

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE

August 18, 2020

Mrs. Julie V. Langan, Director
Department of Historic Resources
Commonwealth of Virginia
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23221

Dear Julie,


I received your letter of August 14, 2020, requesting, on behalf of the Commission for Historical Statues in the U.S. Capitol, that the Virginia Museum of History & Culture (VMHC) accept ownership of the Robert E. Lee statue upon its removal from the Statuary Hall Collection at the U.S. Capitol. This is the first such request we have received to accept a piece of Confederate statuary, so I appreciate your patience as our team discussed internally.

Given the history of the statue's creation, its placement at the U.S. Capitol in 1909, and the history of its removal in 2020, we believe this to be an artifact of historical importance. It is of a manageable size to appropriately house and it will fulfill representation of the historical moments noted above as part of our extensive collection of materials that speak to the ever-evolving story of the Commonwealth of Virginia. As such, we accept the Commission's request.

As you note, the cost to transport the artifact from Washington, D.C. to the VMHC will be covered by the state. It is also important to note that we would accept this object into our collection as an unrestricted gift from the Commonwealth without obligation related to its use or display. Please also consider that upcoming capital improvements and programmatic expansion at the museum will certainly require that this piece be in secure storage for at least a few years.

Please let me know if you have any questions and please do advise when you know more about our next steps.

Sincerely,



Jamie O. Bosket
President & CEO

Office of the President

Virginia Museum of History & Culture

Owned and operated by the Virginia Historical Society

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