



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
OFFICE OF PLANNING



**PUBLIC SPACE APPLICATION REVIEW**

**DATE:** December 1, 2009  
**TO:** Public Space Committee  
**FROM:** Joshua Ghaffari, Citywide Planner  
**SUBJECT:** 2201 G Street, NW

**APPLICATION-IN-BRIEF**

**Applicant:** Adam Aaronson  
**Location:** The site is located on the north side of G Street NW between 22nd Street NW and 23rd Street NW.  
**Proposal:** The applicant is requesting to install a public art sculpture on the George Washington University (GWU) Campus. It is located in a R-5-D zoning district. The sculpture is of a brass key that symbolizes GWU's Honor Society. The proposed location is on an existing landscaped area on G Street NW. The sculpture is located in the area covered by a Streetscape Plan developed for GWU.

**BACKGROUND**

The Office of Planning received the public space application for review on October 23, 2009. EEK developed a Streetscape Plan for GWU in 2006 and it was approved by the Zoning Board in 2007. The GWU Streetscape Plan supports the placement of statues and other forms of public art, which is outlined in a section of the plan titled Distinctive Design Elements.

**BASIS OF REPORT**

The Office of Planning has reviewed the application, coordinated with DDOT/TPPA and historic preservation staff, considered existing site conditions, and completed research on the site to prepare this report.

There are several comprehensive plan policies that the Office of Planning referred to as part of completing this report:

***AC-2.1 Increasing Opportunities for Public Art***

Public art can provide beauty, visual interest, and a source of community pride. It can contribute to cross-cultural understanding, and become a source of community dialogue and participation. It also brings economic benefits in the form of tourism and jobs for artists. While the most familiar forms of public art in the District are its more than 150 commemorative memorials, there are many other examples. Traditional definitions of public art have grown to include temporary installations as well as permanent art for. New directions in public art should encourage a diversity of media, so that all segments of the community can participate and be represented.

**Policy AC-2.1.1: Emphasizing Important Places with Art**

Use public art to strengthen the District's identity as a local cultural and arts center. Public art should accent location such as Metro stations, sidewalks, streets, parks, and building lobbies. It should be used in coordination with landscaping, lighting, paving and signage to create gateways for neighborhood and communities.

**KEY ISSUES**

The proposed sculpture is located within an existing landscaped area in public space. The material of the sculpture is brass with a stone base. The approximate total height is 6'5" and the width is 2'8". The sculpture is located in the landscaped area between the sidewalk and property line and does not impede pedestrian movement along the adjacent sidewalk. The location and position of the public art is complimentary to the landscape, and is consistent with public space policies and regulations to treat this area as a "public garden".

**SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION**

The Office of Planning finds that the addition of the statue is a positive addition to the District and supports its placement in public space.

**The Office of Planning recommends that this application be approved.**