

**Application for a Commemorative Work on
District of Columbia Public Space**

Washington, D.C.

MOKO JUMBIE PARADE AND QUEEN OF THE CARIBBEAN SEA
Two Concepts Celebrating DC's Caribbean Carnival

Name of Commemorative Work

Triangle Park at Georgia Avenue, Arkansas Avenue, and Farragut Street NW

Location of Commemorative Work

Submitted by:

Mayor's Office of Caribbean and Community Affairs

Name of Sponsoring Organization

Submitted to the District of Columbia Commemorative Works Committee

Date

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Section</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Sponsoring Organization	3
II. Project Description	3
III. Project Location	6
IV. Project Design	12
V. Community Outreach	17

I. SPONSORING ORGANIZATION

1. Name or Title of Proposed Commemorative Work

Moko Jumbie Parade and Queen of the Caribbean Sea

2. Sponsoring Organization

Name of sponsoring organization: Mayor's Office of Caribbean and Community Affairs

Address of sponsoring organization: 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC, 20004

Contact Person: Natalee Snider, Executive Director

Telephone: (202) 409-9107

E-mail: mocca@dc.gov

Tax Status of Principal Sponsor: Sponsor is a District agency

3. Description of Sponsoring Organization

The Mayor's Office of Caribbean and Community Affairs (MOCCA) engages the extraordinarily diverse culture of the Caribbean Diaspora in the District of Columbia (DC). It works to empower residents by equipping them with government resources and service, while providing programmatic support to each facet of the community. MOCCA advises the Mayor, Council Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, and other DC agencies on the views, needs, and concerns of the Caribbean Diaspora. It makes recommendations on DC programs and initiatives within the government that promote the overall welfare of the community. MOCCA serves as an advocate for needs related to housing, health, education, employment, social services, public safety, and expanding business opportunities.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

4. Subject of Commemorative Work

DC's Caribbean Carnival Festival, held from 1993 to 2011 on Georgia Avenue NW, celebrated the traditions and culture of the Caribbean islands and heritage of Caribbean Americans. The event started in 1993 with nine bands and grew to feature 25 bands, a parade from Missouri Avenue to Barry Place, and attracted 300,000+ attendees. It featured food vendors, masqueraders, bands and stilt walkers towering above attendees. The event helped strengthen businesses and commercial areas, helping transform the area of Georgia Avenue around the Petworth Library at a time when the area struggled economically. In 2012, DC's Caribbean Festival combined their event with one held in Baltimore, MD. Today the American Carnival Association of Baltimore hosts Baltimore Carnival with the DC Caribbean Carnival Committee, where it draws thousands of spectators and participants from the Baltimore/Washington, DC area.

5. Summary of Proposed Commemorative Work

Two concept designs for commemorative works celebrating DC's Caribbean Carnival have been designed for the small triangle park at the intersection of Arkansas Avenue and Georgia Avenue NW. The concepts are developed by artist Miriam Gusevich, a Cuban-American urban designer, public artist, scholar, and educator. Both concepts include sculptural figures representing Caribbean culture and figures celebrated during DC's Caribbean Carnival. The first concept - Moko Jumbie Parade - includes six Moko Jumbie figures in different colors and in different poses. They are positioned along a landscaped path. The second concept - Queen of the Caribbean Sea - includes a Moko Jumbie female with a giant wave that reflects the sky and people standing next to it. The Queen stands on a stage and provides the backdrop for small bands. The central oval performance space is framed with landscaping and defined by a low seating wall that creates an amphitheater.

