Application for a Commemorative Work on
District of Columbia Public Space

Washington, D.C.

Chuck Brown Memorial Park

Submitted by

The Department of General Services in collaboration with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities

Submitted to the District of Columbia Commemorative Works Committee
April 14, 2014

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I. SPONSORING ORGANIZATION

1. Name of Commemorative Work

Chuck Brown Memorial Park

2. Sponsoring Organization

Name of sponsoring organization:	Department of General Services
Address of sponsoring organization:	1250 U Street, NW, 4th Floor Washington DC, 20009
Contact Person	*W.* Keith Jones
Telephone	202-409-1769
E-mail:	wjones@heery.com

Name of sponsoring organization:	DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
Address of sponsoring organization	200 I (Eye) Street, SE, Suite 1400 Washington, DC 20003
Contact Person:	Keona Pearson
Telephone:	(202)724-5613
Fax:	(202)727-4135
E-mail:	keona.pearson@dc.gov

3. Description of Sponsoring Organization

The Department of General Services (DGS) has a mission to elevate the quality of life for the District with superior construction, first rate maintenance and expert real estate management. By building and maintaining safe and green state of the art facilities with foster economic growth and elevate educational environments, their trusted and skillful employees create modern and vibrant communities across all of the District of Columbia.

The DC Commission of Arts and Humanities (DCCAH) provides grants, professional opportunities, education enrichment, other programs and services to individuals and nonprofit organizations in all communities within the District of Columbia. The Arts Commission is supported primarily by District Government funds and impact by the National Endowment for the Arts. THE DCCAH is the leading voice for arts and culture in the city, thereby elevating the impact of arts and humanities locally, nationally and internationally.

4. Board of Directors

The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities is governed by a volunteer board of Commissioners who are appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. They represent the various wards throughout the city.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

5. Summary of Proposed Commemorative Work

By mandate of Mayor Gray, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities executed a DC Creates! Public Art RFP for an artist or artist team to develop a permanent public art installation at the new Chuck Brown Memorial Park (formerly Langdon Park at 1800 Franklin Street, NE) in Ward 5. The park's ground breaking occurred on August 22, 2013 and included a press conference to announce the creation of the Chuck Brown Memorial Park and the public artwork installation.

The goal of the Chuck Brown Memorial Park Public Art Installation is to celebrate Chuck Brown as the inventor of a new musical form; uplift his remembrance and the musicians that continue in his footsteps as a unifier of people, using music and art as an equalizer, engineer the public art installation to ensure the work is stable and safely installed, craft a public space that celebrates the appreciation of artwork and promote educational opportunities, community fellowship and enhance the area to create a unified setting where residents and visitors can experience art and music.

The design of the public art installation is composed of 3 plate-steel figures representing Chuck Brown and 2 Dancers placed on a Concrete Stage and Dance Floor, Interactive LED display , Sitting Walls Surrounding both the Stage and Dance Floor , Landscaped Park-Setting , Laser-Cut, Stainless Steel Wall Surrounds & Signage and a Stage Canopy.

6. Subject of Commemorative Work

The life and times of Mr. Chuck Brown are truly worth acknowledgement by the city that embraced him and nurtured his gift of music. Mr. Brown's music is an integral part of the DC musical landscape, but his music extends well beyond the borders of the District. His musical influence is recognized nationally as well as internationally. His creation of a new musical genre has earned him national recognition and has made him a beloved figure in the DC area, which is why he is referred to as the "Godfather of go-go". Although it has been less than ten years since the passing of Mr. Brown, it is the belief of the District that the great impact of his life's work should be commemorated in full because of the great influence that he has had on other artists, go-go and otherwise, throughout DC, the nation and the world.

