April 15, 2014

Mr. Peter May, Chairman
National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20242

Dear Chairman May:

As the nation's capital, Washington, DC is home to many monuments and memorials honoring individuals and events of national significance. However, the District also is a place with local individuals and events that have great significance to the residents and neighborhoods of the city. Incorporating commemorative works honoring local history into public places evokes shared memories and experiences, shapes perceptions of District neighborhoods, and contributes to the way people interact and experience the environment around them. The District of Columbia is proposing local commemorative works that will honor the memory of an individual, or event of significant international, national or local culture or history.

The "Commemorative Works on Public Space Amendment Act of 2000" outlines the review process for proposed memorials on public space in the District of Columbia. The Act requires that each application for a commemorative work on public space in the District be referred to the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (NCMAC) for review and comment. To comply with the Act, the DC Office of Planning is forwarding three commemorative works proposals to be considered at the May 6, 2014, NCMAC meeting. These proposals include commemorative works honoring one event and two individuals:

Metro Memorial Park
The Metro Memorial Park will be a living memorial that honors the victims, first responders, and families whose lives were altered by the deadliest crash in the 47-year history of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority ("WMATA," also referred to as "Metro"). Nine sculptural pieces will serve as symbols representing the eight passengers and train operator who lost their lives, inspiring visitors to personally reflect on the events of June 22, 2009, and collectively grieve and celebrate the memories of loved ones. The memorial will be located at the intersection of South Dakota Avenue and New Hampshire Avenue, NW, in a section of the Fort Circle Park.

Chuck Brown Memorial
The Chuck Brown Memorial will celebrate the life of DC resident Charles Louis "Chuck" Brown (1936-2012), an American guitarist and singer known as the Godfather of Go-Go,

who in 1942 at the age of 15 moved to DC where he developed his musical style to compete with disco. The memorial will honor a local legend and educate visitors on Brown's contributions to Go-Go, a subgenre of funk music that he pioneered in and around Washington, DC, in the mid and late 1970s. The memorial will include a mural incorporated into a plaza that will list Chuck Brown's discography and several sculptures of instruments representing those used to perform Go-Go will be incorporated into a playground in Langdon Park, located on Mills Avenue, NE, between Hamlin and Franklin Streets.

Carter G. Woodson Memorial
The Carter G. Woodson Memorial will be located on Reservation 157 (under the jurisdiction of DPR) at the corner of Rhode Island Avenue and 9th Street, NW and next to the Carter G. Woodson House, a National Historic Site being developed as a new park unit by the National Park Service. Carter G. Woodson (1876-1950) was an African-American historian, author, and journalist who was one of the first scholars to study African-American History and is considered the father of black history. He moved to Washington, DC, in 1895, graduated from Douglass High School in 1897, taught in DC Public Schools, served as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Howard University, and lived at 1538-9th Street NW, from 1915 until his death in 1950. The memorial will include an interactive sculpture of Woodson seated on a circular stone bench, surrounded by a paved plaza, and set within a landscaped, triangle park.

While NCMAC reviews memorials every year, the District has not formally reviewed a commemorative work proposal since 2005. For the past nine years, the District has not considered any significant commemorative works proposals under the Commemorative Works on Public Space Amendment Act of 2000. With the above-mentioned commemorative works, the District is breaking new ground. These works will be the first memorials proposed and constructed by the District—honoring District residents—in a decade. This exciting movement requires that the proposal be sent to NCMAC for review and comment.

Thank you for your assistance and participation. We look forward to working with NCMAC on its review of these proposals. If you have any questions, please contact me or Chris Shaheen, Public Space Manager at chris.shaheen@dc.gov or (202) 442-7616.

Sincerely,

Rosalynn Hughey

Rosalynn Hughey, Deputy Director
DC Office of Planning