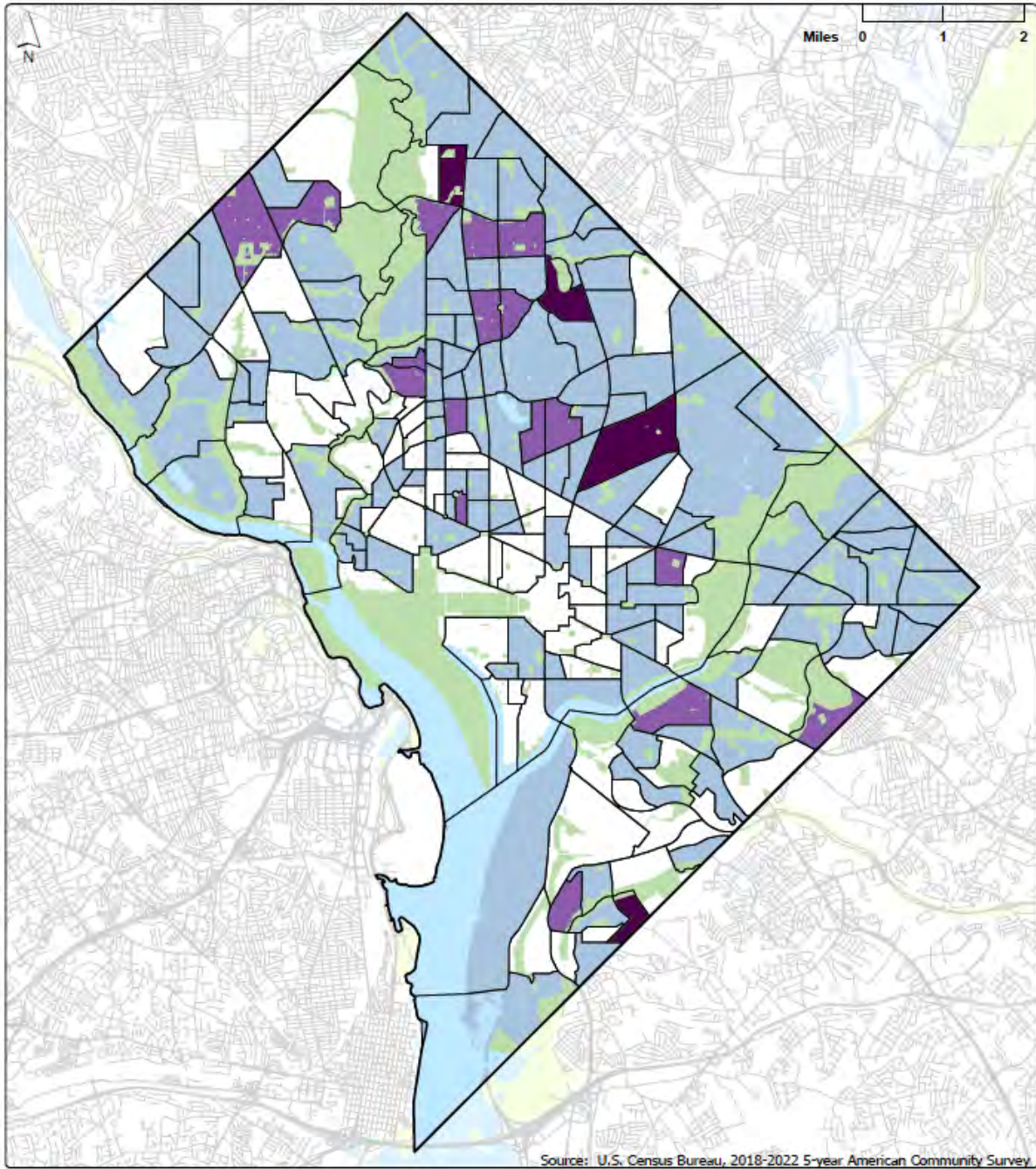
6. Relationship of Commemorative Work to District of Columbia History and Culture

Washington, DC and the surrounding region has an active Caribbean community with approximately 80,000 Caribbean Americans living in the DC area. More than 7,500 live in DC today, including many concentrated in neighborhoods along Georgia Avenue NW (Map 1). This area has traditionally been home to many Caribbean Americans supporting businesses along the corridor and using the Petworth Library as a center for meeting and planning events.

In 1993, DC Caribbean Carnival, Inc. was created as a non-profit organization based in DC, with a mandate to develop and encourage cross-cultural programs with the community. For 17 years, the DC Carnival Festival featured a five-hour parade along Georgia Avenue NW and a live performance at Banneker Field, with arts and crafts, Caribbean foods and beverages, and a festival atmosphere.

