

Commemorative Works Committee

Program Overview

April 2024

DC Commemorative works are important to our city. They tell the local story of DC and our history – something that can get lost in the context of our National history.



*Metro Memorial Park
2014*



*Carter G. Woodson Memorial
2015*



*Chuck Brown Memorial
2015*



*Abraham Lincoln – Emancipation
Proclamation
2021*

Commemorative Works in DC's Comprehensive Plan

Policy UD-1.1.4: Siting and Design of Monuments and Memorials

Locate commemorative works in places that are relevant to the subject being memorialized, where possible. Design commemorative installations to be accessible to people of all ages and various degrees of mobility, and design them in a way that benefits public life. Explore new types of commemoration, including temporary installations. 903.13

Policy UD-1.4.2: District Gateways

Create more distinctive and memorable gateways at points of entry to the District and in neighborhoods, parks and open spaces, and neighborhood centers. Gateways should provide a sense of transition, orientation, and arrival through improvements in the form of landscaping, artwork, commemoration, and roadway design. They should be designed to make a strong and positive visual impact. 906.9

Action UD-1.1.A: Siting of Commemorative Works

Enhance the District government's approach to the siting and review of both local and national commemorative works. Use existing processes and as needed, establish new processes for better coordination among District and federal agencies and review bodies regarding federal and District commemorative work proposals. Develop a District-wide master plan for creating and siting District commemorative works and events throughout Washington, DC. 903.21

The two policies and one action related to commemorative works in the Comprehensive Plan are heavily focused on making sure they are in appropriate locations. Other factors that are emphasized include making sure they are accessible to all residents, providing benefits to the day-to-day life of residents, encouraging creativity in design; and improving review processes.

The District of Columbia completed an assessment of local memorials and named public places and public buildings to make sure they align with District values and represent all District residents. (See Slide 12)

Historic DC Memorials



Metropolitan Police Memorial – 1934 to 1941



DC World War I Tree Memorial, 16th Street - 1920



DC World War Memorial, National Mall

DC Commemorative Works Program

The District of Columbia has erected few local commemorative works in the past:

Law Enforcement Memorial – Located on Indiana Avenue at the northwest corner of the District Municipal Administration Center, the memorial was designed by the John J. Earley Studio and built between 1934 and 1941.

DC War Memorial - Located south of the Reflecting Pool and along Constitution Avenue, the memorial includes the names of men and women from DC who died in World War I inscribed on its base. It is the only DC memorial on the National Mall, its location symbolizing the unique distinction of DC as a local entity even though it is the federal city.

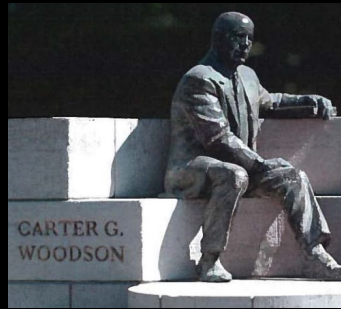
World War I Tree Memorial - Another local memorial dedicated in memory of District residents who died in World War I included 507 trees planted on 16th Street, between Arkansas Avenue and Alaska Avenue.

Recently Approved Commemorative Works 2008 to Present

Name	Location	Installation
Abraham Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation Statue	1923 Vermont Avenue NW	June 29, 2021
Marion Barry, Jr. Bronze Statue	1400 Pennsylvania Avenue NW	March 10th, 2018
Carter G. Woodson Memorial	9th Street and Rhode Island Avenue NW	December 5th, 2015
Metro Memorial Park	New Hampshire Avenue and South Dakota Avenue NE	June 22nd, 2015
Chuck Brown Memorial Park	20th Street NE, between Franklin and Hamlin streets	August 22, 2014



Metro Memorial Park
2014



Carter G. Woodson Memorial
2015



Chuck Brown Memorial
2015



Abraham Lincoln: Emancipation
Proclamation - 2021

DC Commemorative Works Program

Since 2014, the District of Columbia has recommended approval of five commemorative works:

1. Chuck Brown Memorial Park, honoring the local musician;
2. Metro Memorial Park, in memory of nine people who lost their lives in the 2005 crash on Metro's Red Line;
3. Carter G. Woodson Memorial, recognizing the early African American historian;
4. Marion Barry, Jr. Statue, dedicated to the long-time Mayor of the District of Columbia; and,
5. Abraham Lincoln, recognizing the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation.

