Application for a Commemorative Work on
District of Columbia Public Space

Washington, D.C.

Tribute to Carter G. Woodson

Submitted by

The DC Department of Parks and Recreation
&
DC Department of General Services

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

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I. SPONSORING ORGANIZATION

1. Name of Commemorative Work

Tribute to Dr. Carter G. Woodson

2. Sponsoring Organization

Name of sponsoring organization:	DC Department of Parks and Recreation
Address of sponsoring organization:	1250 U Street, NW Washington DC, 20009
Contact Person	John Stokes
Telephone	(202) 673-7647
E-mail:	john.stokes@dc.gov

Name of sponsoring organization:	Department of General Services
Address of sponsoring organization:	2000- 14th Street, NW, 8th Floor Washington DC, 20009
Contact Person	Shahrokh Ghahramani
Telephone	(202) 478-2427
E-mail:	Shahrokh.ghahramani@dc.gov

3. Description of Sponsoring Organization

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) presents quality leisure services to District residents and visitors of the District of Columbia. The agency supervises and maintains area parks, community facilities, and neighborhood recreation centers and provides adaptive programs and facilities for challenged customers. DPR also coordinates a wide variety of recreational and educational programs. Art classes, child care services, sport leagues, swim lessons, and senior citizen activities challenge citizens to remain active in their community.

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.

4. Board of Directors

Not Applicable

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

5. Summary of Proposed Commemorative Work

The concept behind the project is elevating the larger-than-life-size figure of Carter G. Woodson on a semicircular bench known as an exedra. This is a device with a long history in art. It will be a space for lone contemplation as well as a gathering space for engaging in discussion. It will reinforce Dr. Woodson's legacy as an intellectual and educator, as well as physically elevating the sculpture to a position of prominence at a busy intersection.

The pose is one of seemingly quiet reflection as though Dr. Woodson had just closed the book on which his left hand rests. It is important for the impact of the work to be somewhat mysterious and not to be too didactic or limited to a literal gesture.

The placement of the exedra was dictated by the three large trees which dominate the park, one in the park and two street trees on Rhode Island Avenue. The exedra is framed by the three trees. Orientation of the statue and exedra aligns with the grid of 9th and Q Streets, while relating on the diagonal to the more public venue of Rhode Island Avenue. The three stone benches at the statue's feet provide seating for informal interaction, and allowing for the metaphor of "sitting at Dr. Woodson's feet".

If standing, the figure of Dr. Woodson would be 8 feet tall. It would be cast bronze and the exedra would be cast stone. The name, title, and quote would be gilded. The exedra would be 13 feet 6 inches in diameter and would have a height of 6 feet 4 inches.

6. Subject of Commemorative Work

Dr. Carter G. Woodson is known as the "Father of Modern African American Historiography" and a pioneer who set the pace for research and the study of African American history. He is also known as a tireless explorer and gifted leader of discovering and documenting social and historical truths of African Americans.

For seventy-nine years, the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH) has documented the contributions of African Americans to history, American Society, and the development of world societies. In 1915, Dr. Woodson organized ASLAH and established the *Journal of Negro History* in 1916. In addition, he organized

the Association Publishers in 1921, which was one of the first Black owned publishing companies and was very important to the research and writing of Black America for seventy-eight years. In February 1926 he inaugurated Negro History Week to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglass, which increased the demand for books, literature, and photographs of African-Americans. In 1976, in recognition of the nation's bicentennial observance, Negro History Week was expanded to Black History Month.

From 1909 to 1918 Dr. Woodson taught French, Spanish, English, and history at the M Street and Dunbar High Schools, Washington, D.C. He served as principal of Armstrong High School in 1918-1919 and was concurrently on the faculty of the Miner Normal School (D.C. Teacher's College) in Washington. While teaching in Washington, he completed research at the Library of Congress for his doctoral dissertation and finally received his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1912 – only the second African American to receive such a degree from Harvard. Woodson served as Dean of the Howard University School of Liberal Arts from 1919-1920.