The celebration of Carnival in the Caribbean originated in Trinidad & Tobago and is observed today on many Caribbean islands. Historically, many of these Carnivals celebrated emancipation and served as "an affirmation of survival," a fitting description for Georgia Avenue's aspiration at that time. DC's first Carnival in 1993 included nine costumed bands accompanied by calypso, steel band and DJs that paraded along Georgia Avenue for five hours and attracted 25,000 onlookers. By 2007, participation had increased to 25 bands and approximately 250,000 onlookers. DC Metropolitan Police estimate that at the last Carnival held in 2011, more than 350,000 people attended. DC's Carnival ended in 2011 due to the costs associated with hosting the event and insufficient funding sources.

The proposed location in a triangle park at Georgia Avenue, Arkansas Avenue, and Farragut Street NW is located along the festival's parade route.



Office of Planning ~ August 7, 2024
Government of the District of Columbia

This map was created for planning purposes from a variety of sources. It is neither a survey nor a legal document. Information provided by other agencies should be verified with them where appropriate.

The District of Columbia Caribbean Population by Census Tract

Caribbean Population



Map 1: DC Caribbean Population by Census Tract, August 2024

III. PROJECT LOCATION

7. Project location

The project site is a triangle park at the intersection of Georgia Avenue, Arkansas Avenue, and Farragut Street NW. It is the eastern terminus of Arkansas Avenue and entrance to a winding parkway connecting to the Piney Branch Parkway and Rock Creek Park.



Reservation 312E looking south from Georgia Avenue to the intersection of Arkansas Avenue and Farragut Street

8. District Government Agency with Oversight

The site is known as Reservation 312E and was transferred from the National Park Service to the DC government in 1972. Today it is maintained by DC's Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). DPR was involved in selecting the site for the proposed commemorative work and has been consulted throughout the concept design process.

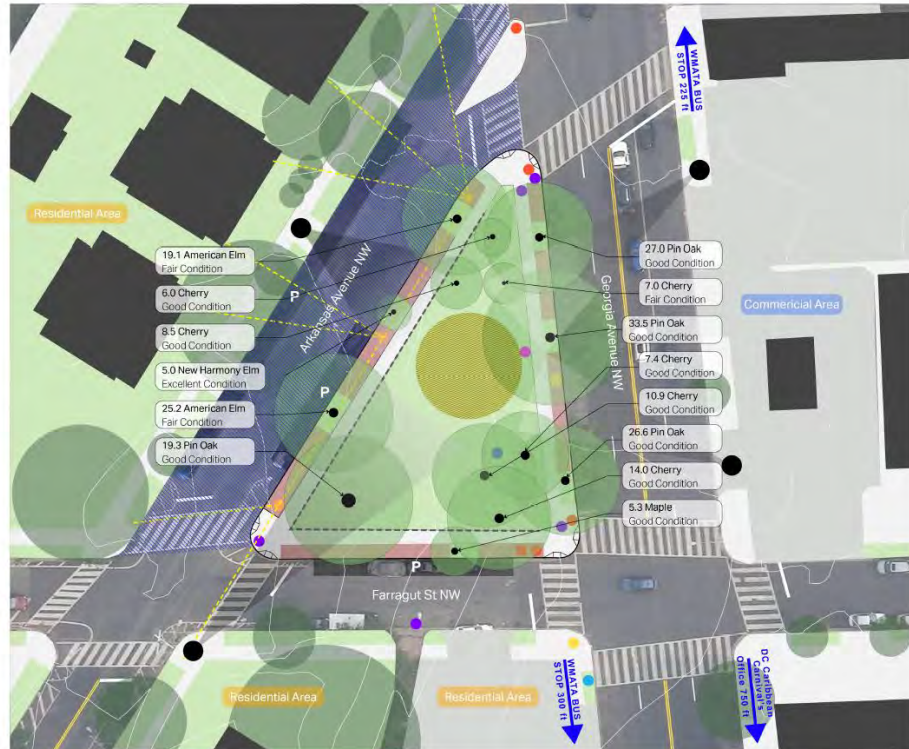
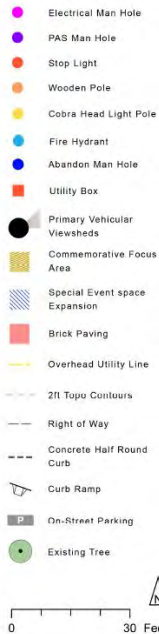
9. Existing Conditions

The park is a free-standing triangle and approximately 14,400 sq' (one-third of an acre). It gently slopes from east to west, away from Georgia Avenue, and toward Arkansas Avenue. The center of the site is an open area covered with grass. There are two clusters of three

flowering cherry trees each in the north and southeast corner of the park that are in fair to good condition; a large Pin Oak is in the southwest corner of the park and is in good conditions. The site is surrounded on all three sides by a low, rounded concrete curb, concrete sidewalk, and furniture zone at the curb that includes street trees and paved with red brick.

