

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
COMMITTEE REPORT**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

DRAFT

TO: All Councilmembers

FROM: Chairman Phil Mendelson
Committee of the Whole

DATE: June 29, 2021

SUBJECT: Report on PR 24-238, the “African American Civil War Museum Installation of the Abraham Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation Statue Approval Resolution of 2021”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 24-238, the “African American Civil War Museum Installation of the Abraham Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation Statue Approval Resolution of 2021” was referred, reports favorably thereon and recommends approval by the Council.

CONTENTS

I.	Background and Need.....	1
II.	Legislative Chronology.....	3
III.	Position of the Executive	3
IV.	Comments of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions	4
V.	Summary of Testimony.....	4
VI.	Impact on Existing Law	4
VI.	Fiscal Impact.....	4
VII.	Section-by-Section Analysis.....	5
VIII.	Committee Action.....	5
IX.	Attachments	5

I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On May 14, 2021, PR 24-238, the “African American Civil War Museum Installation of the Abraham Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation Statue Approval Resolution of 2021” was introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor to approve the installation of a commemorative work, to be known as the Abraham Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation Statue.

In June 2005, the Council adopted Resolution 16-176, the “Shaw/U Street Cultural Destination District Plan Approval Resolution of 2005” that adopted the small area plan entitled “DUKE: Development Framework for a Cultural Destination District within Washington DC’s Greater Shaw/U Street.” That plan was the product of a 14-month public planning process initiated by the Office of Planning and developed in consultation with over 400 community stakeholders. The plan outlines a series of land use, cultural development, zoning, transportation and other

objectives to guide revitalization along the 7th Street, Georgia Avenue, Florida Avenue and U Street corridors. It includes development programs for key public sites which would anchor six synergistic sub-areas within the project area and which are envisioned to create a diverse and memorable experience. One of these areas was the African American Civil War Memorial Sub-district at the intersection of Vermont Avenue and U Street, which the plan recommended creating an interpretive museum at the former Grimke School and to unify the museum with the existing memorial plaza.

The proposed commemorative work is a statue of President Abraham Lincoln that will be sited in front of the African American Civil War Museum at Grimke. The statue depicts the moment when Lincoln, in a sitting position with quill pin in hand, signed his name signed the Emancipation Proclamation providing not only for the freeing of slaves, but that “Persons of suitable condition will be received in the Union army.” The African American Civil War Memorial sited across Vermont Avenue from the museum includes a central sculpture surrounded by the names of 209,145 members of the United States Colored Infantry.



Consistent with the Duke Plan, granite paving, the same pavers and pattern as those existing paving in the African American Civil World Memorial across Vermont Avenue, is proposed in front of the ceremonial entrance to the Museum. This will create a visual connection between the Memorial and the Museum, joining the Grimke building into an African American Civil War Memorial Plaza The Lincoln is made from bronze, weighs more than six hundred pounds, sits on a bronze base and faces west towards the African American Civil War Memorial.

Legal Background

The Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01 *et seq.*) (“Act”) establishes procedures for closing streets and alleys, opening new streets and alleys, naming public spaces, and establishing commemorative works. A naming or commemorative work may be introduced by resolution submitted by the Mayor, or by Act.

In December 2020, the Act was amended to clarify provisions with respect to the establishment of commemorative works.¹ Under the provisions of the Act as revised, applications by sponsors for a commemorative work are submitted to the Office of Planning (OP). OP acts as the managing agency and processes and forwards applications to the Commemorative Works Committee (CWC) made up of Council and Mayoral appointees and *ex officio* agency directors. The CWC considers applications based on guidelines outlined by the Act. Subjects to be memorialized on public space should be of long-term historic importance. The Lincoln is the first commemorative work successfully approved under the revised provisions of the Act including the clarified application process. The CWC recommended approval of this commemorative work on May 3, 2021. The project application and CWC recommendation are attached to this report.

Approving the Abraham Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation Statue as a commemorative work will fulfill the goals of the Duke Plan and will create a strong link between the museum and the existing memorial. Thus, the Committee of the Whole recommends the approval of PR 24-238, the “African American Civil War Museum Installation of the Abraham Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation Statue Approval Resolution of 2021.”

