

Qualities and Expertise of our Team



As lead designer for the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial, SWA has direct experience with a constructed project that commemorates loss in the wake of tragic events. Our concept for the memorial was selected unanimously by the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission among 189 international design submissions and with overwhelming support from the families of the victims. Throughout the 5-year process, we worked closely with families, stakeholders, city officials, and local design team experts to build the memorial. SWA understands the complexities of community outreach and public engagement around traumatic events with a high degree of public interest and sensitivity.



Our team includes and is led locally by Dills Architects, a Virginia beach Firm who has served projects within the City for over 40 years. Dills Architects has led and coordinated the design of several recent cultural and outdoor public space landscape projects with high levels of public participation and stakeholder engagement.



We have included SGA as our local landscape design and planning firm. SGA brings recent local experience in the design of public landscape settings, plazas, parks, and intimately understands our local horticulture and natural resources.



Adding depth to our team is WSP, a national exterior lighting specialist. WSP has an incredible depth of experience with sensitive exterior lighting projects, and the design of lighting integrated with public landscape and water features.



Fluidity is included as part of our team as a national expert in water feature design. They bring an unrivaled expertise for sensitive cultural and high visibility projects.



Our team includes VHB as our local civil engineer for stormwater management, site planning and integrated site engineering.



SPC will serve our team for structural design and engineering, and coordinate any required geotechnical and soils needs for the final design.



Founded in 1983, and headquartered in Virginia Beach, Dills Architects seeks creative solutions through a people-centered vision to understanding client needs and project objectives that yield meaningful outcomes.

We believe great projects come through collaboration, listening and bringing creativity and expertise to every project. From our award-winning design, to our commitment to the local community and environment, we purposefully weave enduring architectural design and planning with meaningful client service and public engagement.

We have been at the forefront of creating resilient and livable places through sustainable planning, integrated engineering, and locally integrated design for decades. We understand that community and stakeholder inclusion in the design and planning process is essential for great outcomes. We approach this process from a people-first perspective. The strength of any design process is to bring people together, build consensus, test ideas, and yield real tangible project results.

We have a strong and current working relationship with the City and City staff, and a deep understanding of current code and local requirements. We have worked with a majority of this design team on projects in the City for over 20 years. We are responsive, communicate often, and we listen. We pride ourselves on being good partners and stewards of project schedules and budgets, while always being easy to work with. We will always come prepared with options, ideas, and thoughtful solutions. We believe that a collaborative design process should be enjoyable, sensitive, inclusive, and should start with a design team that cares deeply about this project and our City.

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For over six decades, SWA has been recognized as a world leader in landscape architecture, planning, and urban design. With more than 250 professionals throughout its nine studios worldwide, SWA offers clients both a deep bench of talent and experience as well as the energy, personal commitment, and responsiveness typical in smaller firms.

SWA has received over 800 awards and have worked in 47 states and more than 60 countries. Despite being one of the largest firms of its type in the world, SWA is organized into smaller studio-based offices that enhance creativity and client responsiveness. In our San Francisco studio, there are 35 employees. Our studio's mix of established practitioners and young thinkers is capable of vibrant innovation balanced with extensive and grounded experience. Our San Francisco studio focuses on urban work — we are experts at designing and understanding highly-programmed, active public and private spaces.

SWA works on a wide range of planning, urban design, and landscape architecture projects with varying scales, from regional master plans to urban infill, plazas and parks. Our work focuses on ecologically-based solutions that provide a strong sense of place and incorporate the realities of costs, construction, and longevity. We have provided landscape architectural design and land-based planning services to our clients within a wide variety of industry sectors.