Site Analysis

Ward 4



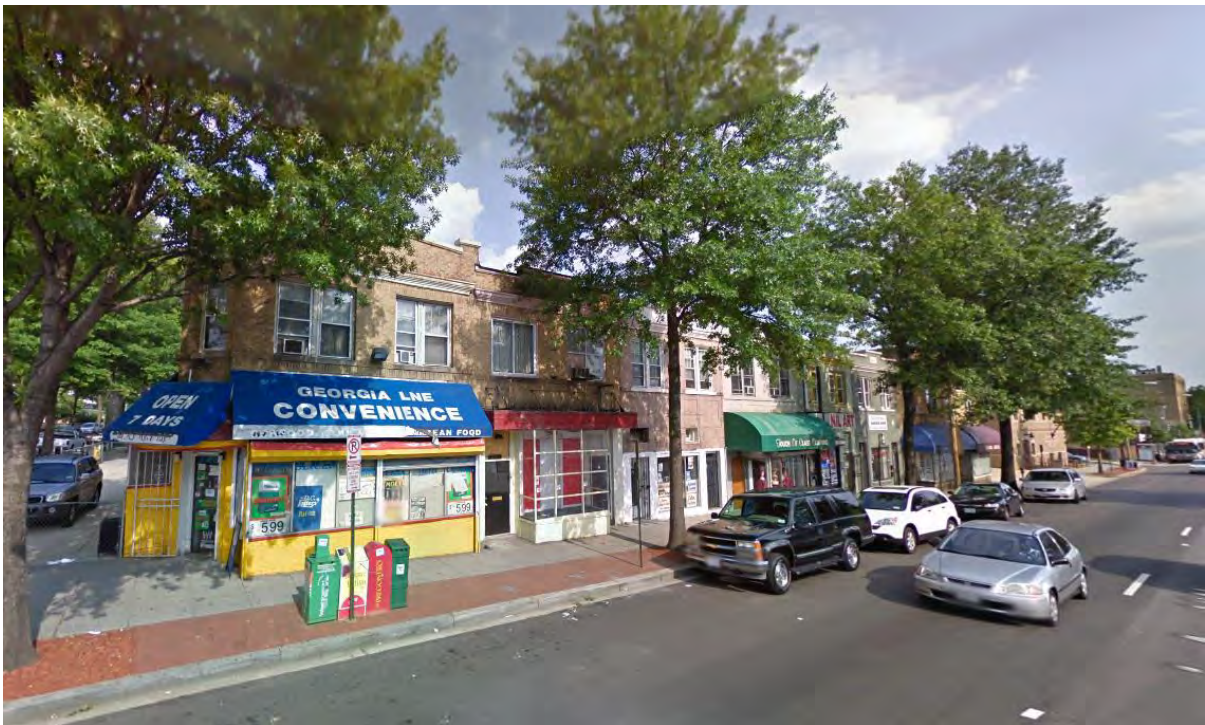
Site map of Reservation 312E

The site is along west side and part of the Georgia Avenue mixed-use commercial corridor (MU-4) and surrounded on the by moderate density residential neighborhood (R-1B).

The MU-4 zone is applied throughout DC and permits moderate-density mixed-use development. It provides facilities for shopping and business needs, housing, and mixed uses for neighborhoods outside of the central core; is in low- and moderate-density residential areas with access to main roadways or rapid transit stops; and includes office employment centers, shopping centers, and moderate bulk mixed-use centers.