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

May 14, 2021	PR 24-238, the “African American Civil War Museum Installation of the Abraham Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation Statue Approval Resolution of 2021” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor.
May 18, 2021	PR 24-238 is officially read at the regularly scheduled Committee of the Whole meeting and referred to the Committee of the Whole.
May 21, 2021	Notice of Intent to Act on PR 24-238 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> .
June 4, 2021	Notice of a public hearing on PR 24-238 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> .
June 24, 2021	The Committee of the Whole holds a hearing on PR 24-238.
June 29, 2021	The Committee of the Whole marks up PR 24-238.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Andrew Trueblood, Director of the Office of Planning and Chair of the CWC, testified on behalf of the Executive that the commemorative work proposed for approval in PR 24-238 would be relevant to the District, appropriate for the proposed location, and consistent with DC values.

¹ See D.C. Law 23-196, effective from March 16, 2021, Published in the *DC Register* Vol 68 and Page 753.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on PR 24-238 on Thursday, June 24, 2021. Copies of written testimony are attached to this report.

Frank Smith, Executive Director, African American Civil War Museum, testified to the background of the proposed commemorative work and answered questions about the design and about outstanding minor concerns of the CWC with respect to installation of the statue.

Andrew Trueblood, Director, Office of Planning, testified on behalf of the Executive in support of the commemorative work. His testimony is attached and also summarized above.

The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to PR 24-238.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

PR 24-238 has no impact on existing law. D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01² authorizes the Council to approve commemorative works. PR 24-238 approves a commemorative work known as “Abraham Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation.” The Act also provides that, with limited exception, no commemorative work shall be in honor of any person who was living within 10 years or for an event that happened within the preceding 10 years.³ President Lincoln was assassinated on April 15, 1865.

VII. FISCAL IMPACT

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2021 through fiscal year 2024 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation. There is no estimated cost to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) because the signs have already been fabricated and were hung on June 5, 2020.

VIII. RACIAL EQUITY IMPACT

Although the overall impact on residents’ lives will be minimal, PR 24-238 would contribute to widening the racial inequity between the number of commemorative works dedicated to white men and those dedicated to Black and other persons of color in the District of Columbia

² Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201).

³ See D.C. Code § 9-204.15.

IX. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

- Section 1 States the short title of PR 24-238.
- Section 2 Approves the commemorative work known as “Abraham Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation Statue” in front of the African American Civil War Museum.
- Section 3 Adopts the Fiscal Impact Statement.
- Section 4 Establishes the effective date by stating the standard 30-day congressional review language.

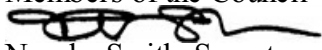
X. COMMITTEE ACTION

XI. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 24-238 as introduced.
2. Written Testimony.
3. Commemorative work application.
4. CWC Recommendation.
5. Racial Equity Impact Assessment for PR 24-238.
6. Fiscal Impact Statement for PR 24-238.
7. Legal Sufficiency Determination for PR 24-238.
8. Committee Print for PR 24-238.

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20004

Memorandum

To : Members of the Council

From : Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council
Date : Monday, May 17, 2021
Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Friday, May 14, 2021. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "African American Civil War Museum Installation of the Abraham Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation Statue Approval Resolution of 2021", PR24-0238

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson, at the request of Mayor

The Chairman is referring this legislation to Committee of the Whole.

Attachment
cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

May 14, 2021

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

Today, I am transmitting to the Council of the District of Columbia for its consideration and approval the "*African American Civil War Museum Installation of the Abraham Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation Statue Approval Resolution of 2021*". Please find enclosed a copy of the proposed resolution proposing a commemorative work; the installation of the Abraham Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation Statue at Grimke on the public space adjacent to the African American Civil War Museum (AACWM), located in the historic Archibald Grimke School at 1925 Vermont Avenue, NW.

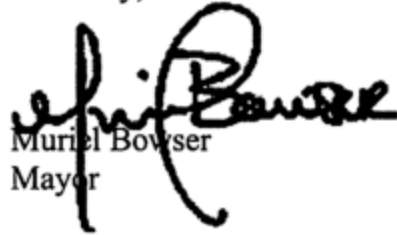
The Museum has filed the necessary paperwork to obtain a permit from the Department of Transportation (DDOT) to install the statue, and the Commemorative Works Committee voted on the matter at its April 30, 2021 meeting and recommended favorable disposition of the proposed statue in the public space adjacent to the African American Civil War Museum at 1925 Vermont Avenue NW.

