

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

Washington, D.C.

Marion Barry, Jr. Bronze Statue

Submitted by

The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities

Submitted to the District of Columbia Commemorative Works Committee
May 18, 2017

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I. SPONSORING ORGANIZATION

1. Name of Commemorative Work

Marion Barry, Jr. Bronze Statue

2. Sponsoring Organization

Name of sponsoring organization: DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
Address of sponsoring organization: 200 I (Eye) Street, S.E., Suite 1400
Washington DC 20003
Contact Persons: Arthur Espinoza, Executive Director
Lauren Dugas Glover, Public Art Manager
Telephone (202) 724-5613
E-mail: Lauren.Glover@dc.gov

Name of sponsoring organization: Executive Office of the Mayor
Address of sponsoring organization: 1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 324
Contact Person: Sean Floyd
Telephone (202) 724-5392
E-mail: Sean.Floyd@dc.gov

Name of sponsoring organization: Marion Barry Commission
Address of sponsoring organization: c/o Executive Office of the Mayor
Contact Person: Sean Floyd
Telephone (202) 724-5392
E-mail: Sean.Floyd@dc.gov

3. Description of Sponsoring Organization

The D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities (CAH), established in 1968, provides grant funds, programs and educational activities that encourage diverse artistic expressions and learning opportunities, so that all District of Columbia residents and visitors can experience the rich culture of our city.

Vision: As the Nation’s Capital, the District of Columbia is a world-class cultural destination; the CAH is the leading voice for arts and culture in the city, thereby elevating the impact of the arts and humanities locally, nationally and internationally. Recognizing the changing dynamics within the city, the CAH is poised to increase the depth and expand the breadth of creative opportunities for residents and visitors. Through its public art program, DC Creates! Public Art

Program, CAH acquires, commissions, and installs artworks for public sites throughout the District of Columbia. The DC Creates! Public Art mission is to maintain a quality public collection of diverse media and to create a dynamic, vibrant, nurturing community through art and design. Through this program CAH provides opportunities for individuals to encounter art in parks, libraries, community centers, government offices, bridges and other public venues. CAH simultaneously enriches the daily lives of residents and visitors and gives voice to artists.

4. Commissioners

Kay Kendall, Chair, Ward 2
Kim Greenfield Alfonso, Ward 4
Stacie Lee Banks, Ward 3
Susan Clampitt, Ward 6
Edmund C. Fleet, Ward 7
Haili Francis, Ward 5
Rhona Wolfe Friedman, Ward 2
Alma H. Gates, Ward 3
Darrin L. Glymph, Ward 4
Lawrence Green, Ward 8
MaryAnn Miller, Ward 3
Elvi Moore, Ward 3
Josef Palermo, Ward 1
Maria Hall Rooney, Ward 4
Cicie Sattarnilasskorn, Ward 1
José Alberto Uclés, Ward 5
Gretchen B. Wharton, Ward 6
C. Brian Williams, Ward 6

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

5. Summary of Proposed Commemorative Work

Background: In March 2015, Mayor Bowser established a commission to commemorate and recognize former Mayor Marion Barry, Jr. and to advise the Mayor, Council and public on how to appropriately honor and recognize his lifetime of achievements and contributions to the District of Columbia. Upon the Barry Commission's recommendation of a bronze statue in honor of Marion Barry, the Mayor's office assigned CAH to assist with implementing this recommendation. CAH facilitated a competitive process to identify an artist to design, fabricate and install a bronze sculpture in the likeness of the late mayor. In March 2016, CAH issued a call for proposals, inviting artists and artist teams from the metropolitan area to submit designs for consideration.

CAH received a total of 13 submissions, which were then reviewed by a panel of artists, government officials and community members. Ultimately a single artist was selected. That work is the subject of this application, a permanent public art installation in the form and likeness of Marion Barry, Jr. through the fabrication of a life-sized bronze statue.