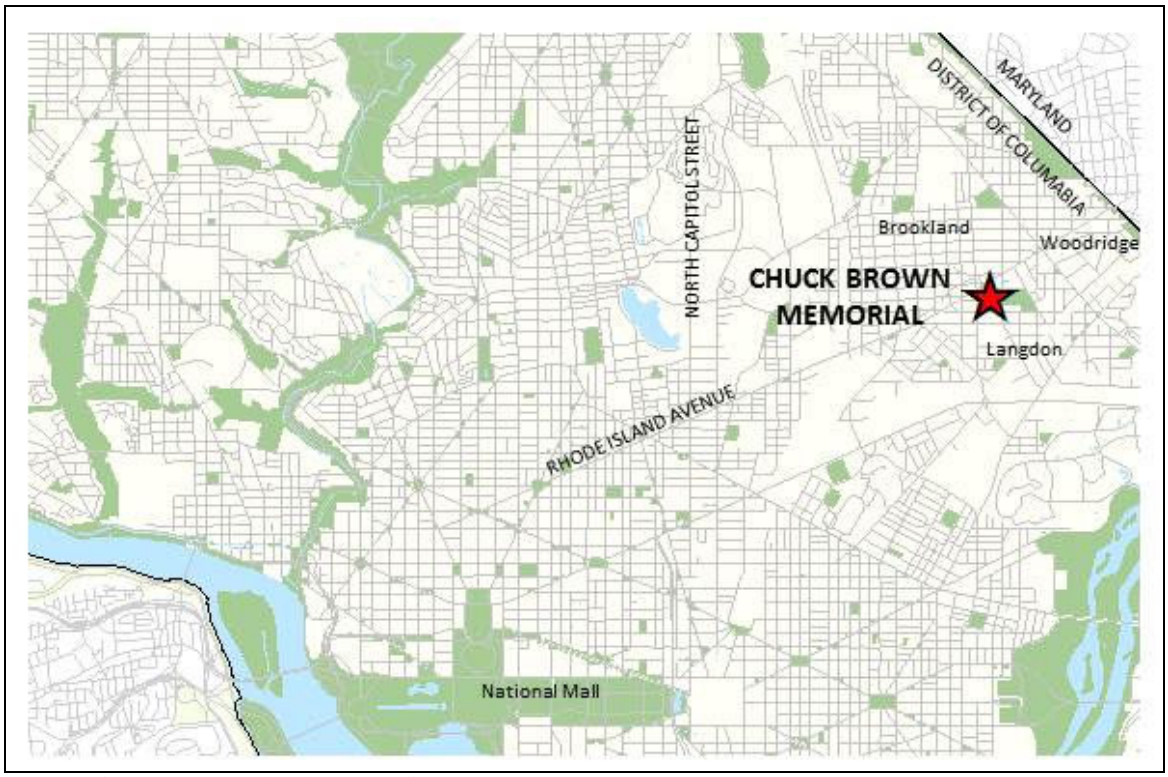
7. Relationship of Commemorative Work to District of Columbia History and Culture

Charles Louis "Chuck" Brown (August 22, 1936 – May 16, 2012) was an American guitarist and singer who is affectionately called "the Godfather of Go-go." Go-go is a subgenre of funk music developed in and around Washington, D.C. in the mid and late 1970s. While its musical classification influences, and origins are debated with significant contributions from many artists, Brown is regarded as the fundamental force behind the creation of go-go music. The Go-Go beat found its home in Washington. Go-Go bands that followed Brown since the 1970s would take his baton and advance the music carrying Washington, DC's original sound around the world. The "Godfather of Go-Go" is considered a local legend in Washington, DC.

III. PROJECT LOCATION

8. Project location

The Chuck Brown Memorial Wall and sculpture will be located in Chuck Brown Park, formely known as Langon Park, located in the Woodridge neighborhood of Ward 5. The DC City Council renamed the park in the Chuck Brown Park Designation Act of 2012. The memorial wall and sculpture is located in the eastern half of the park facing 20th Street, NE, between Franklin and Hamlin streets.