The commercial area immediately across the street from the site includes a service station and telephone exchange building

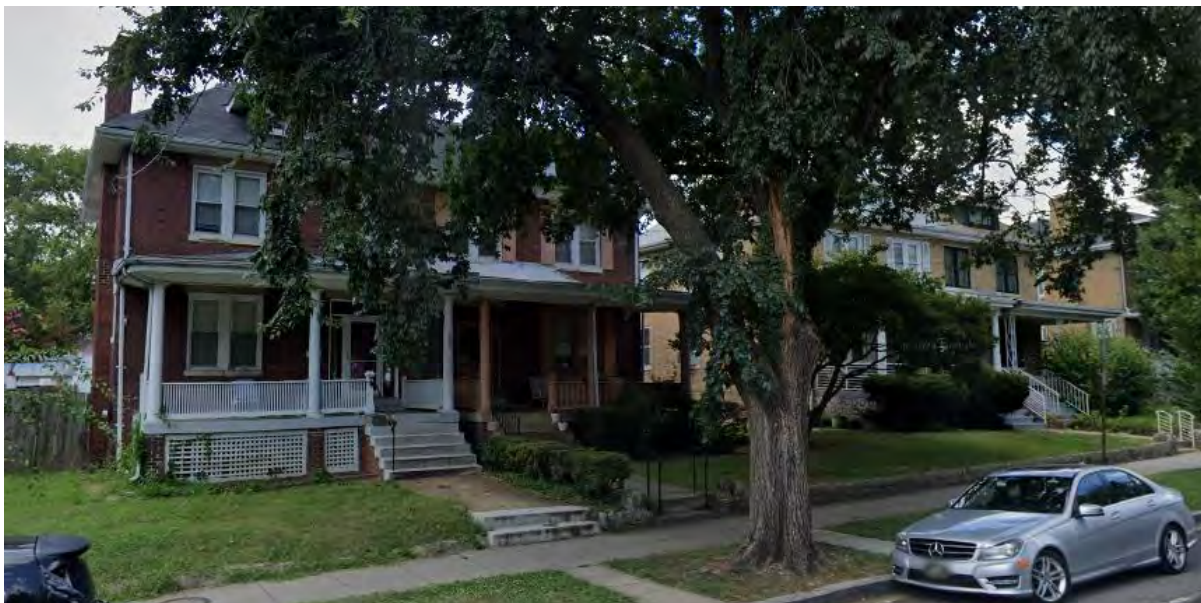


Small-scale commercial buildings along Georgia Avenue a block north of the site include small businesses with active ground floor uses



Newer multi-unit residential buildings are being constructed on Georgia Avenue to the north and south of the project site

The R-1B zones are intended to protect quiet residential areas developed with detached dwellings and adjoining vacant areas likely to be developed for those purposes. They stabilize residential areas, promote a suitable environment for family life, and are intended to provide areas predominantly developed with detached houses on moderately sized lots.



Single-family duplexes are located across Arkansas Avenue from the site



Streets to the south of the site are lined with single-family homes

10. Historic Preservation Considerations

The project site is not located in a historic district and there are no landmark buildings within a three-block radius of the site. The triangle park is an open space created as part of DC's Highway Plan, but that plan does not have a historic designation.

11. Project Compatibility with Existing or Future Plans for the Area

The project site is located within the boundaries of the Upper Georgia Avenue Small Area Plan, adopted by DC Council in 2008. The plan provided a revitalization strategy and framework for future development along the corridor from Decatur Street north to Eastern Avenue. It reflected DC's renewed focus on Georgia Avenue and Great Streets Initiative, an effort to transform the corridor into a thriving and inviting neighborhood center. The plan identified the triangle park at Georgia Avenue and Arkansas Avenue as a public space with the potential to become an attractive space and site of neighborhood themed public art. Specifically, "the pocket park at the intersection of Georgia and Arkansas offers a prime opportunity to provide additional open space and recreational uses for adjacent neighborhoods. By reengaging the park through public realm improvements, this very urban and high trafficked area will have a visual relief of green open space."

There are no commemorative works within 500 feet of this site.

There are multiple policies and actions in the comprehensive plan that support commemoration, improving small parks, and investing in the Georgia Avenue corridor:

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.

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.

Action UD-2.3.B: Playable Art

Complete permanent artistic play structures in small parks, street corners, or civic buildings to pilot the concept of playable streets.

Policy UD-3.3.2: Small Parks for Recreation

Leverage small parks, including triangle parks, linear parks, and medians, to serve as places for recreation, community gathering, and play by encouraging greater resident and community design and management of these spaces through grant and partnership programs.