Dr. Woodson lived at 1538 9th Street, which also served as the offices of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. The National Park Service has now acquired the house and adjacent properties, and has long-term plans to renovate the property and open it as a museum and visitor center. Woodson regularly dined at the Wheatley YWCA, across Rhode Island Avenue from the park and was a fixture in the neighborhood.

Dr. Woodson's legacy is deeply rooted in Washington but we have failed to recognize him appropriately and in a manner in which the city and its children can be proud of his contributions. It has been fifty-five years since the death of this prolific writer; as a result, we are pleased to see his legacy discussed and preserved and the recognition of Dr. Woodson genius.

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

The discussion in item #6 fully illuminates Dr. Woodson's work and how it relates to Washington, D.C.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, father of African-American historiography, founder of Black History Month and leader in the struggle to commemorate the contributions of African Americans is often left out of celebrations and memorials to great Americans. As an outstanding historian, educator, writer, author, and teacher, he is legendary for his pioneering contributions to the field of African American history and his contributions to American history. Therefore, we must commemorate his legacy and provide a platform for all to view his work.

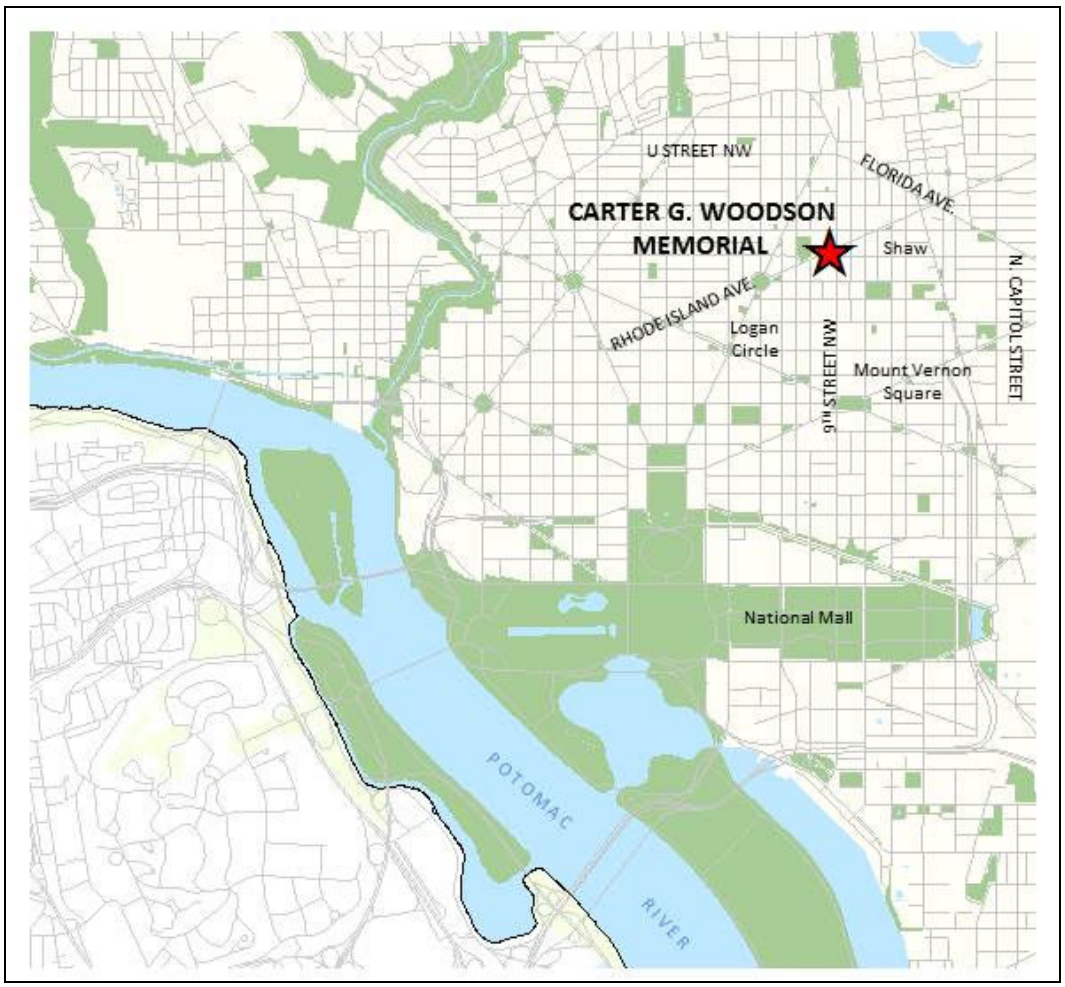
Local and area schools could visit this educational park for a day of instruction so that they would learn about the history, accomplishments and contributions of Carter G. Woodson to our City.