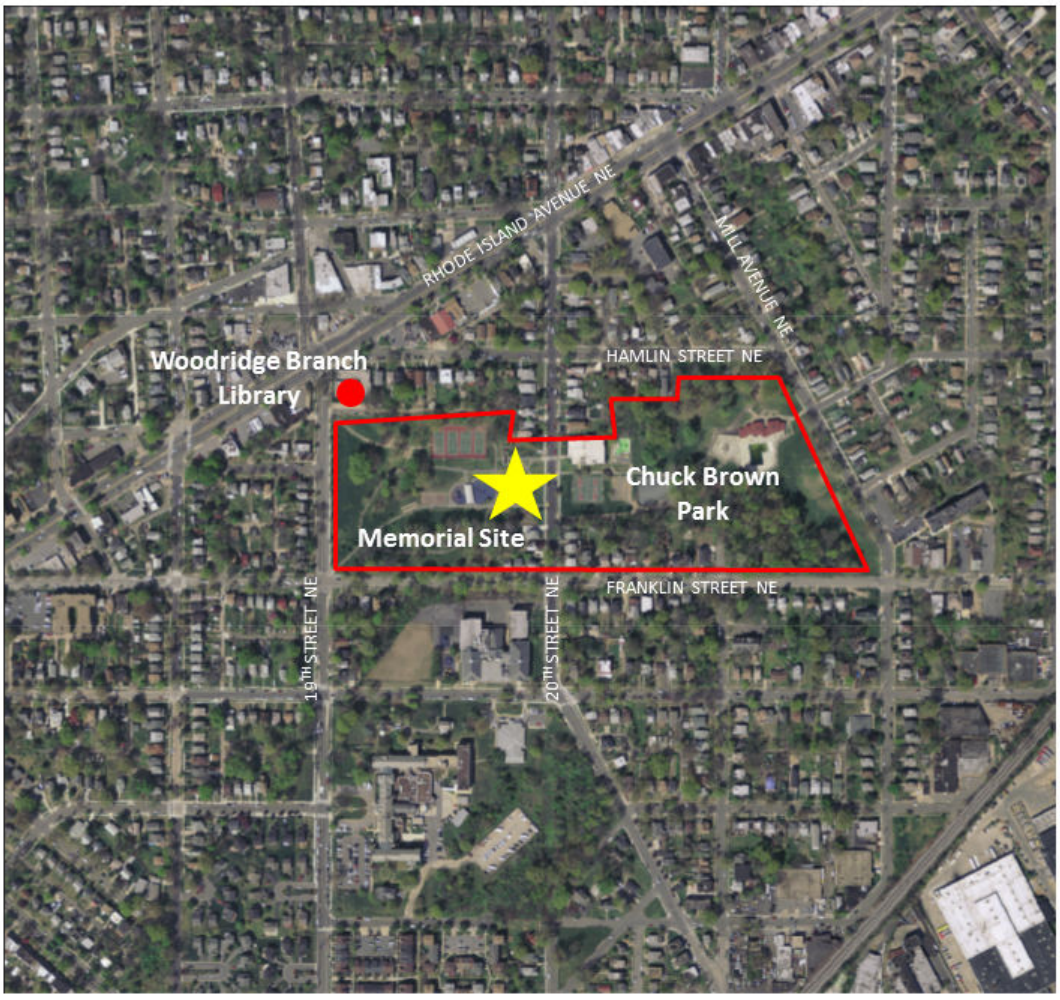
Location of Memorial Site within the District of Columbia

9. District Government Agency with Oversight

The Department of General Services (DGS) will have oversight of the construction and mainteance of the memorial park. The DC Commission of Arts and Humanities (DCCAH) will assist DGS in making sure the artwork has been fabricated according to the artists' standard and vision.

10. Existing Conditions

The location of the proposed site for the Chuck Brown Memorial Park is the eastern portion of the current Langdon Park located in NE between 18th and 20th streets at the west and east and Hamlin and Franklin streets at the north and south.



Neighborhood Context

The existing park consists of an old under-utilized amphitheater structure with bench seating along 20th street that is in need of major repairs.. The current park also contains 4 tennis courts, a large playground and a covered pavilion. These amenities will not be impacted by the construction of the new memorial wall. There is also a large

community center, dog park, outdoor pool and other exterior amenties across 20th street that serves the community. Beyond the boundaries of the park, the area is primarily single family detached housing.

