

The District of Columbia
Office of Planning
Andrew Trueblood, Director



District of Columbia
World War I Memorial

Commemorative Works Committee Meeting

July 16, 2021

 **WE ARE**
WASHINGTON
DC GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Agenda



2:00 Welcome and Call to Order

2:05 Administration and Updates

Approval of April 30, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Commemorative Works Committee Members

UDC Commemoration Study

2:10 Lincoln Statue Review – Post Assessment

2:25 How to Assess if an Application Aligns with “District Values”

2:40 Location Strategy Update

OP staff will review ongoing review of the location strategy in the context of the updated Comprehensive Plan and ongoing Small Area Plans underway.

2:45 Wrap Up and Next Steps

Changes to CWC Membership



Council legislation "Bill 23-0233 – Diverse Washingtonians Commemorative Works Amendment Act of 2020" require changes to the composition of the CWC, as follows:

DC Agency Members

Office of Planning, Director (Chair)
Department of Parks and Recreation, Director
Historic Preservation Review Board, Chair
Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Chair

Public Members (3-year terms)

2 Citizen Members Appointed
by the Mayor

3 Citizen Members Appointed
by District Council Chair

3 Citizen Members Appointed by Council Chair still Pending

UDC Commemoration Study



Sec. 3. Commemoration of diverse Washingtonians.

UDC is required to prepare a report recommending up to 12 commemorative works to honor remarkable, diverse native Washingtonians, or people who made Washington their home, who left positive and indelible marks on American or District culture or history.

The report will include:

- Background information on the individual or group recommended for commemoration and the reasoning for the commemoration;
- Recommended location for each commemoration; and,
- Order of precedence of each commemorative works.

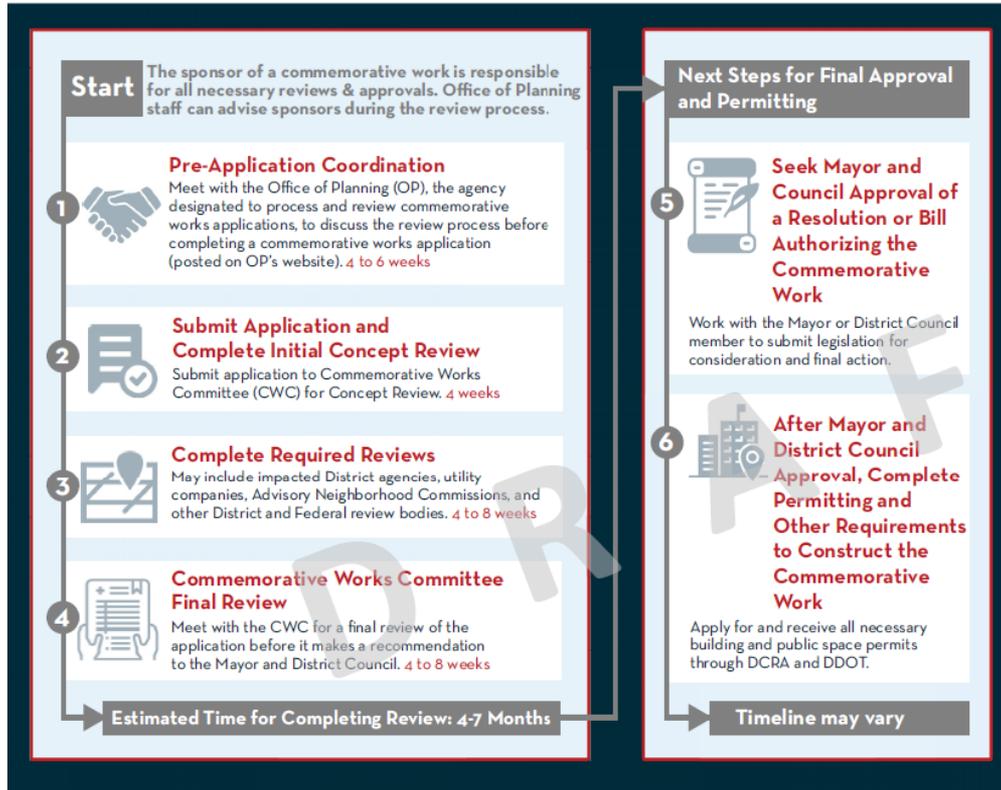


Hosting panel discussion on *UDC Forum*, a program on UDC's cable station in Fall 2021

Lincoln Statue Review – Post Assessment



COMMEMORATIVE WORKS **Review Process**



What is a Commemorative Work?