The monument to Dr. Woodson would include selected quotes and titles of his most famous works and accomplishments.

III. PROJECT LOCATION

8. Project location

The project is located at the Carter G. Woodson Park, at the intersection of Rhode Island Avenue and 9th Street, N.W., Washington, DC. The monument would stand on the small park at 9th and Rhode Island Avenue, Northwest, which is located between the home and office of Dr. Woodson and the historic Phyllis Wheatley YWCA, where Woodson took his daily walk and meals.



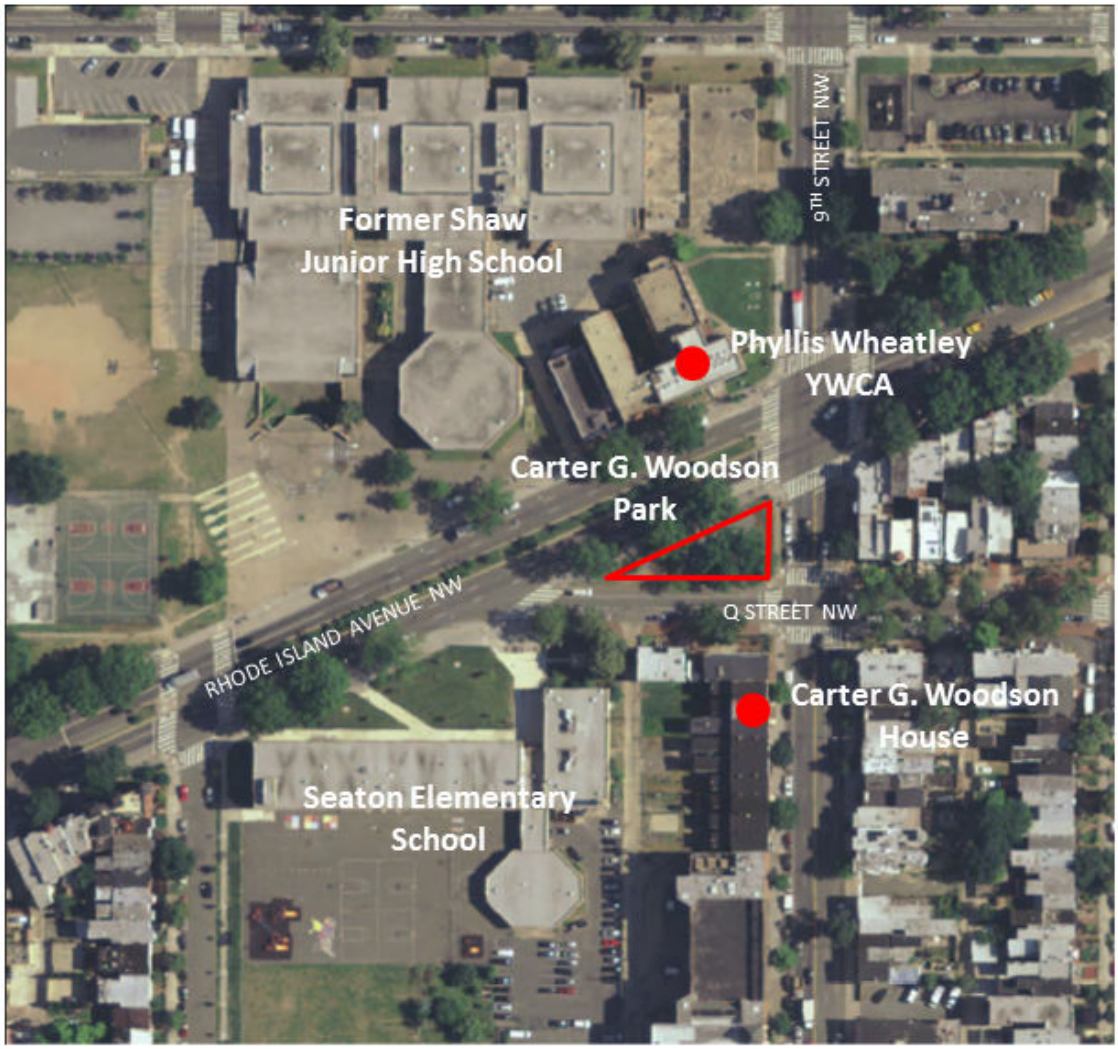
Location of Memorial Site within the District of Columbia

