Application for a Commemorative Work on
District of Columbia Public Space

Washington, D.C.

Metro Memorial Park

Submitted by

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 9th, 2014

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I. SPONSORING ORGANIZATION

1. Name of Commemorative Work

Metro Memorial Park

2. Sponsoring Organization

Name of sponsoring organization:	Department of General Services
Address of sponsoring organization:	2000- 14th Street, NW, 8th Floor Washington DC, 20009
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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 and Zoma Wallace
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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, our 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

The design of the park is composed of three landscaped mounds, from which nine granite sculptures rise as abstracted human forms, each inscribed with a victim's name. The artwork within the park will be surrounded by native trees and plants. A curved retaining wall will serve as a sound barrier and safety element to protect visitors from the busy traffic along New Hampshire Avenue and will have an inscription referencing the purpose of the memorial and people affected.

6. Subject of Commemorative Work

The goal of the Memorial Park Project is to honor the remembrance of the nine victims, first respondents and others whose lives were altered by two southbound Metro trains on the Red Line that collided between the Takoma and Fort Totten metro stations, killing nine and injuring 80 on June 22, 2009 - the deadliest accident in the system's history. The Memorial Park will allow for meditation, remembrance, reflection, hope and renewal for all affected by the tragedy, especially the 12 descendant children of each victim. The park will also serve as a multi-functional, communal space accessible to the neighboring community for diverse use and as inspiration to the residents of the broader neighborhood and Washington metropolitan area.

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

Metro is the transit provide for the National Capital Region and carries more than a third of the federal government workforce and millions of tourists who visit the national's Capital every year. It operates the second largest heavy rail transit system in the United States. The Authority was created in 1967 to plan, develop, build, finance and operate a regional transportation system for the National Capital Area. Today there are 86 Metro stations in service within a 106.3 mile network that carried almost 750,000 daily riders in 2009.

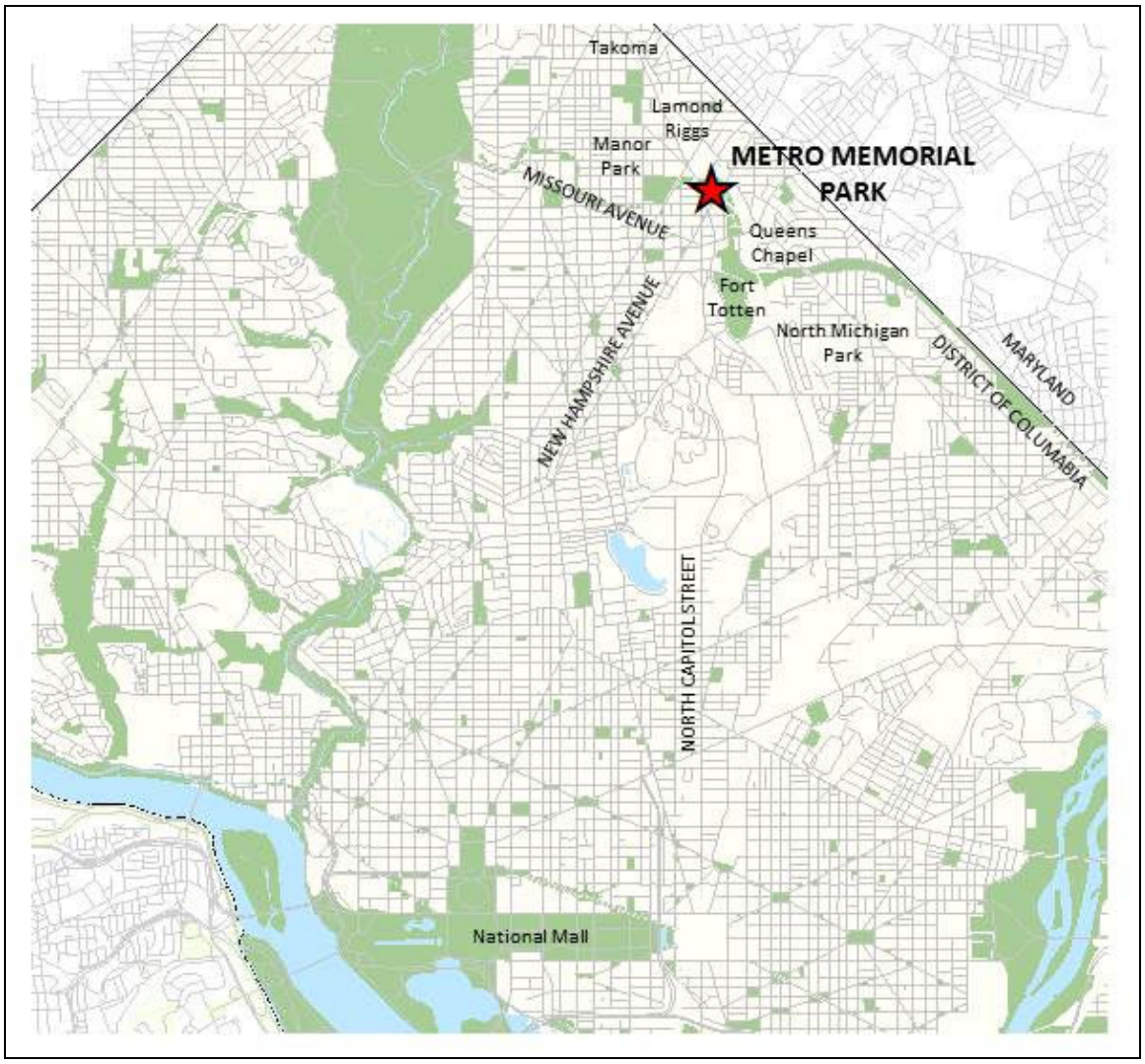
The June 22, 2009 accident on Metro's Red Line was the deadliest accident in the transit system's history. The resulted in the death of nine people riding Metro's Red Line and disrupted transportation service on Metro and the adjacent Amtrak and MARC train lines for several days. The accident irrevocably changed the lives of friends and family