The statue is to be sited at the John A. Wilson Building, 1330 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004. The goal of the project is to capture and commemorate the unrelenting spirit of Marion Barry and his tireless public support of the citizens of Washington, DC. The sculpture is in recognition of Barry's tenure as the second mayor of the District of Columbia serving from 1978-1990 and again from 1994-1999. Barry also served three tenures on the Council of the District of Columbia, as an at-large member from 1975 to 1979 and serving the residents of Ward 8 from 1993 to 1995, and again from 2005 his death on November 23, 2014.

The selected design of a larger-than-life-size figure of Marion Barry, Jr. on a traditional concrete plinth provides an opportunity to honor Mr. Barry in a prominent location on the exterior of the Pennsylvania Avenue side of the John A. Wilson Building.

The aspect presented in the sculpture is that of a "Man of the People." Marion Barry was known as a person who was engaging with "everyman," shaking hands, waving, walking with his constituents and discussing their concerns. He visited high schools, beauty salons, and churches to meet with his constituents face-to-face. Throughout his career he reached out to the disenfranchised, working not only for the rights of African-Americans, but for DC statehood, the unemployed, gay rights, low-income residents and youth, further emphasizing the importance of the phrase "Man of the People." The concept of the sculpture is to show Barry outside, in the streets, greeting people and welcoming them to the City he so loved and helped to build. Barry's likeness features his endearing smile with his arm raised waving/greeting people. The viewer(s) of the sculpture are the extra person(s) within the installation, each visitor animating the statue and indefinitely representing "all" the variety of people who have made up his constituency.

A quote from Barry inscribed on the plinth embodies the essence of the sculpture: "*Most people don't know me...They don't know about all of the fighting I've done to manager a government that was progress and more oriented to uplift the people rather than suppress them. That's what I want my legacy to be. I was a freedom fighter, and a fighter for the economic livelihood of not only black people but all people.*" [-Marion Barry, Jr., Excerpted from his autobiography, "Mayor for Life: The Incredible Story of Marion Barry, Jr."]

6. Subject of Commemorative Work

Marion S. Barry, Jr. was a popular and influential figure in Washington, D.C. The *Washington City Paper* nicknamed him "Mayor for life", a designation that remained long after Barry left the mayoralty. *The Washington Post* once stated that "to understand the District of Columbia, one must understand Marion Barry"

Barry served as the second Mayor of the District of Columbia from 1979 to 1991, and again as the fourth mayor from 1995 to 1999. Barry also served three tenures on the Council of the District of Columbia. He was elected an at-large member of Washington's first elected city council following the establishment of home rule, from 1975-1979. In that position, he served as chair of the District of Columbia Committee on Finance and Revenue. He also was elected to

serve the residents of Ward 8 from 1993 to 1995, and again from 2005 until his death on November 23, 2014.

Born March 6, 1936 in rural Mississippi, Barry was involved in the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960's, first as a member of the Nashville Student Movement and then serving as the first chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). He later moved to Washington, D.C. to open a local chapter of SNCC. He was deeply involved in coordinating peaceful street demonstrations as well as a boycott to protest bus fare increases. Barry organized rides to work for those who needed them. The boycott cost the bus line thousands of dollars, and Barry proved his ability to organize.

Barry came to national prominence as mayor of the Nation's Capital as the first prominent civil rights activist to become chief executive of a major American city. Barry's first four years in office were characterized by increased efficiency in city administration and government services. Barry also instituted his signature summer jobs program, in which summer employment was made available to every school-age resident.

Barry graduated from LeMoyne-Owen College, in Memphis, in 1958. He earned an M.S. in organic chemistry from Fisk University in 1960. Barry began doctoral studies at the University of Kansas and at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, the only African American in the program.