9. District Government Agency with Oversight

D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation

10. Existing Conditions

The site is currently an under-utilized park, with asphalt paving, minimal landscaping, and a vintage 1880's fence surrounding the park. The park is within 3 blocks of the new convention center and is located along a major arterial, Rhode Island Avenue. Ninth Street south of the park consists of mainly residential rowhouses including the Carter G. Woodson House, with the exception of Shiloh Baptist Church one block south. Development to the north of the site along 9th Street includes the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA, an apartment building, and residential rowhouses. Seaton Elementary School sits to the south of the site. Shaw Junior High School sits to the north of the site.



Neighborhood Context

11. Historic Preservation Considerations

The proposed site for the memorial is located on Reservation 157, a triangle park transferred from the National Park Service to the District of Columbia in 1972. The park is located within the Shaw Historic District and is a feature of the L'Enfant Plan. The location is near the Carter Woodson House National Historic landmark and was selected as part of the Mitigation of Adverse Effects of the Convention Center construction project. The DC Historic Preservation Office staff reviewed the plans for the memorial and associated landscaping and determined that construction of the memorial would not have an adverse effect on the historic resources, including archaeological sites. There is an historic fence and curbing in the park that will need to be incorporated into the final design.

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

The Carter G. Woodson memorial is located in the Shaw neighborhood, at the intersection of Rhode Island Avenue and 9th Street, NW. Rhode Island Avenue is designated as a Primary Arterial roadway. The Comprehensive Plan designates the memorial site as Local Public Facility and the surrounding residential neighborhood for Moderate Density Residential.

The memorial site is surrounded on the north and south by District of Columbia public schools and parks – the now-closed Shaw Junior High School and adjacent park are located across the street on Rhode Island Avenue and Seaton Elementary School is located to the south across Q Street. The memorial and adjacent public facilities are surrounded by residential neighborhoods zoned R-4, a designation that permits single-family residential uses (including detached, semi-detached, row dwellings, and flats), churches and public schools.

There are no other memorials in public space within 500 feet of the proposed project.

13. Economic Impact

The project has the potential to bring more tourists to the area, which could have an indirect impact of the economics of the neighborhood through patronization of local businesses.

IV. PROJECT DESIGN

14. Project Design

The 8 foot tall (if standing) figure is cast bronze and the exedra is cast stone. Carter G. Woodson's name is on the front of the exedra and there is a quote on the rounded back

of the exedra. The dimensions of the exedra are 13 feet 6 inches in diameter and a height of 6 feet 4 inches. Total weight is approximately 77,000 pounds. The exedra consists of 30 cast stone blocks on a reinforced concrete pad foundation.

15. Project Materials

The statue would be in cast bronze. The exedra would be cast stone.

Site landscaping will consist of regionally-appropriate plantings, with site furnishing and paving materials consistent with the Shaw Conceptual Streetscape Design Guidelines. The 19th century iron fence existing on site will be incorporated into the design. An irrigation system will be provided for the park. Final park design will evolve in collaboration with the sculptor.