As you are aware, the Duke Plan calls for the combining of the African American Civil War Memorial and the Grimke Development across Vermont Avenue to further create the African American Civil War Memorial Plaza. The AACWM is working with the District's Department of Transportation (DDOT) and Office of Planning to erect the Abraham Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation statute which is designed to create a sightline across Vermont Avenue from the Memorial to the Museum at Grimke which is currently under construction. In July 2020, the statue was delivered to the museum for installation in front of the museum at Grimke where it will rest on a podium adorned by ceremonial steps.

For these reasons set forth above, I urge the Council to take prompt and favorable action on the enclosed resolution.


If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Andrew Trueblood, Director of the Office of Planning at (202) 442-7636.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Muriel Bowser". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "M".

Muriel Bowser
Mayor

Enclosures


Chairman Phil Mendelson
at the request of the Mayor

1
2
3
4
5
6
7 A RESOLUTION
8
9
10 _____
11

12 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
13
14 _____
15

16 To approve the installation of a commemorative work, to be known as the “Abraham
17 Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation Statue,” on the public space adjacent to
18 the African American Civil War Museum located at 1925 Vermont Avenue N.W..
19

20 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That
21 this resolution may be cited as the “African American Civil War Museum Installation of
22 the Abraham Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation Statue Approval Resolution of
23 2021”.

24 Sec. 2. Pursuant to section 401 of the Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition
25 Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code
26 § 9-204.01) (“Act”), the Council approves the installation of a commemorative work, to
27 be known as the “Abraham Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation Statue,” on public
28 space adjacent to the African American Civil War Museum, located on the historic
29 Archibald Grimke School at 1925 Vermont Avenue, N.W.

30 Sec. 3. Transmittal. The Council shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its
31 adoption, to the Mayor and the African American Civil War Museum.

32 Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

33 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Chief Financial Officer as
34 the fiscal impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures
35 Act of 1975, approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-
36 301.47a).

37 Sec. 5. Effective date.

38 This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Committee of the Whole (Council)

From: Frank Smith <franksmith@afroamcivilwar.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 12:28 PM
To: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Cc: Nadeau, Brianne K. (Council)
Subject: Testimony PR 24 238
Attachments: Civil War Gala Flyer2 (1).pdf

Dear Chairman Mendelson and Council,

Thank you very much for moving forward PR 24 238 a Resolution to approve the recommendation from the Mayor and the Commemorative Works Committee. The Resolution will approve the placement of the Lincoln Emancipation Proclamation Freedom and Union statue at the entrance of the newly expanded museum at Grimke.

I wish to thank the Mayor and Council for your long standing patience and support for the African American Civil War memorial and museum. This was a Council generated project and on behalf of the 209,145 United States Colored Troops whose names were rescued from history and placed on the memorial Wall of Honor, I say thank you.

For those of us who gloried in the First Annual Celebration of Juneteenth last week, let me remind you that when General Granger landed in the remote hamlet outside Galveston, Texas June 19th, 1865 he had 2,000 USCT soldiers whose names are engraved on the Memorial Wall of Honor, in his regiment. When President issued the Proclamation he issued orders to "Let the Proclamation go wherever the army goes". The army arrived in Galveston sixty days after the assassination of President Lincoln and thirty days after the Grand Union Army Victory Parade down Pennsylvania Avenue May 22-24, 1865, better late than never.

PR 24 238, The Lincoln Emancipation Proclamation Resolution was developed to carry out the Small Area vision of the Duke Plan to use art, specialty pavers, shrubbery and other techniques to combine the African American Civil War Memorial Wall of Honor with the Grimke School development that will include the newly expanded African American Civil War Memorial Museum. The bronze patina of the Lincoln will present a visual pathway to the bronze patina of the Spirit of Freedom monument across Vermont Ave at the memorial.

By way of update, the Community 3 Grimke Development is in the process of turning over to the African American Civil War Museum a "Warm Lit Shell" any day now. Once received the museum will go into its 12,500 sq feet of space and do a "Tenant Build-out" outfitting its space for the museum. Final drawings for the tenant buildout have been submitted and will go out for bid next week. We expect to get real numbers from bidders by the end of July and should be able to start the tenant build out around August 1, 2021, a process that should take about four months. In the meantime the Curator work and drawings for the exhibits have been finalized and we already have fixed firm bids to get the exhibits fabricated and installed by late winter of 2021 or early spring of 2022. We are planning for a grand opening by MLK Day 2022.

