

**Application for a Commemorative Work on
District of Columbia Public Space**

Washington, D.C.

Bernardo de Gálvez: A Friend of Independence

Name of Commemorative Work

Embassy of Spain in *Washington, D.C*

Location of Commemorative Work

Submitted by

Spain-USA Foundation

Name of Sponsoring Organization

Submitted to the District of Columbia Commemorative Works Committee

May 2023

Date

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I. SPONSORING ORGANIZATION

1. Name or title of Proposed Commemorative Work

Bernardo de Gálvez: A Friend of Independence

2. Sponsoring Organization

Name of sponsoring organization: Spain-USA Foundation.

Address of sponsoring organization: 2801 16th Street NW, Washington DC 20009

Contact Person: Teodoro Sacristán Llorente

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Tax Status of Principal Sponsor: The Spain-USA Foundation is an exempt organization under 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Please refer to Appendix I for Proof of Sponsor's 501(c) (3) Status

3. Description of Sponsoring Organization

Give a brief description/mission of the principal sponsoring organization and its relationship to the proposed commemorative work. (i.e. history, when founded, other projects sponsored, etc). A sponsor must be, "a Federal or District agency, or an individual, group, or organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code" (Commemorative Works Act, Sec. 411. Definitions).

Established in 1999, the Spain-USA Foundation (SUSAF), a District of Columbia non-profit foundation, seeks to promote, support and develop a broad array of Spanish cultural, scientific and educational activities in the United States with the goal of furthering greater cooperation and dialogue between Spain and the United States.

What the SUSAF would like to achieve with the commemorative work is to make known the decisive role played by Bernardo de Gálvez in the American Independence, especially to Americans and Spaniards.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

4. Summary of Proposed Commemorative Work

Provide a brief project summary (describe the type of commemorative work, it's location, and goals of the project).

The statue of Bernardo de Gálvez was installed in June 2019. Unfortunately, no permit was requested for installation. Once installed, the Embassy of Spain requested authorization for the statue and also for the placement of an information panel about the figure of Bernardo de Gálvez.

The bronze statue of Bernardo de Gálvez is placed at the Embassy of Spain, located at 2375 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., at the entrance to the Chancellery, located on 24th Street, N.W.

The new project involves pulls the fence and landscape away from the corner to create a small paved and seating area with the statue on a new concrete base. The objective of this commemorative work is to make the important role played by Bernardo de Gálvez in American Independence known to all, particularly to Americans and Spaniards.

5. Subject of Commemorative Work

Provide detailed information about the proposed work and why the person or event should be commemorated on District of Columbia (DC) public space. The subject of the commemorative work should be of long-term historic importance and shall generally not be any living person, any deceased person who has been deceased less than 10 years, or any event that has occurred within 10 years of the application. If the proposed commemorative work does NOT meet these standards, a detailed explanation should be provided as to why the person or event should be commemorated despite the standard.

The statue honors Bernardo de Gálvez (1746-1786) who was a hero of the Revolutionary War who risked his life for the freedom of the United States people and provided supplies, intelligence, and strong military support to the war effort. In recognition of this vital aid, Bernardo de Gálvez was conferred honorary U.S. citizenship in 2014. (Public Law 113–229 113th Congress). Please refer to Appendix IV for copy of Public Law 113–229.

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

Provide detailed information on how the subject of the proposed commemorative work relates to DC culture or history. Commemorative works on public space proposed for commemoration of local individuals, groups, events, or other significant elements of DC culture or history generally should be given priority over other commemorative works. If the proposed commemorative work does NOT meet these standards, a detailed explanation should be provided as to why the person or event should be commemorated despite the standard.

During the American Revolution, Bernardo de Gálvez was a hero of the Revolutionary War who risked his life for the freedom of the United States.

As can be read in Public Law 113-229 113th Congresses (Appendix IV) *“The United States Continental Congress declared, on October 31, 1778, their gratitude and favorable sentiments to Bernardo de Gálvez for his conduct towards the United States.”*

“Whereas Bernardo de Gálvez’s victories against the British were recognized by George Washington as a deciding factor in the outcome of the Revolutionary War”.

Bernardo de Gálvez also helped draft the terms of a treaty that ended the Revolutionary War.

The Spanish war ship “Galveston”, commanded by Spanish General Bernardo de Gálvez displayed the flags of all nations and fired a thirteen gun salute during George Washington’s presidential inauguration parade in 1783.

Washington thought he owed a big portion of his victory to the King of Spain, both for his military and economic support. Moreover, he seemed to be particularly moved by the courage and fine military strategy of General Gálvez, as the President warmly referred to the Spaniard in the complimentary letters that he addressed to His Catholic Majesty from his headquarters in New Windsor.

George Washington and other founding fathers exchanged multiple correspondence about the financial and material aid that Spain sent to the 13 colonies.