16. Infrastructure

Installation of the sculpture includes demolition and re-construction of the Carter G. Woodson park site. Our budget provides for this work, which may include infrastructure improvements such as enhanced lighting and irrigation. No infrastructure improvements beyond the park are anticipated.

17. Architectural Design

The site will be designed to complement the statue and to provide green space to the triangle. The community has specifically asked to not have benches or other forms of seating. While people will be able to sit on the steps of the exedra, lighting will be used around the statue to address safely and loitering concerns.

Planting: The open space areas surrounding the park include, Seaton Elementary School and the now-closed Shaw Junior High School. Both of these areas have public space along Rhode Island Avenue are either landscaped or programmed with active uses. The Carter G. Woodson site complements these public spaces. Vase shape flowering trees will be planted along the 9th Street planting bed. Existing trees to remain include three mature oaks located along Rhode Island Avenue and one inside the park. Planting beds will be covered with low maintenance and low growing shrubs, groundcovers and seasonal plants.

Hardscape: Areas (outside of the memorial statue) include concrete and stone pavers around the monument, handicap ramps into the park, and square concrete curbs surrounding the planting areas. Site improvements include, replacing the curved-shape concrete curb surrounding the park with a matching curb.

Lighting: Two types of lighting will be used on the site. 1.) Double Washington Globes, will replace the existing cobra head lighting (Standard for Streetscape Design Guidelines, approved by DDOT.) 2.) Spot Lights, which will highlight the monument and minimize shadows and dark spots within the park at night.

Site furniture: Benches will be sited on the master plan, however, there will not be benches installed on the site until there is community support for seating areas within the park. The existing historic iron fence will be refurbished and used onsite. A trash receptacle and a drinking fountain will be placed onsite.

18. Schematic Design

The Department of General Services is currently working with a landscape architect to refine the site plan.

Objectives: To create a site plan that emphasizes the statue of Dr. Carter G. Woodson within the triangle space, through decorative paving patterns, increased green space and plantings with seasonal interest, and improved pedestrian circulation and pedestrian lighting, and to create an outdoor classroom area for gathering.

Layout: The statue will be positioned in a centralized location to draw attention to the park from both directions on Rhode Island Avenue, and from the intersection of 9th and Q streets. The triangle will be divided into three different areas, the curb zone, pedestrian zone and the park. The curb zone is a 4'-0"min. area adjacent to the streets surrounding the park furnished with brick paving, open tree pits, streetlights, and other utilities. The pedestrian zone is a 5'-0" min. area adjacent to the curb zone, furnished in concrete pavers, where pedestrian traffic can circulate the park. Both curb and pedestrian zone will follow the Conceptual Streetscape Design Guidelines for Shaw, approved by DDOT.

Circulation: The statue orientation will face out towards Rhode Island Avenue. There will be three entry points into the park, the main entry located along Rhode Island Avenue in front of the statue, and two secondary entries on Q Street. The site is ADA accessible and visitors will be able to circulate around the monument.

19. Potentially Objectionable Construction Impacts

No unusual construction conditions are anticipated. Any demolition and/or new construction will be undertaken with care to minimize noise and other potentially objectionable impacts.

20. Accessibility

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

21. Proposed Timeline

April/May	Complete Commemorative Works Review Process
May /June 2014	Construction Mobilization & Demolition
June 2014	Construction to Start
July 2014	Construction
July 30, 2014	Construction Completion
August 2014	Project Completion & Closeout

V. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Review of this project has been ongoing since 2005 when project coordinators met with several neighborhood groups to review plans for the memorial.

May 16, 2005	General Community Meeting	Presented general information about design guidelines and public art process
July 23, 2005	General Community Meeting	Artists presented proposals for 3 art sites, including Woodson Park
May 2013	ANC-6E	Review of site plans
May 2014	ANC-6E	Final review of site plans

VI. PROJECT BUDGET

22. Budget

$175,000 for the sculpture. $750,000 budgeted for Construction and Soft Cost.

23. Budget and Financing Plan

The statue and associated site work will be funded by DDOT, the Federal Highway Administration, and the WCCA Historic Preservation Fund.

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.