members who died on that day, and prompted Metro re-evaluate its safety program and adopt additional safety management systems and practices.

III. PROJECT LOCATION

8. Project location

Metro Memorial Park will be located at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue, NE and South Dakota Avenue, NE. Square 3712, Lots 101 – 104. The memorial site is located in a park along the rail line where the 2009 collision occurred.



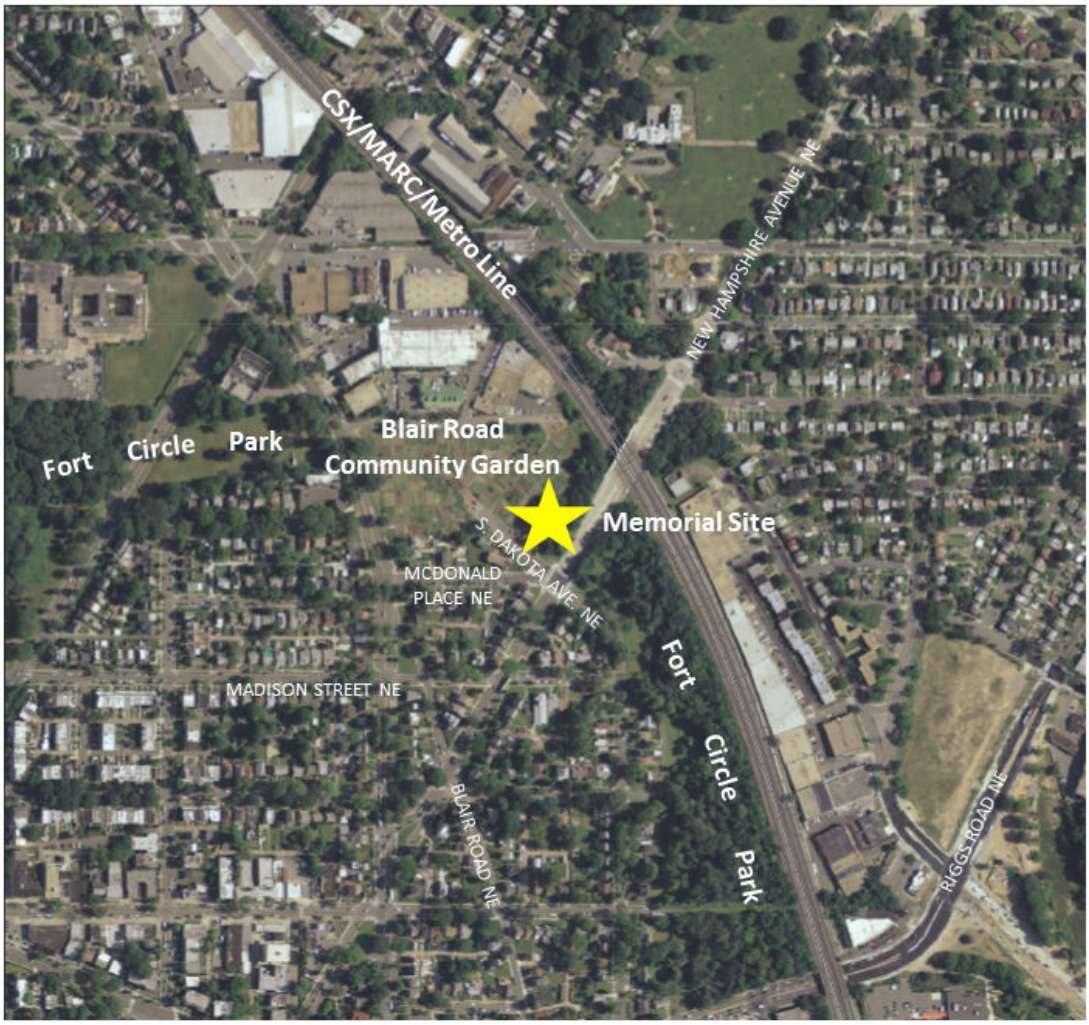
Location of Memorial Site within the District of Columbia

9. District Government Agency with Oversight

The Department of General Services (DGS) will have oversight of the construction 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 existing site includes a clear, open space of mowed grass at the northwest corner of New Hampshire Avenue and South Dakota Avenue NE, surrounded on the north with significant overgrowth and brush. Most of the trees on site are considered invasive species, including Ailanthus altissima (Tree of Heaven) and Morus Rubra (Red Mulberry).