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

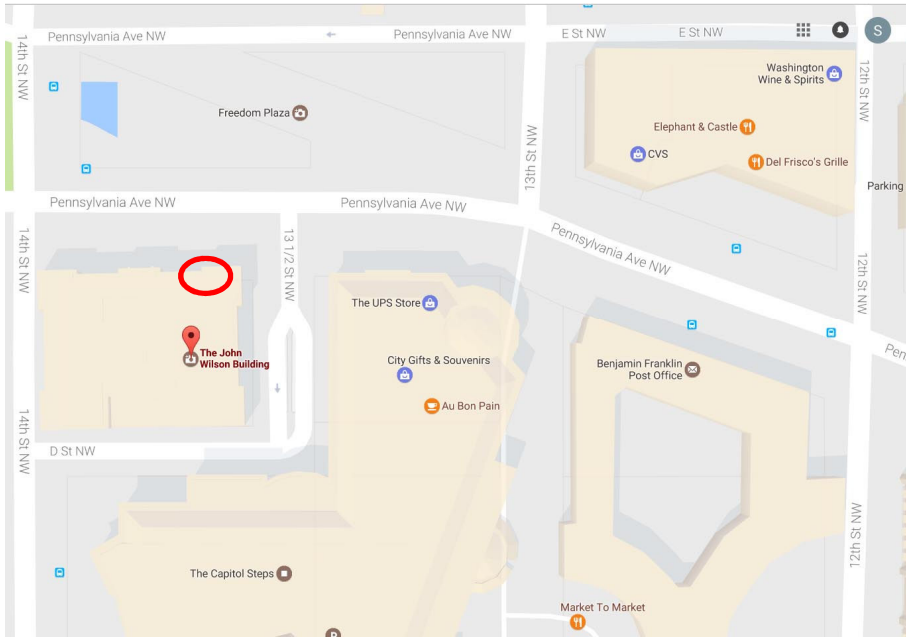
During his 12 year tenure as Mayor, Barry spearheaded the revitalization of the U Street Corridor including the development of the Franklin D. Reeves Municipal Center located in the then devastated corridor. The addition of a major employer in the corridor spurred new business development. Following the lead and moving district offices into the community prompted other similar projects around the district. Barry also instituted his signature summer jobs program, in which summer employment was made available to every school-age resident and youth with a chance at first time employment opportunities. Barry's civic activism of reaching out to and working for DC statehood, minorities, unemployed youth and adults, gay rights, low-income residents demonstrates his commitment to tirelessly serving for all residents.

III. PROJECT LOCATION

8. Project location

The project is intended to be located at the John A Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004.

Site location of the project within the District of Columbia



9. District Government Agency with Oversight

Council of the District of Columbia owns the Wilson building

10. Existing Conditions

The John A. Wilson Building on the Pennsylvania Avenue side of the building is flanked by two flower beds. The eastern side (left as you face the building) includes trees and an electronic sign. The Western side (right as you face the building) includes trees, flower bed and a statue of Boss Shepherd. The placement of the Barry Bronze Sculpture is intended to be situated in the flower bed on the Pennsylvania Avenue side of the building between the front steps and 13 ½ Street.



11. Historic Preservation Considerations

The John A. Wilson Building is listed in the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Site under the “City Beautiful (1900-1930)”. The design of the sculpture and plinth correlates with the architecture of this building.

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

The Barry Bronze sculpture would be located on District property on Pennsylvania Avenue. The timeless nature of bronze sculpture and the granite

plinth that ties into existing building materials offers stability and consistency with current architecture and urban design elements on Pennsylvania Avenue while preserving the historic nature of the building. The project balances with other memorials in public space within 500 feet of the project.