11. Historic Preservation Considerations

The proposed site for the memorial is within Langdon Park on National Park Service Reservation 446, which was transferred to the District of Columbia for recreational purposes in 1969. No historic resources have been identified within the park or in the immediate vicinity. Completion of the memorial involves demolition of an existing amphitheater. The amphitheater sits above the buried stream channel of a stream that once ran through the park but was channelized into a pipe and is now part of the storm sewer system. The ground disturbance caused by construction of the amphitheater and storm sewer make it unlikely that intact archaeological resources would be disturbed by the project, so the Historic Preservation Office made a finding of No Adverse Effect for construction of the memorial.

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

The site is located east of the Langdon neighborhood and immediately south of Rhode Island Ave, between 19th Street and Mills Avenue NE. The Comprehensive Plan designates the memorial site as park land and the neighborhood surrounding it for low-density residential uses.

The memorial site is surrounded on the north, east, and south by residential neighborhoods. The Woodridge Library is located at the northwest corner of the park in a C-2-A commercial zone. The library is currently closed due to major modernization, with a scheduled 2015 re-opening. The surrounding residential neighborhood is zoned R-1-B, a designation defined by single-family residential uses. There are no other memorials within the vicinity of the proposed memorial. This site has been designed to respond to it surroundings and opens to 20th Street. The sculpture is at the primary entrance to the park and a level open space along 20th Street. The open space is surrounded by retaining wall that serves as a memorial wall that faces the interior of the park and a children's playground.

13. Economic Impact

There will be no economic impact from the development of this site.

IV. PROJECT DESIGN

Chuck Brown Park is designed to have a level open space facing 20th Street NE with an abstract sculpture of Chuck Brown in the northeast corner. The level open space is surrounded with a memorial wall with images and discography of Chuck Brown.

Within Chuck Brown Park, the Public Art Installation by artist Jackie Braitman entitled "Wind Me Up, Chuck" embodies the vitality that was Chuck Brown. This interactive sculpture mirrors his energy and will continue to engage the community in Chuck's music and vision. It captures Chuck's force of personality, echoes the "call and response" inclusiveness of Go-Go, and evokes the captivating rhythms of the Caribbean-inspired Funk music. The much-larger-than-life scale of the installation reflects Chuck's outsized impact on DC over the course of more than 4 decades. The installation is set in a park-within-a-park setting – a design that invites passersby to enter and encourages them to stay.

Public Art Installation Dimensions are as follows:

- Chuck Brown Figure: 16ft tall by 80in wide by 56in deep and will weigh about 1900 lbs.
- Dancers: 10ft tall by 45in wide by 36in deep and will each weigh about 1200 lbs
- Figures composed of 13-14 individual planes of 5-7" wide by 1/2 inch thick steel plates
- Canopy Size: 11ft x 14ft x 6in.
- The uppermost edge of the canopy is approximately 24ft above the dance floor while the bottom edge is approximately 18ft above the dance floor.
- The total area for the installation and landscaping is 1800 sqft

14. Project Materials

The memorial will consist of a new sloped wall made of colored concrete with images of Mr. Brown on high quality ceramic tiles. These images will be about 10-11 feet in height. At the southern side of the memorial will be a smaller wall of colored concrete with 2 metal panels that lists the musical contributions of Mr. Brown (discography panels). The main wall and the discography wall will be separated by a stairwell that connects the wall and existing playground area to the west to the new performance plaza area along the east end of the site. The performance plaza will be constructed of pervious pavers with a seating area of turf-grass. To the west of the new wall will be an interactive instrument area with 5 drums that can be played by visitors. The site will also contain bio-retention areas with varied landscaping and other site amenities including seating, trash/recycle bins, game and picnic tables. As part of the Commission of Fine Arts approval process, the memorial wall and the public art work have been fully

coordinated with regards to the site layout, landscaping, circulation and material selections.

