

May 1, 2012

War Memorial Board of Trustees  
C/o Ms. Elizabeth Murray  
Director  
San Francisco War Memorial  
410 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Honorable Trustees:

I am writing on behalf of the San Francisco Arts Commission to request your approval to modify the previously approved design and location of two Jun Kaneko sculptures on the property of the War Memorial. After the War Memorial Board of Trustees had approved the placement of the sculptures in the sidewalk niches between the Veterans' Building and the War Memorial, Mr. Kaneko visited San Francisco to personally evaluate how his work fit into the context of the site. It is unfortunate that his visit did not precede the meeting of the War memorial Board at which time I had presented his work for your consideration. Mr. Kaneko expressed concern that having the sculptures in the niche location might impede people in wheelchairs using the sidewalk ramps adjacent to the niches.

In addition, due to shipping logistics, the sculptures were not going to be placed as we had hoped in time for the Black and White Ball which was a great disappointment to us all. After his visit, Mr. Kaneko sent the Arts Commission images of two brand new sculptures and proposed a new location. The location proposed is on the sidewalk in front of the entry stairway at the War Memorial Building. The attached drawing illustrates the exact location of the sculptures centered on the stairway on the adjacent sidewalk. Mr. David Gockley of the SF Opera has seen the new location and sculptures and has no objection. An ADA compliant signage stanchion identifying the artist, title of work, medium and donors will be installed adjacent to the sculptures. We will work with the staff of the War Memorial to determine the most appropriate location. Each sculpture measures 71"h x 53"w x 48"d. We have verified with the Mayor's Office of Disability that the sculptures and their placement are ADA compliant.

The sculptures will be installed prior to the production of *The Magic Flute* on June 5<sup>th</sup>. The installation should be fairly straight-forward and take three to four hours. A small dedication ceremony will be held on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM at the sculpture site and I would like to extend an invitation to all of you to attend. The few speakers include Tom Decaigny, Director of Cultural Affairs, Mr. David Gockley of the SF Opera and the artist Jun Kaneko. The ceremony should last no longer than 30 minutes. We will provide a portable microphone and speakers.

We may wish to place a small number of chairs for the elderly or others. No refreshments will be served.

Thank you for your consideration of the proposed change in location and artwork.

Sincerely,

Jill Manton  
Director of Policy and Special Initiatives