Neighborhood Context

11. Historic Preservation Considerations

The proposed site for the memorial is located on Reservation 497 that the National Park Service proposed to transfer to the District of Columbia. The Area of Potential Effects for this project includes the Civil War Defenses of Washington/Fort Circle Parks, which is an historic property listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Park Service determined that the undertaking, as currently proposed, will result in No Adverse Effect to historic resources, and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) agreed, provided that certain conditions were met. Completion of phased archaeological survey to identify archaeological resources within the project area is one of the conditions that must be met.

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

The site is located east of the Manor Park neighborhood on New Hampshire Avenue, a Primary Arterial roadway. The Comprehensive Plan designates the memorial site as park land and the area to the south for low-density residential uses.

The memorial site is surrounded on the north and east by the Fort Circle Park, part of a contiguous and linear park system that encircles Washington, DC, and a community garden. To the south and west, the site is surrounded by residential neighborhoods 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. A sculptural wall along the south side of the site buffers it from New Hampshire Avenue and orients the site toward the Fort Circle Park and community gardens to the north.

13. Economic Impact

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

IV. PROJECT DESIGN

14. Project Design

See attached document.

15. Project Materials

Within the park, the commemorative sculptural elements will be made of the locally quarried, Jet Mist granite. A steel rod will be imbedded into a concrete footing within the soil of each mound to secure the stability of the granite stones. Each sculpture is composed of three stacked granite stones, to loosely reference human proportion.

The landscaping that will be used will be native to the Washington DC area. There will be a central grove of trees planted as Sycamore. In addition there will be Hornbeam trees along the border and dense low shrubbery as ground cover. Permeable pavers will be placed throughout the site for the absorption of rainwater.

16. Infrastructure

Sidewalk and streetscape improvements along South Dakota Avenue will be completed to provide access to the site. Specific plans for this work will be coordinated with the District Department of Transportation.

17. Architectural Design

See attachment.

18. Schematic Design

See attachment.

19. Potentially Objectionable Construction Impacts

There are no potentially objectionable construction impacts identified.

20. Accessibility

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

21. Proposed Timeline

Final design is expected to start mid-April 2014 and continue to the end of June 2014. It will take about a month for permitting. Construction is expected to start August 2014 and be completed by November 2014.

V. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Below is a list of community meetings that have been held on the Metro Memorial Project:

Date	Community Outreach
February 28, 2012	Meeting with Collision victim family members to present examples/possibilities of commemorative Public Art
March 9, 2012	Meeting with Collision victim families (held at RFK stadium offices) to discuss the city's commitment to build a Memorial Park with their input noted from 2/28/12 meeting
May 2, 2012	Community meeting with Manor Park Civic Association to introduce concept for Memorial Park and desire to build park in their community. Opposition to the park was made clear.
June 16, 2012	Community Meeting to offer preliminary ideas and examples of Memorial Park/commemorative Public Art to the communities of prospective sites.
June 28, 2012	Community meeting with both Manor Park and Lamond-Riggs residents, and ANC representatives in attendance to discuss location of prospective Memorial park. Held at Greater St. Paul Church.
July 17, 2012	Lamond Riggs Community Meeting to present desire to relocate the prospective Memorial Park at the entrance of their Blair Community Garden. This idea was supported wholeheartedly, with recommendations given by residents.
February 28, 2013	Scoping Meeting held at Greater St. Paul Church. NPS presented the scoping process and timeline, including the Environmental Assessment, consultation with National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and answer any resident questions.
July 10, 2013	Semi-finalist input session to community held at DCCAH to allow community an family members to offer considerations, recommendations, and concerns regarding functionality of designs to semi-finalists prior to the development of site-specific Memorial Park designs.
September 19, 2013	Community meeting held at DCCAH headquarters to present semi-finalist site-specific concepts to family members and community members. Attendees were asked to offer any last input before the panel meeting selected the winning design. Attendees were given opportunity for breakout discussions with each semi-finalist to ask questions, provide feedback, and input recommendations.
March 29, 2014	Meeting with the victims' families to discuss and review the selected concept.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET

22. Budget

The estimated cost of this project is $1.5 million dollars which include all soft and hard costs.

23. 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 the for the art work memorial pieces. Both agencies have access to the funding in the current fiscal year.

24. Maintenance and Preservation Budget

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

25. 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.