Public Art Installation will consist of the following materials Powder Coated Steel (with a zinc base to protect against corrosion), Stainless-Steel, Multi-colored LED powered by an on-site solar array, Concrete masonry units – cinder blocks and Solar Panels.

15. Infrastructure

There are no infrastructure improvements being completed as part of this project.

16. Architectural Design

See attachment.

17. Schematic Design

See attachment.

18. Potentially Objectionable Construction Impacts

Not Applicable

19. Accessibility

The site will comply will all Federal ADA regulations and will be completely ADA accessible.

20. Proposed Timeline

DGS/DPR has procured the services of a design-builder and is proceeding with the final design of the memorial project. The project will be completed according to the following summarized schedule:

Completion of construction documents	4/24/14
Demolition	Starts 4/14/14
CFA review/approval	4/17/14
Building permit	5/1/14
Construction of footings	Starts 5/2/14
Construction of wall with images	Starts 6/1/14
Project Completion	8/1/14
Project dedication	8/22/14

The art work installation will follow a similar path, but will require a public space hearing due to its location on the site. The artwork construction will begin about one month later than that of the wall, but because of the shorter time for construction, the end date is expected to coincide with the completion of the wall (8/1/14).

V. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

DATE	DCCAH COMMUNITY OUTREACH
SATURDAY, SEPTMBER 14, 2013 (12PM – 1:30PM)	Site Visit (Artists) and Community Meeting 1800 Franklin Street NE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2013 (7PM - 8PM)	Community Meeting and Input Session for Semi-Finalists Location: Woodridge Library – 1801 Hamlin Street NE *Semi-finalist input session to allow the community the opportunity to offer considerations, recommendations, and concerns regarding functionality of preliminary designs prior to the development of site-specific designs. Attendees were given opportunity for discussions with each semi-finalist to ask questions, provide feedback, and input recommendations.*
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2013 (4:30PM)	Mtg. and Input Session with Chuck Brown's Family for Semi-Finalists Location: DCCAH- 200 I Street SE., Suite #1400 *Semi-finalist input session to allow Chuck Brown's Family the opportunity to offer considerations, recommendations, and concerns regarding functionality of preliminary designs prior to the development of site-specific designs. Attendees were given opportunity for breakout discussions with each semi-finalist to ask questions, provide feedback, and input recommendations.*
THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2014 (3PM)	Site Specific Proposals Due from Artists (2-d renderings and 3-d models are mandatory)
THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2014 (7PM – 8PM)	DCCAH Presentation of Semi-Finalist Designs Survey Issued and Collected Location: Washington Center for Aging - 2601 18th Street NE *Community meeting held to present semi-finalist site-specific concepts. Attendees were asked to offer any last input by completing a survey. The Survey was also posted to both DCCAH and DGS' website.*
FEBRUARY 3, 2014	Semi-Finalists Survey Posted to DCCAH/DGS Websites
FEBRUARY 7, 2014 10AM	Meeting with Family to Review Overall Park Design-Discography Wall, Location: DCCAH
FEBRUARY 7, 2014	Semi-Finalists Design Survey Deadline
FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2014	Press Release Announcing the Artist
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2014	ANC-5C Special Meeting
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2014	ANC-5C Meeting
AUGUST 22, 2014	Dedication Ceremony

VI. PROJECT BUDGET

21. Budget

The proposed budget for the memorial wall is $1.4M and the budget for the artwork fabrication/installation is $425,000.

22. Budget and Financing Plan

The majority of funding for this project is coming from DGS. This funding will cover all construction, design and permit agency costs. The DCAAH will be providing funding for the art work memorial pieces. Both agencies have access to the funding in the current fiscal year.

23. Maintenance and Preservation Budget

The maintenance of the site will be covered under the yearly operating expenses under DGS.

Artwork will be maintained by DCCAH and its artwork conversation budget.

24. Insurance

The contractor will provide a certificate of insurance once the construction commences. The District of Columbia shall be indemnified against all liability from incidents in public space.