We had hoped to have PR 24 238 approved in time to get Lincoln installed in time for the July 18, 2021 23rd Anniversary Celebration of the African American Civil War Memorial and museum. We will not be able to get Lincoln installed in time for the weekend of celebration that will include a July 16, 11am press briefing and walk through of the new museum space, a Saturday July 17th Rally on the High ground at the memorial at 11 am and, a Virtual Gala Monday July 19th. I have attached a flyer for the Gala event which will feature Clint Smith as our guest speaker. Clint Smith is a New York Times best selling author of the book "How the Word Was Passed", a reckoning with the story of slavery across America. The flyer includes a link to a 5 minute reading and interview with Clint Smith that was broadcast live by CBS from the African American Civil War museum at our present location. See it and Be Inspired.

Thank you for your time and support.

Frank Smith, Founding Director



AFRICAN AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

Gala

The African American Civil War Museum's 23rd Anniversary Gala will raise funds to help cover the Museum's capital budget shortfall caused by the pandemic and the increased operating expenses in its newly-renovated space. Proceeds will also allow the Museum to continue its award-winning Passport to Freedom program, which brings thousands of students to the Museum each year.

MONDAY, JULY 19TH
5:45 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M. EST



zoom

Closed Captions
will be provided.



GUEST SPEAKER

CLINT SMITH

Clint Smith is the author of the narrative nonfiction book, *How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning With the History of Slavery Across America*, which was a #1 New York Times Bestseller.

[Click here](#) to see his interview on the CBS Morning Show.

TO REGISTER [CLICK HERE](#)

Scheduled entertainment includes



DJ Room



Casino Room



Comedian



Descendants' Room

THE FIRST 50 PEOPLE TO REGISTER CAN CHOOSE A DOORDASH COUPON
OR A COPY OF CLINT SMITH'S BOOK.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of Planning



**PR 24-238, “African American Civil War Museum Installation of the
Abraham Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation Statue Approval
Resolution of 2021”**

Testimony of
Andrew Trueblood
Director, DC Office of Planning

Before the
Committee of the Whole
Council of the District of Columbia
The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairman

John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

June 24, 2021
2:00 pm

Good afternoon, Chairman Mendelson, Councilmembers, and staff of the Committee of the Whole. My name is Andrew Trueblood and I am the Director of the DC Office of Planning (OP). I am pleased to testify today on PR 24-238, the “African American Civil War Museum Installation of the Abraham Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation Statue Approval Resolution of 2021.”

In my role as the Director of the Office of Planning, I also serve as the Chair of the Commemorative Works Committee, which was charged with reviewing the proposal and has recommended a favorable disposition on the application by the Mayor and District of Columbia Council. As part of reviewing this application, OP prepared a report to inform the Committee’s recommendation that is posted on OP’s Commemorative Works Program website (<https://planning.dc.gov/page/commemorative-works-program>). The report includes an assessment of the proposal based on evaluation criteria defined in the Commemorative Works Act, including consideration of appropriateness of the location, subject matter, design, financing, and ability of the sponsor to fund construction and maintenance of the commemorative work. The report also considers comments from the impacted Advisory Neighborhood Commission, District agencies, public utilities, and National Capitol Memorial Advisory Commission.

The Committee first reviewed the application in concept at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 26, 2021. At that meeting, the Committee determined the proposed statue was relevant

to the District, appropriate for the proposed location, and consistent with DC values. It was overall supportive of the application and asked the Museum for additional information on the finish of the statue, lighting, and interpretation, and requested an illustration showing the statue in its final setting. The Sponsor completed all reviews required for commemorative works before returning to the Committee for a final review of the application. On April 30, 2021, the Committee met with the sponsor and reviewed the additional information, took into consideration comments received from other reviewing bodies, and voted to recommend that the Mayor and District Council support the application.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I look forward to answering any questions you may have at this time.

Application for a Commemorative Work on District of Columbia
Public Space

Washington, D.C.