Bernardo de Gálvez is one of only eight people to have been awarded honorary United States citizenship.

There is a portrait of Bernardo de Gálvez hung in 2014 in the US Congress honoring him.

There is another sculpture of Bernardo de Gálvez in Washington DC, located at Virginia Avenue and 22nd Street, N.W., near the United States Department of State building in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood in Washington, D.C..

III. PROJECT LOCATION

7. Project location

Describe the proposed project location (street address/square/lot or public space designation). A map and site plan should be included.

The project would be placed at the Embassy of Spain, located at 2375 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20037, at the entrance to the Chancellery, located on 24th street, N.W.

The Embassy is located near Washington Circle, which features a large equestrian statue of George Washington. As mentioned above, Bernardo de Gálvez and Washington were contemporaries and both fought during the Revolutionary War.

The Embassy represents the Spanish Government and fosters the close relations between the two countries, promoting mutual understanding and cooperation between our two countries.

The Embassy of Spain is an appropriate location for Bernardo de Gálvez statue because he was a Spanish military that was conferred honorary U.S. citizenship in 2014.

It is a great opportunity to educate American visitors, as well as other visitors to the Embassy and Consulate, about the life of Bernardo de Gálvez a Spanish citizen who was granted honorary U.S. citizenship, and about the strong historic relations between the United States and Spain.

The objective of this statue and sign is to make the important role played by Bernardo de Gálvez know to all, particularly to Americans and Spaniards.



Figure 1. Location of the Embassy of Spain

8. District Government Agency with Oversight

Indicate the District government agency with oversight of the proposed District public space where the proposed Commemorative Work is proposed to be located and summarize discussions the Sponsor has had with the government agency.

The proposed commemorative work is located in the public right-of-way of 24th Street NW that is under the control of the Department of Transportation (DDOT). In addition to working with DDOT to place the commemorative on land under their administrative control, there are local and federal agencies required to review the application for design and location:

- The Historic Preservation Office (HPO). The Historic preservation Office has reviewed the application and determined that this project does not need to be reviewed by the HPRB and can simply be

- reviewed and approved by their staff. Please refer to Appendix II for interaction with HPO.
- The Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (ANC-2A). Please refer to Appendix II for letters of support.
 - The Public Space Committee approved with the condition that the application must receive approval from Commemorative Works Commission prior issuance. The DC Office of Planning.

We have had discussions with DDOT and our contact there is Catrina Felder.

9. Existing Conditions

Describe existing conditions of the proposed site of the commemorative work and the general conditions of the surrounding area within ½ mile (land use patterns, zoning, etc.) Include clear photos and a site plan of existing conditions (sidewalks, utilities, site topography, streets).

The proposed location of the commemorative work is in the public right-of-way of 24th Street NW, between Pennsylvania Avenue and L Street. 24th Street has a total width of 90' with 29' set aside on both sides of the street between the curb and property line. The public space along 24th Street includes 12' set aside for sidewalk and 17' set aside as landscaped "public parking", the area of public space set aside for landscaping. The location of the proposed commemorative work is in the 17' set aside for landscape purposes.

The Near Northwest Planning Area encompasses the 3.6 square miles located directly north and west of Central Washington. Most of the area has historically been within Ward 2, although in past and present times, Near Northwest has also included parts of Wards 1, 5, and 6. Near Northwest is known for its historic architecture, well-established neighborhoods, lively shopping areas, and nationally recognized institutions. These features provide enduring reminders of the city's growth, from the 18th century to today's international city. The Georgetown Historic District, established in 1950 in response to the demolition of large numbers of waterfront and canal-related historic buildings, was the first historic district established in the city. Today, more than half of Near Northwest land area is included in historic districts. In 2017, the area had a population of 79,374, or about 11.8 percent of the city's total. From 2000 to 2017, the population grew by over 10,800

people from 68,539 representing a 14 percent increase. With 54 percent of the population in Near Northwest between the ages of 18-34, young professionals make up a much higher percentage of the population in this area than they do in the city – a difference likely due to the presence of several university campuses in the area.

The site is located in RA-5 Zone. The Residential Apartment (RA) zones permit urban residential development and compatible institutional and semi-public buildings. The RA-5 zone provides for areas developed with predominantly high-density residential.

The immediate surroundings of the property where the projected structure would be installed includes apartment blocks, offices and some residential houses. The Embassy building has eight floors, the facade of the first three floors being like that of a residential house, and the facade of the other five floors is glass.

The surrounding buildings are also mostly eight floors tall. The building across the street has on its first floor the entrance lobby of the building and a coffee shop.

Pennsylvania Ave is a busy street with no on-street parking. 24th Street is smaller, does not have as much traffic and has parking spaces on both sides of the street, although parking is prohibited on the Embassy side except for Embassy cars.



Figure 2. View from 1013 24th Street



Figure 3. View from 24th street