

# State awards renovation bid

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## City firm to restore Circle monument

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State officials have decided which firm will clean the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, but they may have to wait to determine the amount of work that will be funded immediately.

Geupel, DeMars Inc. of Indianapolis has been chosen to carry out the first phase of the \$11 million restoration.

The first phase calls for erecting a scaffold around the monument, cleaning the stone exterior and metal decorative pieces and removing the scaffold before the Pan American Games in July 1987. Erection of the scaffold is expected to start in early June.

Geupel, DeMars bid \$2,858,504, compared with the anticipated cost of \$3.5 million. The bid is comprised of two major portions — the basic stone-cleaning work, metal removal and scaffold, for \$1,275,000; and metal cleaning and replacement, for \$1,384,000.

Carson Soule of the Commission for Downtown, manager of the fund-raising project, reported

Thursday that \$2.1 million is in the bank so far. That includes \$380,000 in contributions and a \$1,750,000 state appropriation.

She said she expects another \$250,000 within a week.

However, the state faces a deadline that could affect costs.

The price for the scaffold and the bronze cleaning and replacement is guaranteed for only 120 days from May 8, the date the bids were opened. And the bronze work can't be authorized unless the money is in the bank.

"I can't award anything they don't have the money for," asserted State Commissioner of Administration Orval D. Lundy, who is in charge of awarding bids.

That means officials need to collect about \$600,000 by the deadline to completely finance the first phase.

"We've got all the funding," said Lt. Gov. John M. Mutz, who, as chairman of the restoration project, has personally solicited corporate donations.

"I think primarily it's a matter of collecting what's been committed," Mutz said. He noted

that \$137,000 was placed in the bank on Thursday.

Mutz said some corporate contributions are two-year pledges.

In addition, some major pledges haven't been paid because the donors are waiting for the state to acquire Internal Revenue Service designation of the monument funds eligible to be considered tax-deductible gifts, Mutz said.

James E. Knoop, Gov. Robert D. Orr's executive assistant in charge of obtaining IRS approval of the fund, said he expects final action in about a month.

Mutz said fund raising will continue throughout the year to prepare for the second phase, which includes reconstruction of steps and interior areas, and utility improvements.

He observed that when the scaffold goes up, so will public awareness of the project.

Mutz said state funds and donations used for the first phase will be spent in equal amounts, as intended by the Indiana General Assembly.

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