Lincoln: The Emancipation Proclamation Freedom and Union

Submitted by

The African American Civil War Memorial Freedom
Foundation, Inc.

Submitted to the District of Columbia Commemorative Works Committee
(February 15, 2021)

Table of Contents

I. SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	3
II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION.....	4
III. PROJECT LOCATION.....	6
IV. PROJECT DESIGN.....	15
V. COMMUNITY OUTREACH	18
VI. PROJECT BUDGET	19
VII. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS	20

Table of Figures

Figure 1 – Vicinity Map.....	6
Figure 2 – Aerial Map.....	7
Figure 3 – DC Property Quest Map	7
Figure 4 – DC Zoning Map Snapshot	8
Figure 5 – Property Proposed Site Plan	9
Figure 6 – “Existing Conditions” Site Plan (Under Construction)	10
Figure 7 – Proposed Conditions Site Plan	10
Figure 8 - Project Site Plan.....	11
Figure 9 – Grading Plan.....	12
Figure 10 – Utility Plan.....	13

Appendices

- Appendix A: Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws
- Appendix B: Officers of The African American Civil War Memorial Freedom Foundation, Inc.
- Appendix C: Letters of Support
- Appendix D: Statue Agreement with Atlas Bronze Casting
- Appendix E: Environmental Impact Statement Form (Reference)
- Appendix F: Civil Engineering Plans
- Appendix G: Landscape Architecture Plans
- Appendix H: Architectural Plans
- Appendix I: Management and Indemnification Agreement

I. SPONSORING ORGANIZATION

1. Name of Commemorative Work

Lincoln: The Emancipation Proclamation Freedom and Union

2. Sponsoring Organization

The African American Civil War Memorial Freedom Foundation Museum
1925 Vermont Ave. NW
Washington, D. C. 20001

Contact person: Frank Smith
202-369-5119 cell
202 667-2667 office
202-667-6771 fax
franksmith@afroamcivilwar.org

See Appendix A for Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of non-profit.

3. Description of Sponsoring Organization

The African American Civil War Memorial Freedom Foundation is a non-profit tax-exempt corporation incorporated in the District of Columbia in 1992. It is the mission of the AACWMFF to correct a great wrong in history which pretty much ignored the significant contributions of the 209,145 United States Colored Troops in the Civil War who joined president in the fight to end slavery and keep America united under one flag. The AACWMFF was incorporated in the District of Columbia in 1992 and has since raised public awareness and sought federal approval for the building of the African American Civil War Memorial that was dedicated in 1998 and turned over to the NPS in 2003. In 2000 the Foundation sponsored the African American Civil War museum to collect artifacts, build and operate a museum and host thousands of tourists each year. The museum also sponsors a "Passport to Freedom" program which sends trained docents to area schools informing them of the many resources the museum offers to enhance teaching and learning in the schools. Thousands of teachers and students visit the museum each year and the Lincoln will add greatly to the teaching opportunities being provided. The incorporation papers and by-laws for the Freedom Foundation are also attached.

4. Board of Directors

The Chairperson of the Board of Directors is Audrey Hinton, a local resident who is a retired federal employee and the descendant of one of the soldiers whose name is included on the Wall of Honor of the memorial. The Secretary of the Board is Rev. Paul Saddler, Senior Pastor of the 12th Street Christian Church and a District resident. The Treasurer is Christine Bennett, a retired DC public teacher and a resident of the District. A complete listing and brief description of the full board is attached.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

5. Summary of Proposed Commemorative Work

The Lincoln: Emancipation statue advances the recommendations of the Duke Plan, which is the result of a lengthy community planning effort supported by ANC 1B and Councilmember Nadeau, to take advantage of the economic vitality to be generated by the Grimke building commercial development to unify Grimke and the African American Civil War Memorial across Vermont Avenue. The Duke Plan recommended the use of street scape, pavers, shrubbery and artistic elements to further enhance the development of an African American Civil War Memorial Plaza. After lengthy negotiations with the various regulatory and safety agencies at DDOT and other consultations we arrived at the Lincoln as the safest and most appropriate way to carry out the basic element of the Duke Plan of enhancing the Memorial Plaza concept. Persons standing on the porch of the museum at Grimke would be able to peer over the the bronze statue of Lincoln and see the Spirit of Freedom monument and memorial Wall of Honor across Vermont Ave. To further achieve the public safety goal an opening in the Vermont Ave median will be closed by the project and two flag poles placed there to further guide the eye across Vermont from one side to the other. Persons standing at the bronze Spirit of Freedom at the memorial would be able to look across Vermont Ave and see the bronze statue of Lincoln and know something worth seeing was happening there.

