



WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL DESIGN COMPETITION

Sponsored by the World War I Centennial Commission

MISSION

Alone among the four great wars of the 20th century—the “American century”—there is no national memorial to World War I in our nation’s capital. One hundred years after the start of the war, the U.S. Congress passed legislation to redress this omission.

Title 30, Section 3091 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2015 (Pub. L. 113-291), signed by President Obama on December 19, 2014, designates Pershing Park in the District of Columbia, along with the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, as national World War I memorials.

The Act further authorizes the World War I Centennial Commission to honor the service of members of the United States armed forces in World War I by redeveloping Pershing Park with new sculptural and other commemorative elements, including landscaping.

*To honor the service of
members of the United States
armed forces in World War I*

VISION

The creation of such a memorial in the nation’s capital is a daunting but exciting challenge. Sited at Pershing Park on Pennsylvania Avenue, the Memorial will honor the 4.7 million Americans who served in the war, including the 116,516 who died, and will be a fitting addition to the national memorials to the three other great wars of the 20th century, located nearby on the National Mall.

At the same time, the Memorial – located on “America’s Main Street,” one block from the White House – will be at the confluence of vehicular and pedestrian circulation patterns, as well as commercial and institutional activities, and will continue to serve as a commemorative space, as the front door to adjacent uses, and as a park.

GOAL

The Commission’s goal is to create a dynamic urban space and, more importantly, a timeless memorial that will duly honor the service of America’s World War I veterans while inspiring Americans today and tomorrow to better understand this profound event in our nation’s history.

PROCESS

In search of the most fitting design for this auspicious goal, the World War I Centennial Commission launched a two-stage international design competition.

Stage I was an open call to submit design concepts for the memorial. After a thorough and rigorous review of the 350 entries, the Jury selected five finalists to participate in Stage II.

During Stage II the designers further refined and developed their concepts for the memorial.

Stage II began in early September with a briefing of those invited to participate in Stage II. In October and November, the Design Oversight Committee held Mid-course Reviews with each of the five design teams individually to provide input and advice regarding their respective designs. The Design Oversight Committee consists of representatives of the World War I Centennial Commission; the public agencies that will have design approval authority over the ultimate design of the memorial, including the National Park Service, National Capital Planning Commission, Commission of Fine Arts, and General Services Administration; and other stakeholders, including the American Battle Monuments Commission.

Design submittals were received on December 9th and will remain on public display throughout December.

On January 6th, the designers will present their designs to the Jury, who will select a winning design team to recommend to the World War I Centennial Commission.

STAGE I

Competition Opens

Question & Answer Period

Design Entries Submitted

Competition Managers
Conduct Compliance Check

Jury Evaluates Entries and
Selects Participants for Stage II

STAGE II

Stage II Participants Announced

Stage II Briefing

Question & Answer
Period Opens

Mid-course Review 1

Mid-course Review 2

Question & Answer
Period Closes

Stage II Designs Submitted

Competition Managers
Conduct Compliance Check

Design Oversight Committee
Reviews Design Submittals

Jury Hears Design Presentations
by Participants

Jury Evaluates Design
Submittals and Selects
Recommended Design Team

WWICC Reviews Jury’s
Recommendation and
Announces Selected Design

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

The WWI Centennial Commission welcomes public comment on the designs. Comments will be shared with the Jury during their deliberations. Visit the WWICC website to share your thoughts:

WW1CC.com/comment



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DESIGN GOALS

The World War I Centennial Commission has established the following Design Goals to inform competition participants and the general public of the aspirations for the World War I Memorial.

The selected design will undergo further review by several regulatory and advisory bodies, including the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission, and the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office.

1. Pershing Park will be a national World War I Memorial, in contrast to today's park that only incidentally includes a small memorial to General Pershing and the American Expeditionary Forces under his command.
2. The Memorial should honor the heroism and valor of the American servicemen and women who served, fought, and died in World War I, and should commemorate the tragedy and magnitude of loss suffered by the United States in the conflict.
3. The Memorial should be timeless and meaningful for future generations, which can be achieved through appropriate interpretive elements including (but not limited to) figurative or other sculpture, traditional monument forms, and relevant quotations or other texts relating to American participation in World War I. The Memorial shall not list names of individual servicemen and women who served or were killed in World War I.
4. The Memorial should balance a sense of enclosure and dignity with openness and visibility that is inviting to passersby.
5. The Memorial should provide open views of the U.S. Capitol Building, respect the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site, the Pennsylvania Avenue viewshed, and be contextual with adjacent sites including Freedom Plaza, the Federal Triangle buildings, Sherman Park, the Treasury Building, the White House Grounds, and the historic Willard and Washington Hotels.
6. The Memorial should recognize and relate to its urban context. Because of its location and its role as both a Memorial and a park, the Memorial should play a part in public and private activity patterns in the immediate area.
7. Pershing Park currently includes a variety of existing elements, including the existing Pershing Memorial, which is a contributing feature of the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site. To generate a visionary design concept for the World War I Memorial, competitors should thoughtfully consider the range of appropriate enhancement strategies and transformation options—preservation, alteration, relocation, demolition—for addressing the Park's physical elements and integrating the existing Pershing Memorial elements and new commemorative features into the site.
8. The Memorial should be designed primarily as open space; buildings or conditioned indoor space such as a ranger contact station, public restrooms, bookstore, or concession pavilion are strongly discouraged.
9. The Memorial should be designed to be constructed at a cost no greater than \$20-25 million, to be operationally sustainable, and to minimize maintenance requirements over time.
10. The Memorial should adhere to principles of Universal Design and environmental sustainability.

MEMORIAL SITE

Pershing Park is the site for the National World War I Memorial in Washington, DC. It is a 1.8 acre parcel bounded by Pennsylvania Avenue NW on the north, 15th Street NW on the west, E Street NW on the south and 14th Street NW on the east.

The southeast corner of the park, at the intersection of E and 14th Streets, includes a memorial to General John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I, and to the officers and men under his command, which was authorized by Congressional legislation in 1966. The memorial area, a platform space of granite pavers approximately 70 feet by 60 feet, includes a statue of General Pershing, flanked by two granite walls, perpendicular to each other, inscribed with texts and maps describing American actions in World War I directed by General Pershing.

