repair the Water Garden fountain. Life for state employees has gotten more and more stressful, and with the changes under the Personnel System Reform Act in 2005 and beyond, that stress will be increasing even more. The sounds of flowing water can help people relax and refocus, so the fountain would help reduce some of the stress.

If the existing fountain cannot be repaired, hopefully it can be replaced with some other water feature.

*Marcy Yates*

The fountain was working when I was first hired here and I thought it was wonderful. Even without water, I often cut through that area during lunch and many people sit there since it is a peaceful place. I would LOVE to see it restored. I miss it.

*Kathleen McKinney*

For what its worth, I think the fountain should be restored. I am on my way out of town and don't have time to comment further, but it would be a true waste not to restore.

*Pam Trautman*

I was unaware of the Lawrence Halprin fountain sculpture until just this last year when I met an "Oly" girl who knew of the original water fountain use and had played there as a child. We have used the area as a resting place for lunches, especially with the heat of this summer weather. It has been a welcome shelter from the eyes of the public as well as the heat of the day. I would miss the structure for that reason, especially since it is the only structure near any of the buildings that can be used for a source of shelter for smokers. We have all been left to the mercy of the elements with the changes in the "No smoking" policies that inhibit our personal freedoms at work. We can only stand in the rain, snow or wind. At least in the summer heat we had the cool alcove the structure provided to shelter us.

I would hate that to be the only reason you save the structure, but honestly, I do not know much more about it. I think it must have been beautiful when first built, but time had eroded much of the intended use (as you say it leaks). Maybe it could be renovated as a public sitting area, free from the weather, if for no other reason than to give shelter to those of us that are outcast by our agencies and at the mercy of the elements. We could produce a volunteer work force to bring it up to code, or maybe a suggestion survey of what changes need to be made to make it as beautiful and useful as it was. I know my plight is not the public's, but I had to take a shot and making the need known. We are held to only so many sick days for leave purposes, but no one seems to mind our standing in the elements to have the same personal freedom as other employees who are allowed to walk in the garage, even though it is unsafe. Carbon monoxide and near misses with employees almost getting hit by cars has not banded the walkers from the garages, yet the smokers are not allowed the same use.

I can only reply to your survey with what I personally have experienced, so maybe this does sound like venting, but I had to take a shot. I know the need is there for state employees to have a safe, comfortable break area without the weather or other people's personal bias affecting their own time.

Thanks for listening.

*Nancy Withrow*

Repair it to original, but replace planting as necessary to prevent roots from trees causing problems.

or

Remove it completely.

*Fred Wepfer*

I was so excited to see your letter requesting input on the fountain. I grew up walking around the fountain area as a child and it is a very fond memory for me. I remember how it would light up at night (exceptionally cool) and how relaxing and beautiful it was. Perhaps one of my favorite memories growing up. I would love to see the fountain restored or perhaps altered. However, if the structure is altered the items I found exceptionally awesome were:

The fact that it was somewhat of a structured maze or labyrinth like. The water fountains that shot up. The lighting especially at night.

I truly hope I am not the only one who remembers the beauty that once sat outside of my home building (WSDOT) who I have worked for, for the last 15 years. Also my daughter who is 8 years old never had the opportunity to witness the fountains although she has heard me share about them often as we walk outside of "mom's work". Thank you again for requesting input.

*Lona Richardson*

Being fairly new to the campus I have enjoyed walking through the fountain (?) on occasion. I would note however there might be greater need for a gathering area with some basic covering for special events that employees have. this might include a few tables in a quiet setting that would reflect what the fountain tried to accomplish. I like the semi-enclosed areas but these could be enlarged with the covering and at least give the appearance of being more welcoming and needless to say greater safety if alone. while this design was welcome for some there were others that walked around because of not knowing what might be in there. It was also hard for the grounds crew to keep clean.

The setting could benefit from a less 'squared off' framework with a planted walkway and some foliage/trees that change with the seasons. One of the items many people miss are the trees that have been taken down, even if they are not easily accessible to sit or walk under. This would also give the visitor to the Korean memorial a quiet place for sitting and remembering. Just some thoughts for now.

*John H. Johnson*