6. Subject of Commemorative Work

The subject of the Commemorative Work is Lincoln captured in bronze at the moment when he is signing the Emancipation Proclamation. The Proclamation promised freedom but paragraph eight stated “Persons of suitable condition will be received in the Union army”. Through paragraph eight marched the 209,145 USCT soldiers whose names are engraved on the Memorial Wall of Honor across Vermont Ave. So in many ways this exhibit will join Lincoln and his 209,145 Black soldiers who helped Lincoln end slavery and keep America united under one flag.

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

Slavery was legal in the District of Columbia during the Civil War until 1862 when Congress authorized the DC Compensated Emancipation Act which authorized President Lincoln to purchase the freedom of about 3,100 enslaved persons living in the District. At the time of the compensated emancipation, there were more than 3,500 mostly runaway slaves living at a contraband Camp Barker located between 11th and 13th Streets NW from S Street south to Logan Circle. A few of the persons living there were freed by the April 16, 1862 Act but most were not because they did not have their owners consent. One of those slaves was Mary Dines, a runaway from Maryland who had become President Lincoln’s cook at the Soldiers Home. To reach Soldiers Home from the White House President Lincoln often traveled north along Vermont Ave and in late June 1862 while the President was writing the Emancipation Proclamation, Mary Dines convinced the President to stop and visit the former slaves who would benefit from his bold action. Mary Dines saved for

us a photo made by the famous photographer Matthew Brady, to mark the day of the President's visit. Sitting on the site today is the William Lloyd Garrison Elementary school. Out Camp Barker came an infirmary at Camp Barker Freedman's Hospital, now Howard University Hospital, Metropolitan Baptist church, Vermont Ave Baptist church and the first residents of historic U Street.

Lincoln and this project will bring back to life the historic Grimke Building named for Archibald Grimke. In addition to the African American Civil War museum the Grimke project includes some low- and moderate-income housing and an architect firm that is relocating from Maryland and bringing 100 new employees to the economy of U Street.

III. PROJECT LOCATION

8. Project Location

The project is located at 1925 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001 in Ward 1, formally known as Lot 837 in Square 361. The redeveloped building (currently under construction) will provide a new home for the African American Civil War Museum. The new space fronts Vermont Avenue NW, approximately 200 feet south of the intersection with U Street NW, and is located across from the African American Civil War Memorial. The proposed statue of President Lincoln, for which this application to CWC is made, will be located within the Vermont Avenue NW public right-of-way, at the entry to the Museum.

Figure 1 provides a Vicinity Map, Figure 2 provides an Aerial Map, and Figure 3 provides a DC PropertyQuest Map.