A statue, monument or similar work designed to memorialize an individual, group or event.

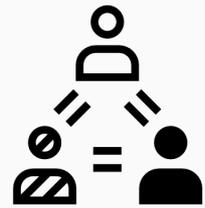
Which Proposals Require Review?

The Commemorative Works Committee reviews applications for the installation of commemorative works **in public space owned or controlled by the District**. CWC review is advisory to the Mayor & Council, whose approval is required for all proposals.

Why?

To consider location, impact, funding, design, maintenance, and consistency with DC values of proposed works.

Aligning with District Values

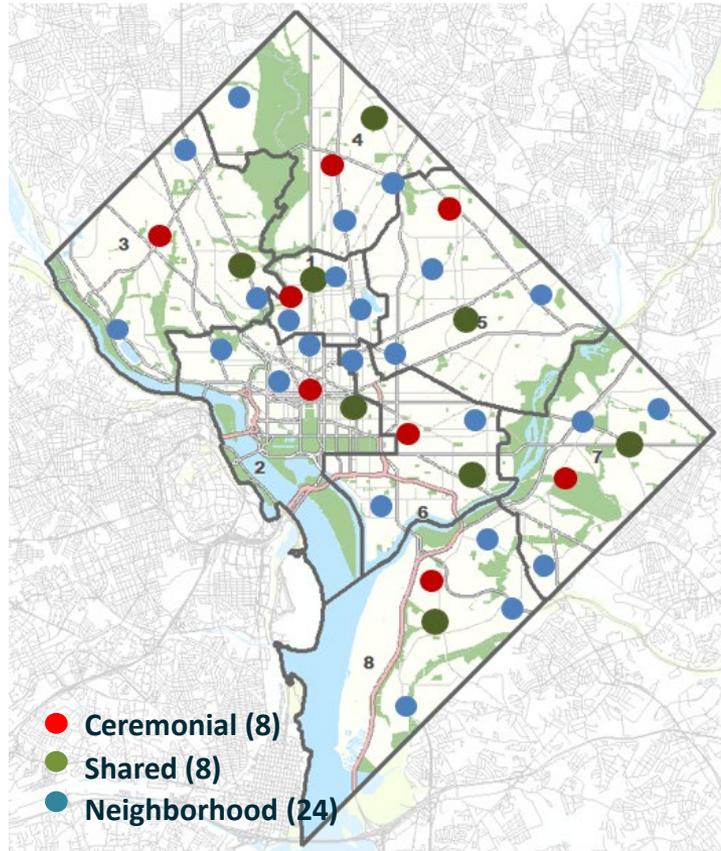


Mayor Bowser's District of Columbia Facilities and Commemorative Expressions (DCFACES) Working Group emphasized discouraging commemoration of subjects that participated in slavery, systemic racism, mistreatment of, or actions that suppressed equality for, persons of color, women and LGBTQ communities and violation of the DC Human Rights Act.

Is there an additional definition of District Values the Commemorative Works Committee should consider?

Commemorative Work Updated Policies

Comprehensive Plan



UD-1.1 Building on Washington DC's Historic Plan

UD-1.1A Site of Commemorative Works

Enhance the District government's approach to the siting and review of both local and national commemorative works. Use existing processes and, as needed establish new processes for better coordination among District and federal agencies and review bodies regarding federal and District commemorative work proposals. Develop a District-wide master plan for creating and siting District commemorative works and events throughout Washington, DC.

Added emphasis on using existing processes and coordination with federal processes.

Pennsylvania Avenue East - Community Visioning Public Realm

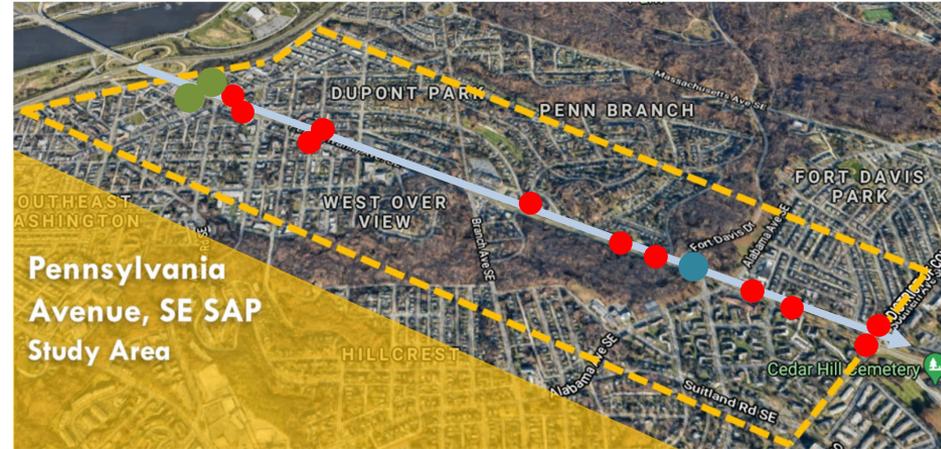
Small Area Plan



Pennsylvania Avenue SAP just finished a community survey on the public realm that included questions about commemoration.

