



Photo by OP

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Marion Barry Statue

Mayor, Councilmember, and Civil Rights Leader



Mayor Marion Barry



The statue of Mayor Marion Barry is located at 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW on the grounds of the John A. Wilson Building. Barry was elected to four terms as Mayor of Washington, DC, earning him the title “Mayor for Life.” Prior to being an elected official, Barry was a civil rights activist who began fighting segregation in his hometown of Itta Bena, Mississippi, including as the president of the LaMoyné-Owen College chapter of the NAACP and first chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordination Committee. In 1967, he co-founded Pride Inc., an organization that employed young men from DC’s most impoverished neighborhoods.

After Barry’s death in 2014, the 8-foot bronze statue was commissioned by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and the Marion Barry Commission. Local artist Steve Weitzman designed the full-bodied statue, that can be seen standing larger than life, waving in front of the Wilson Building. The statue sits on a stone block, engraved... “His fervor for justice, fairness, and equality led him to become a champion of the people.” The Marion Barry statue is one a handful full-body statues representing African Americans in the District, including Carter G. Woodson, Mary McLeod Bethune, and the Civil War soldiers at the African American Civil War Memorial.