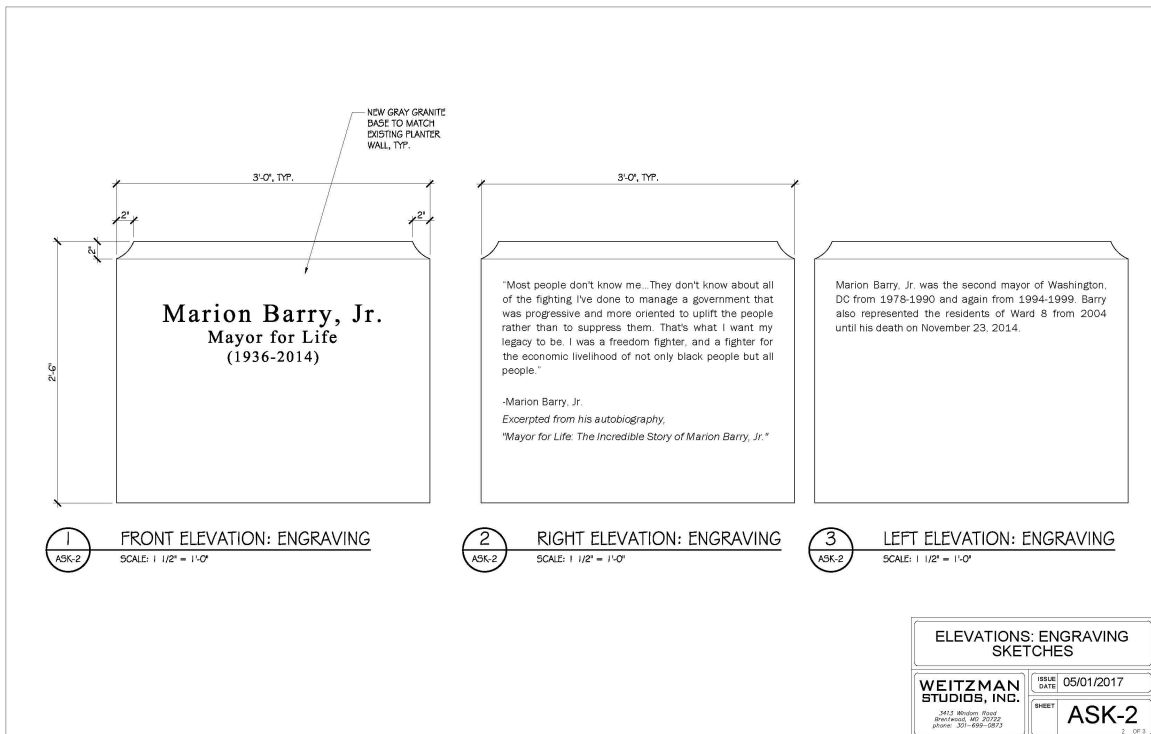
13. Economic Impact

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 figure is cast bronze and situated on a 2'6" x 3' concrete plinth with inscriptions on three sides. The front of the plinth would be the naming façade: Marion Barry, Jr. Mayor for Life (1936-2014); the right elevation: a quote from Barry; and, the left elevation is a brief description of his tenure as an elected Mayor and Councilman.





15. Project Materials

The statue would be in cast bronze. The plinth is concrete to match the existing retaining wall of the flower bed.

16. Infrastructure

Installation of the sculpture includes a base/foundation in the flowerbed to support the statue and plinth.

17. Time

The goal is to complete and install the sculpture and plinth for an unveiling in March 2018 to coincide with Marion Barry's birthday. Fabrication of the sculpture and plinth is expected to begin immediately with engineering and site work done during the spring to early summer months.

18. 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.

19. Accessibility

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

20. Proposed Timeline

May 2017	Complete Commemorative Works Review Process
May 2017	Fabrication/production begins
June 2017	Construction/site prep to Start
February. 2018	Construction Completion
March 2018	Project Completion & unveiling

V. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In August of 2015, the Barry Commission held a public engagement forum at the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center, located in Ward 8, attracting more than 100 citizens eager to offer ideas. More than 40 participants opted to complete a form to express ideas and some 50 people spoke, offering their views on ways to commemorate Mayor Barry. Based upon Commission deliberations, public input, and City authority, the Commission recommended installing a statue in front of or inside the John A. Wilson Building.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET

21. Budget

\$250,000 Design, Fabrication and Installation

22. Budget and Financing Plan

The statue and associated site work will be funded by EOM, CAH

23. Maintenance and Preservation Budget

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

24. Insurance

The contractor has provided a certificate of insurance.