Policy UD-3.3.3: Plazas for Diverse Uses

Design plazas to accommodate physical activities like dancing or ball play, passive activities like sitting and chess, and cultural events like concerts, exhibits, and historical celebrations. Plazas can also provide space for café-style seating and farmers markets. When programming plazas, consider the needs of users with varying mobility levels.

Action UD-3.3.A: Cross-Agency Small Parks Partnership Program

Develop a community partnership program that includes the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT), the DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), and the DC Department of General Services (DGS) to improve and activate small parks through a combination of landscaping, recreation amenities, signage, and street design that contributes to neighborhood recreation, definition, and identity.

Policy MC-2.1.2: Georgia Avenue NW Design Improvements

Upgrade the visual quality of the Georgia Avenue NW corridor through urban design and public space improvements, including tree planting, new parks and plazas, upgraded triangle parks, and facade improvements that establish a stronger identity and improved image.

Policy MC-2.1.6: Pocket Parks and Plazas

Pursue opportunities to create new publicly accessible open spaces along the Georgia Avenue NW corridor.

Action MC-2.1.G Open Streets

Build on the success of the 2019 Georgia Avenue Open Streets day by creating a regular Open Streets event. Work with local communities to ensure any District- sponsored event

respects and promotes the legacy of the corridor as a site for celebrations of culture such as Georgia Avenue Day and the Georgia Avenue Caribbean Festival.

Action RCE-1.2.E: Gateway Thoroughfares

Enhance the defining characteristics of Georgia Avenue, 16th Street, and New Hampshire Avenue NW as gateway thoroughfares through Rock Creek East connecting with Maryland. The thoroughfares' origins and purpose should define how public space and buildings along them enhance views toward important civic monuments and distant landmarks, create neighborhood-defining places, and complete Washington DC's park and open space system.

Policy RCE-2.3.2: Pedestrian and Transit Improvements to Upper Georgia Avenue NW

The development of upper Georgia Avenue NW as one of Washington, DC's prominent commercial gateways should encourage new retail and infill that is pedestrian and transit oriented. Improve transit access along Georgia Avenue itself and support better connections with other parts of the city. Improvements to the public realm also should be made to make walking, biking, and transit use, including bus rapid transit, safe, comfortable, and convenient, including greening and landscaping in the public space and rights-of-way.

13. Concurrent Reviews

There are no concurrent reviews taking place. Further design review and coordination will take place as additional funding is identified and further design work is completed. However, multiple federal and District agencies were consulted as part of developing the two concept designs featured in this application, and their feedback has been incorporated. Agencies that were consulted and given the opportunity to provide comments include: Commission of Fine Arts, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, DC Department of Transportation, DC Department of Parks and Recreation, DC Historic Preservation Office, DC Office of Planning, National Capital Planning Commission, and the National Park Service.

IV. PROJECT DESIGN

14. Concept and Materials

Concept One: Moko Jumbie Parade

This commemorative work features a series of Moko Jumbie sculptures representing seven basic dance moves. The sculptures are purposely placed to face various directions to embody a parade. A proposed glowing path allows people to walk under or next to the sculptures to be part of the parade. The sculptures will be powdered coated steel and anodized aluminum.



Concept One: Moko Jumbie Parade – Site Plan



Concept One: Moko Jumbie Parade – Perspective



Concept One: Moko Jumbie Parade – Detail: resin path with crushed stone and circular seating is inspired by steel pan drums.



Concept One: Moko Jumbie Parade – Detail: glow-in-the-dark path – seeded with colorful fluorescent luminous stones representing colorful Caribbean Carnival.