The plan will include an aspirational vision statement for the public realm that will inform recommendations:

*DRAFT - Provide opportunities to safely and comfortably move through the corridor, engage in community building activities, utilize well programmed and maintained parks and recreational spaces, **celebrate the rich history** and creative community through art and public space activations, and highlight the corridor's important role as a historic gateway by envisioning a delightful, inviting public realm.*



No preferred sites for commemoration have been identified in the corridor, but several sites were identified as potential locations.

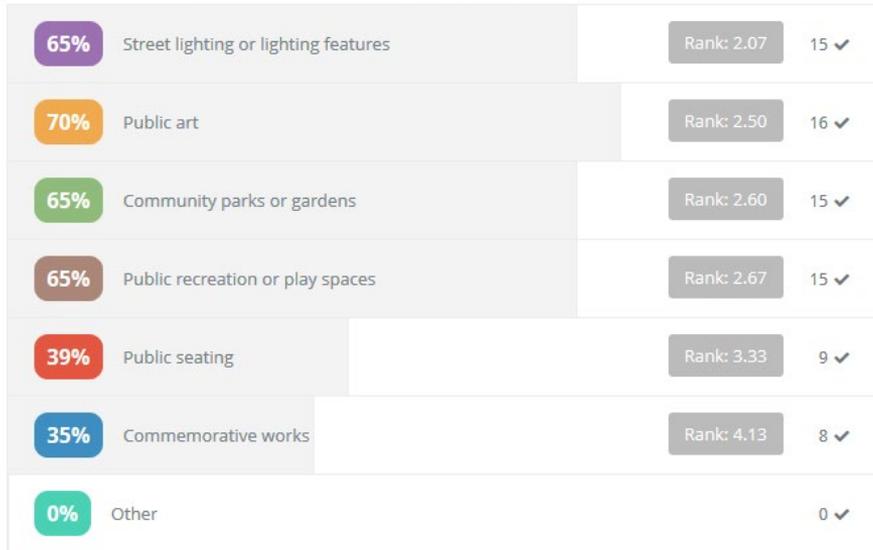
- Ceremonial (11)
- Shared (2)
- Neighborhood (1)

Pennsylvania Avenue East - Community Visioning Public Realm

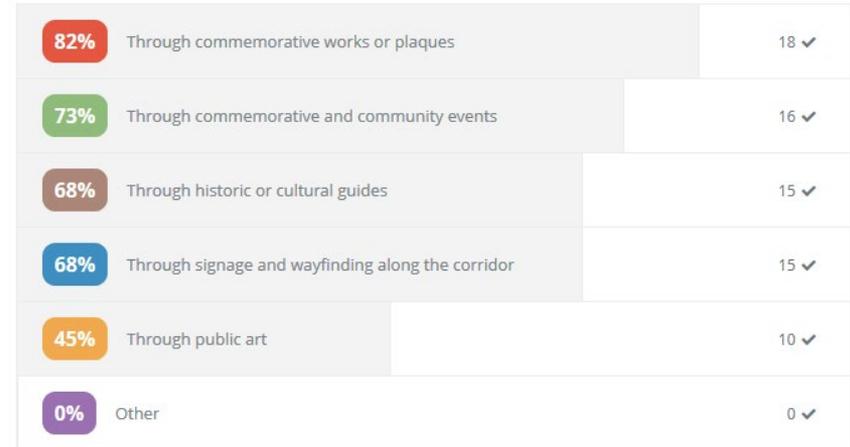
Public Realm Community Input – 67 Participants



What public realm features or assets are missing, or you wish there were more of along the corridor? Rank in order based on your priorities.



How do you think the historical and cultural landmarks along Pennsylvania Avenue should be celebrated? Check all that apply.