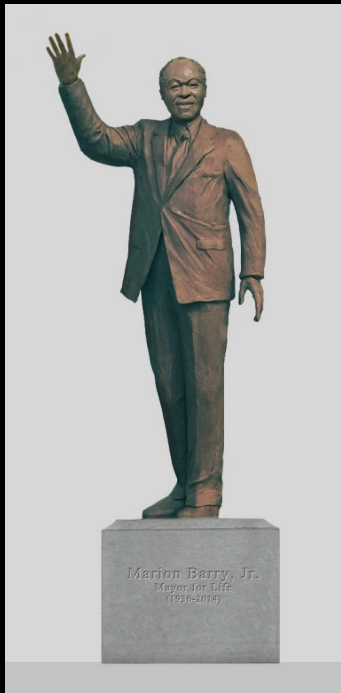
Recent legislation signed by the Mayor established a study being conducted by the University of the District of Columbia to recommend commemorative works subject that is posted here:

<https://publicinput.com/cwtap#2>.



District of Columbia
Office of Planning

What qualifies as a commemorative work in public space?



*Marion Barry Statue - 2017
Wilson Building Grounds
Commemorative Work*

"Commemorative work"—any statue, monument, sculpture, streetscape or landscape feature, including a garden or memorial grove, or other structure, which is located on public space and which is designed to perpetuate in a permanent manner the memory of an individual, group, event, or other significant element of international, national, or local culture or history.

"Public space"—any public street, alley, circle, bridge, building, park, other public place or property owned by or under the administrative control or jurisdiction of the District of Columbia.



*Adams Memorial - 1891
Rock Creek Cemetery
Not a Commemorative Work*

DC Commemorative Works Program

The District of Columbia's current commemorative works review process was developed in response to a federal plan to decrease the number of federal commemorative works on the National Mall and encourage locating them off the Mall and in District neighborhoods. DC Council adopted the Commemorative Works Amendment Act of 2000 that defines what qualifies as a commemorative work. The legislation anticipated the District would receive applications for large-scale memorials like those being proposed on the National Mall. Twenty years after the legislation has passed, the Commemorative Works Committee has received very few applications for this type and scale of memorial. In response to the demographic changes and scale of new development in all parts of the District, there has been an increasing interest in creating local memorials that better reflect the diversity of our residents and celebrate the places and events that define District neighborhoods.

What is the Committee and What is its Purview?

Commemorative Works Committee established to advise the Mayor and DC Council on requests for placing commemorative works on public space in DC.



Carter G. Woodson Site Selection

Reviews each application for:

1. Appropriateness of the location, subject matter, and design of the commemorative work, including the aesthetic, environmental, traffic and parking, and financial impacts of the proposal upon the surrounding community and the District
2. The sufficiency of the sponsor to fund the construction and maintenance of the commemorative work.

The Commemorative Works Amendment Act of 2000 also created the Commemorative Works Committee to review applications and advise the Mayor and District Council who are required to take a final action on the commemorative work. All reviews and comments on applications are considered by the Committee prior to advising the Mayor and District Council.

Commemorative Works Committee

Current Members

Name	Seat Designation	Status
Anita Cozart	OP, Chair	Ex Officio Member
Dulce Naime	DPR	Ex Officio Member
Kerry Kennedy	CAH	Ex Officio Member
Marnique Heath	HPRB	Ex Officio Member
Joe Coleman	Public Member	Current
Otto Condon	Public Member	Current
Alex Padro	Public Member	Current
Neville Waters	Public Member	Current
Quander Rohulamin	Public Member	Current

The Commemorative Work on Public Space Amendment Act of 2000 also establishes the Commemorative Works Committee to advise the Mayor and District Council on commemorative works applications. Membership was amended in 2021 to add additional public members. The Committee is chaired by the Director of the Office of Planning, includes eight other District of Columbia agencies, and three citizen members appointed by the Mayor.

If you are a resident of the District of Columbia and interested in serving as a Public Member of the Commemorative Works Committee, check out how to join a board or commission on the Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments webpage:

<https://mota.dc.gov/page/join-board-or-commission>

Citizen members are required to have an active interest or background in visual arts, architecture, urban planning, civic design, or history.



Commemorative Works Committee

Meeting Dates

The Commemorative Works Committee meets the third Friday of every other month. Sponsors must submit a complete application to the Office of Planning three weeks before the Commemorative Works Committee meeting to be considered at that month's meeting.

The Committee's meeting scheduled is posted on the Office of Planning's website at

<https://planning.dc.gov/page/commemorative-works-committee-meetings-dates-and-filing-deadlines>

More information about past and upcoming Committee meetings is also posted at www.open-dc.gov

The Commemorative Works Committee meets the third Friday of every other month. Filing dates for applications are three weeks prior to the meeting to give staff time to prepare a report on the application for Committee members to review.