Concept Two: Queen of the Caribbean Sea

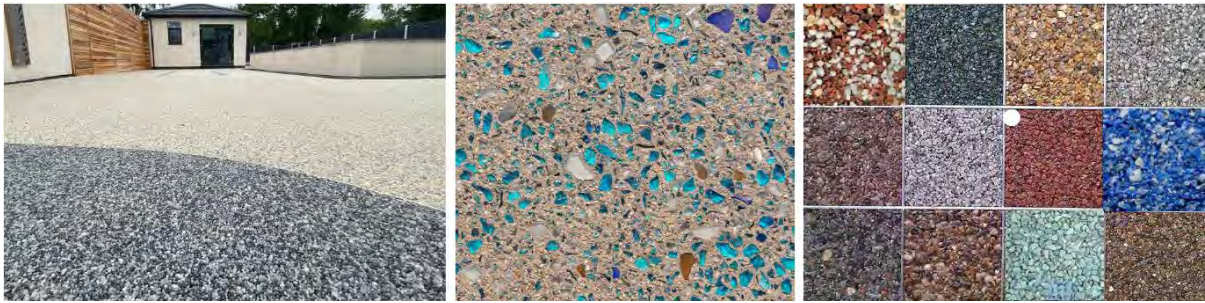
This commemorative work features a large Moko Jumbie Queen of the Caribbean, standing on a stage at the end of an oval gathering space with trees as a backdrop. The sculpture is sized to be visible from Georgia Avenue and adjacent neighborhoods. Seat walls define the central open space. Interpretive signage at the north and south entrances tells visitors the history of Caribbean Carnival in DC. The sculpture will be powdered coated steel and anodized aluminum. The site could serve as a starting point of future DC Caribbean Carnival Parade.



Concept Two: Queen of the Caribbean Sea – Site Plan



Concept Two: Queen of the Caribbean Sea – Perspective



Concept Two: Queen of the Caribbean Sea – Detail: resin path with crushed stone or recycled glass concrete paving in various colors: blue, gold, red, green, etc.



Concept Two: Queen of the Caribbean Sea – Detail: glow-in-the dark path seeded with colorful fluorescent luminous stones representing colorful Caribbean Carnival seat wall. Interpretive signs will be prominently displayed at the two Georgia Avenue entrances.

15. Infrastructure

There are no related infrastructure improvements required to complete this project.

16. Environmental Analysis

An environment impact assessment will be completed for this site when additional funding is identified, and further design work is completed.

17. Proposed Timeline

A timeline for implementing a preferred concept for this will be undertaken as additional funding is identified and further design work is completed.

V. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

18. Community Outreach Program

Two public meetings were held to engage the public in the design of the commemorative work concepts.

Visioning Workshop

A Visioning Workshop was hosted at the future memorial site on Saturday, April 27th. It rained during the 2-hour event, with a few short breaks. Despite the rain, people were out and about for Petworth’s annual PorchFest. Live music could be heard from a house three doors from the memorial site.

In total, 23 direct comments were received from a mix of formal and informal interactions. Six formal interactions (and demographic information) were captured through a sign-in sheet. Staff counted an additional 10 informal interactions - passersby who engaged with the project team/boards but did not log their participation on the sign-in sheet.

Stakeholders preferred multiple, active uses on the future memorial site. In conversation, stakeholders shared ideas for how to commemorate the DC Caribbean Carnival. The following comments including “steel drums,” “color,” “interactive,” and “gathering space” appeared multiple times.



Visioning workshop held on April 27, 2024

Design Workshop

On Saturday, June 22, 2024, the project team hosted a Design Workshop for the Ward 4 Commemorate DC project at the Emery Heights Community Center. The project team spoke with 16 community members who provided comments about the concept designs. Based on observational and sign-in data, most attendees were African American and English speaking; roughly an equal number of men and women participated. Some of the stakeholders were seniors/older residents and young people, and stakeholders who had been tied into organizing some of the original/earlier carnivals.

Five respondents reported that they appreciated the seating incorporated in Concept 2, Queen of the Caribbean Sea. Almost half of the respondents, 8 of 17 (47%), liked that Concept 2 created a space for people to connect, in smaller settings on the benches, or in larger groups

using the stage/performance area. Three respondents requested a water feature of some sort (especially relevant as this engagement took place during a heat wave).

Two stakeholders expressed concern about the plaza featured in Concept 2 being so near Georgia Avenue. They were concerned that more activity near a high-traffic corridor would lead to congestion and safety issues. Of those that preferred Concept 1, Moko Jumbie Parade, two expressly choose it for its inclusion of greenery and trees.

In addition to the design workshop itself, the project team also attended the second annual Caribbean Cultural Concert on June 22, 2024, at 1455 Pennsylvania Avenue NW. Staff shared project information with concert goers (including a handout with the project website) and solicited feedback using the feedback boards created for the design workshop. Attendance was low due to weather conditions (DC experienced a heat wave and thunderstorm). Staff solicited shared project information with an estimated five people.