Chevy Chase - Community Visioning Public Realm

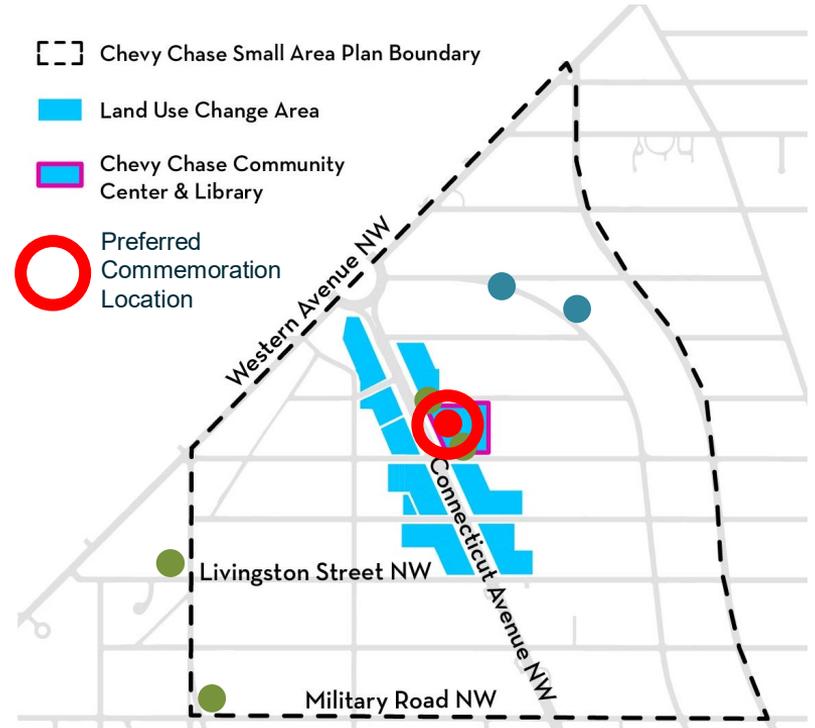
Small Area Plan

Chevy Chase Community Center & Library is recommended as a Preferred Site.

The DC half of the NPS controlled Chevy Chase Circle, which is subject to calls from local groups and federal representative for renaming its central fountain.

Engagement activities so far have included some feedback on public space:

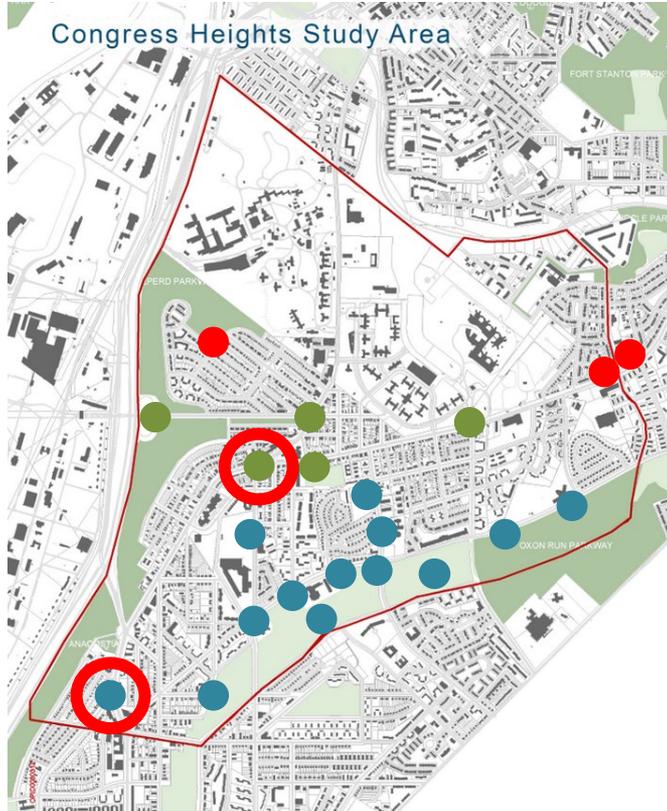
- Need to retain/expand a central gathering space in the community; and,
- Better recognition of diverse historical narratives in the built environment and public space/art.



● Ceremonial (1) ● Shared (4) ● Neighborhood (2)

Congress Heights - Community Visioning Public Realm

Small Area Plan



Two preferred locations within SAP boundary

17 potential locations

Public realm workshop scheduled for August 2021

Feedback from youth is they want to see more culturally reflective commemorative works and public art

- Ceremonial (3)
- Shared (5)
- Neighborhood (12)
- Preferred Location (2)

Next Steps



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