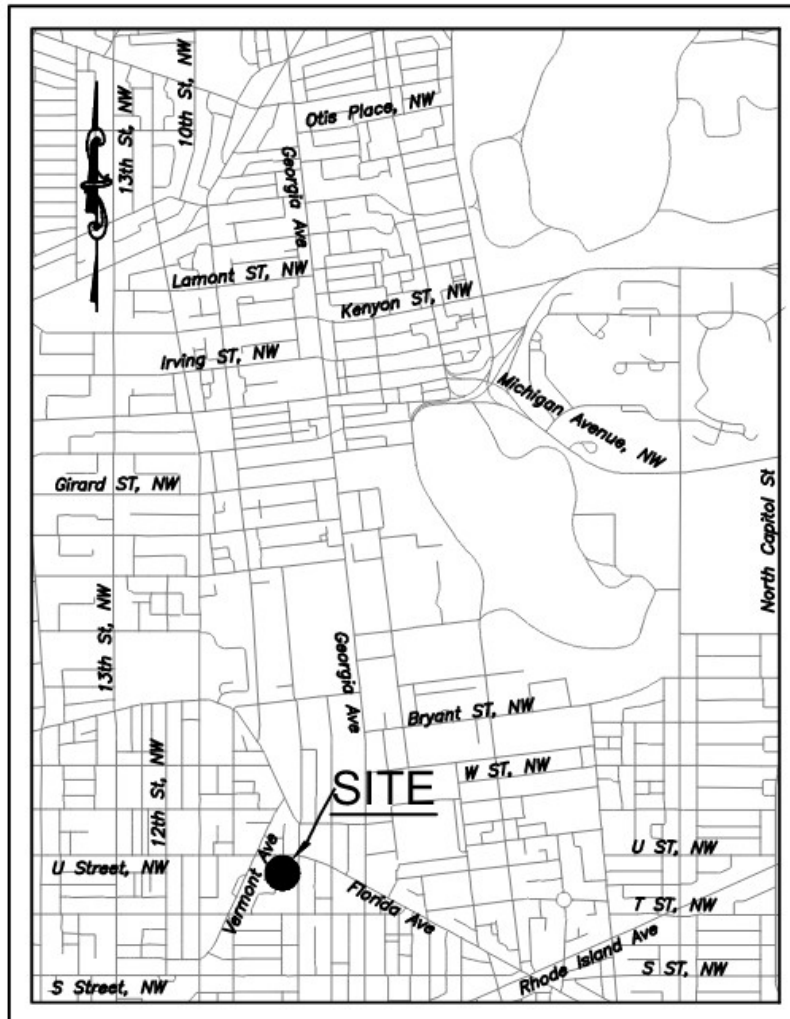
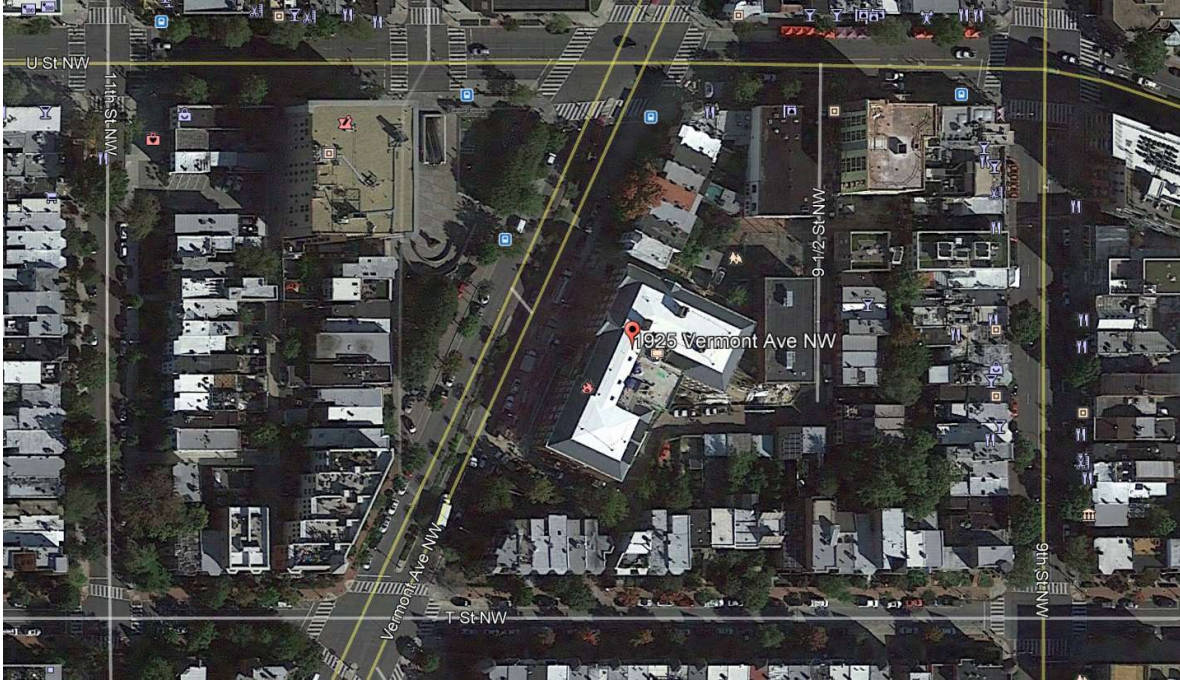
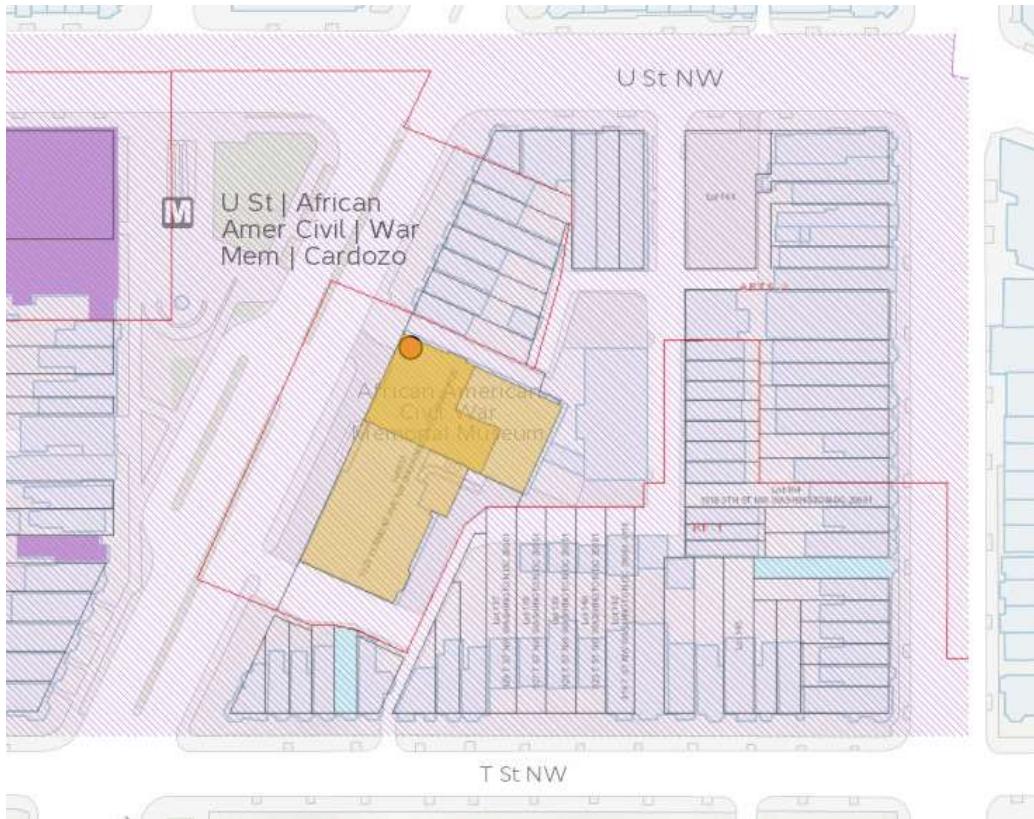


