

Sarasota National Cemetery Assembly Area Art Plan

ART THAT HONORS SERVICE AND INSPIRES PATRIOTISM

BACKGROUND

Sarasota National Cemetery was opened by the US Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration in 2009 and is located in Sarasota County on the west coast of Florida.

Florida has the third largest population of veterans of any state, and it is envisioned that 150 years from now 150,000 graves of American veterans and their families will fill the cemetery.

The assembly area is traditionally set apart from the gravesite areas and is used for public gatherings, ceremonies and veterans organizations events. The Patterson Foundation will donate the design and construction of this space to the Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration as an initiative to honor the military history of the Patterson family, honor the service of all veterans to our nation and inspire patriotism.

- The assembly area is not a memorial space. It will preserve memory through art.
- The subjects of the assembly area art are defined as the men and women who serve and also those who support, share and participate in that service, their families - parents, spouses, children.

PROJECT GOAL

The Patterson Foundation's vision for the assembly area is a monumentally scaled space designed for frequent use with amenities such as covered seating to allow functionality and comfort in the Florida climate.

In addition, The Patterson Foundation's vision extends beyond use for programmed events. It seeks to create a space that will attract and offer visitors an impactful experience through art that:

(1) Recognizes and honors the contributions to our country of the individuals who serve in the military and those connected to their service – such as their families

(2) Inspires viewers now and in the future to preserve the memory of the military's role in safeguarding our freedom, commit to the patriotism represented by the individuals

who served in our armed forces throughout our history, and appreciate the contributions of the United States military in their own time.

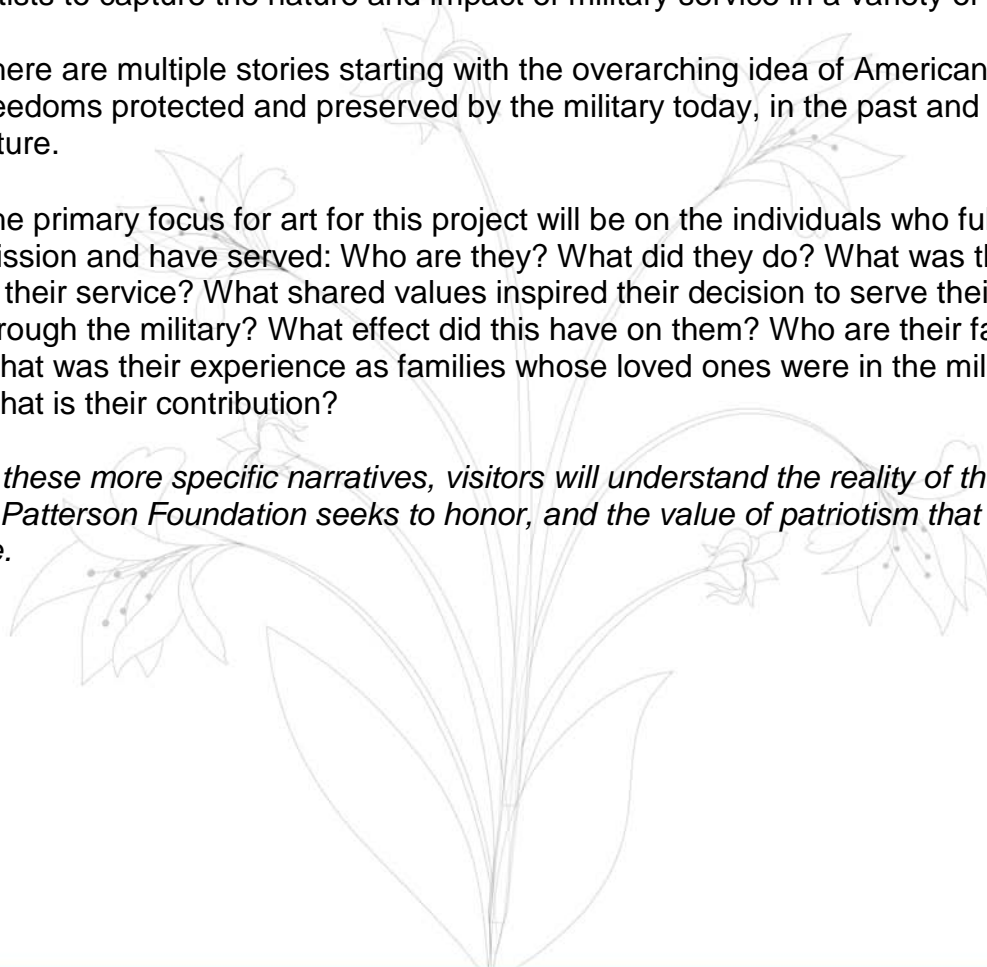
CONCEPTUAL APPROACH TO ASSEMBLY AREA ART

The assembly area is being developed as a space where art can tell stories to future generations.

The art for this project will be in some way narrative and figurative. However, The Patterson Foundation is interested in the wide range of approaches, styles and materials that contemporary artists use to interpret their themes.

- Visitors who traverse the space will experience a thematically related collection of art. Each piece will relate variations on the theme through a range of contemporary artists' styles and approaches to design and materials.
- With multiple art installations throughout the space, there are opportunities for artists to capture the nature and impact of military service in a variety of ways.
- There are multiple stories starting with the overarching idea of American freedoms protected and preserved by the military today, in the past and in the future.
- The primary focus for art for this project will be on the individuals who fulfill this mission and have served: Who are they? What did they do? What was the nature of their service? What shared values inspired their decision to serve their country through the military? What effect did this have on them? Who are their families? What was their experience as families whose loved ones were in the military? What is their contribution?

Through these more specific narratives, visitors will understand the reality of the service that The Patterson Foundation seeks to honor, and the value of patriotism that it seeks to inspire.



VISITORS AND USERS OF THE PLAZA

People of all ages will experience the art as:

- Families and friends of veterans attending funerals at the cemetery
- Attendees, speakers, performers at assemblies and programs held at the assembly area, such as Memorial Day celebrations, veterans group programs, band concerts, etc
- Visitors and residents in the Sarasota region with an interest in military, history, and cultural tourism

ABOUT THE ART MATERIALS

The Patterson Foundation will commission original art for exterior sites used during daylight hours. All art must be constructed in materials that will be permanent in the Florida climate, including extreme UV exposure, engineered to meet Florida wind code standards and require minimal maintenance.

No water feature, motors, computers or other electronic elements can be used due to the limited capacity to maintain these items. The Patterson Foundation may include a materials review by a certified sculptor conservator or other expert before approving the use of some materials. The Patterson Foundation is including an endowment in its donation to provide for periodic conservation and maintenance beyond the day-to-day caretaking provided by the VA.

PROJECT TIMELINE (Tentative)

August – December 2011	Artist search//Request for Qualifications
December 2011– January 2012	Art Advisors review. Invite proposals.
April – May 2012	Proposal presentations to TPF Art Advisory Group. Selection
June 2012	Contracting of artists
July 2012	Design Review
August– September 2012	Begin fabrication
Summer 2013	Assembly area opens