Guidelines for Consideration of Applications

1. Commemorative works that recognize local individuals, groups, events, or other significant elements of District of Columbia culture or history generally should be prioritized over other commemorative works.
2. Subjects of commemorative works should be of long-term historic importance, not be any living person, nor any deceased person who has been deceased less than 10 years or any event that has occurred within 10 years.
3. The location of a commemorative work shall be relevant to and compatible with the subject of the commemorative work.
4. A commemorative work shall be situated in a manner that prevents interference with an existing commemorative work, and that protects and enhances open space, existing public and private uses, and cultural and natural resources.
5. A commemorative work shall be constructed of durable material suitable to the outdoor environment, and any landscape features of a commemorative work shall be compatible with the climate.

The Commemorative Work on Public Space Amendment Act of 2000 also establishes basic guidelines for the Commemorative Works Committee to use when reviewing an application.

Required Reviews and Approval*



Lincoln and the Spirit of Freedom – Day-time Illustration

National Capital Memorial
Advisory Commission



Advisory Neighborhood
Commission



Commemorative Works
Committee



DC Council

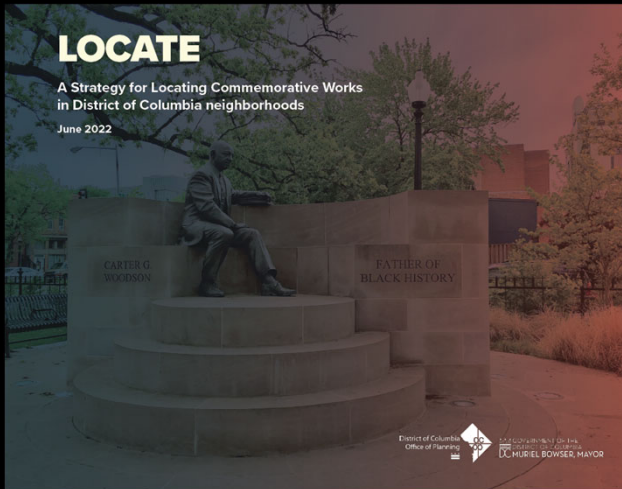
DC's current review process for commemorative works is defined in the Commemorative Work on Public Space Amendment Act of 2000. It includes review and comment by impacted Advisory Neighborhood Commissions and the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, a federal body established to review and makes recommendations on federal commemorative works in the District of Columbia. Other reviews that may be required – although not by the Act – include those by the National Capital Planning Commission, Commission of Fine Arts, and DC Historic Preservation Office.

*Other reviews that may be required - but are not required by the Commemorative Works in Public Space Act of 2000 - include National Capital Planning Commission, Commission of Fine Arts, and the DC Historic Preservation Office.

DC Commemorative Works Program

Location Strategy

BACKGROUND



The District's Location Strategy for Commemorative Works

The location strategy is posted here:
<https://publicinput.com/commemorativeworks>

Information about developing
the strategy is posted here:
<https://publicinput.com/commemorativeworks>

The District of Columbia is coordinating its planning for commemorative works with the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), the federal planning office responsible for reviewing the siting and location of federal commemorative works. NCPC is currently updating their Memorial and Museum Master Plan.

Three Concepts

1. Ceremonial Corridors
2. Community Spaces
3. Shared Spaces

Places in the City Plan

1. Small Parks and Open Spaces
2. Streets and Sidewalks
3. Civic Buildings and Spaces
4. Large Parks, Waterfronts, and Plazas

DC Commemorative Works Program



District of Columbia
Office of Planning

Task Force on Facilities and Commemorative Expressions (DC FACES)



Albert Pike Memorial



Black Lives Matter Plaza

Mayor Bowser's Task Force on Facilities and Commemorative Expressions (DC FACES) evaluated local commemorative works to ensure they align with District of Columbia Values and was timely considering recent public events and discussions about who and what is commemorated.

The final recommendation of the Task Force is posted here: <https://mayor.dc.gov/dcfaces>

DC Commemorative Works Program

Today - amidst a national discussion of who and what should be commemorated - there is a renewed interest in promoting commemorative work of local people and events. Towards this effort, the Office of Planning:

1. Reviewed all aspects of the current commemorative work legislation;
2. Considered an expanded role for the District of Columbia in planning for and envisioning the future of local commemorative works;
3. Participated on the Task Force on Facilities and Commemorative Expressions (DC FACES) to ensure existing local commemoration of all types aligns with DC values; and,
4. Created a Technical Assistance Program to promote commemorative works of Washingtonians.