

The California State Fair Memorial Plaza Foundation serves to educate the public through advancing an understanding of the tragedy of September 11, 2001 with a Memorial Plaza that uniquely connects the public to the events, victims and historic acts of that day.

The Foundation will develop, construct and direct the Memorial Plaza's development and will educate the public to help them understand the events of September 11, 2001 through an outdoor permanent exhibit that covers the tragedies of Flight 93, the Pentagon attack, and the World Trade Center attack, and the intertwined heroism of ordinary individuals. The focus is to provide extensive historical accounts and pictures in a public plaza that is thousands of miles from the centers of the events of September 11, 2001 while acknowledging its impact on all Americans.

The Memorial Plaza takes education one step further and focuses on the emotional and intuitive reflection on how the events of that day literally changed America, causing greater unity, appreciation of liberties and patriotism.

New York Place is exhibited as a 62.5 ton steel I-Beam, one of the few remaining girders of the World Trade Center that has not been recycled. On top of that I-Beam is a mounted twisted, rusted metal floor support. To honor New York City and the heroes, the exhibit has a border of flags, which includes the United States, the State of California, the City of New York, the Fire Department of New York, the New York Police Department, the New York/New Jersey Port Authority, and the Department of Emergency Management, which actively served to assist the victims of the twin towers. These flags honor those who came to the rescue of the victims of September 11.

Related to New York Place are Reflection Towers, representing two imposing symbolic towers, completely covered on each of four sides with reflective dark green glass to reflect the Memorial Plaza.

Flight 93 was bound for California with travelers to and residents of California returning. In honor of those who died on that tragic flight in the fields of Pennsylvania, the exhibit, Pennsylvania Place, remains to be designated, but is expected to return to California only the dirt from the surrounding aircraft crash site, as the aircraft and lives were almost entirely vaporized into smoke and fire. The Foundation will seek guidance from the families of the victims of that flight as to the design.

The Foundation's Pentagon exhibit, Washington Place, will be a dedication to the passengers and crew of Flight 77 and the military branch victims who died during the September 11 attack on the Pentagon. Three one-ton pieces of limestone wreckage taken from the Pentagon will be carved and list the names of all the victims and also tell the story of the events of that day. The tallest flag pole and our largest flag of the United States will be in Washington Place along with the flags of all the branches of the military to adorn this memorial.

Glass display cases will include extensive photographs and historical accounts, beginning with minutes before the first crash and continuing during the day.

At the center of one edge is a Carillon Bell Tower that consists of 23 bells activated by keyboard. The tower will play out tunes for Americana themes – themes of peace and themes of each community directly affected.

Near the center, the Foundation will have a uniquely designed granite ball with the names of all 3071 victims etched into the granite and listed by location of each tragedy. This granite ball floats and turns on a thin film of pressured water which causes the ball to gently spin and allows the public to literally touch the ball and stop the spin to see the names of those who died on September 11, 2001.

The California State Fair has provided the land at the State Fairgrounds for the housing of the Memorial Plaza as a permanent outdoor exhibit. The Memorial Plaza is located near the Main Gate, outside of Expo Center Building 2.

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