Figure 1 – Vicinity Map
Source: AMT, LLC



*Figure 2 – Aerial Map
Source: Google Earth*



*Figure 3 – DC Property Quest Map
Source: DC Property Quest*

9. District Government Agency with Oversight

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has jurisdiction over the project.

10. Existing Conditions

Describe existing conditions of proposed site of the commemorative work and the general conditions surrounding area within ½ mile (land use patterns, zoning, etc.) Include clear photos (no copies) and a site plan of existing conditions (sidewalks, utilities, site topography, streets).

The property is currently under redevelopment by Community Three Grimke, LLC. The African American Civil War Museum is currently a tenant in a portion of the building fronting 9 ½ Street. Upon completion of the Grimke School portion of the building, fronting Vermont Avenue, the African American Civil War Museum will move into new space fronting Vermont Avenue and opposite the African American Civil War Memorial. Zoning is ARTS-2. Surrounding zoning also includes RF-1, ARTS-1, and ARTS-4. Nearby uses includes residential single family, multifamily, and neighborhood retail. The redevelopment of the site (currently under construction) includes office uses.



Figure 4 – DC Zoning Map Snapshot

The U Street/African American Civil War Memorial/Cardozo metro stop (green/yellow lines) is located directly across Vermont Avenue NW from the project site. There is a WMATA bus stop (lines 63 and 64) located approximately 100' north of the site on Vermont Avenue NW. Fronting the

site, Vermont Avenue NW is a two-way roadway with two travel lanes in each direction, on-street parking, and a planted median. Figure 5 depicts the site plan for the project with a dashed line indicating the approximate limits for Figures 6 and 7.

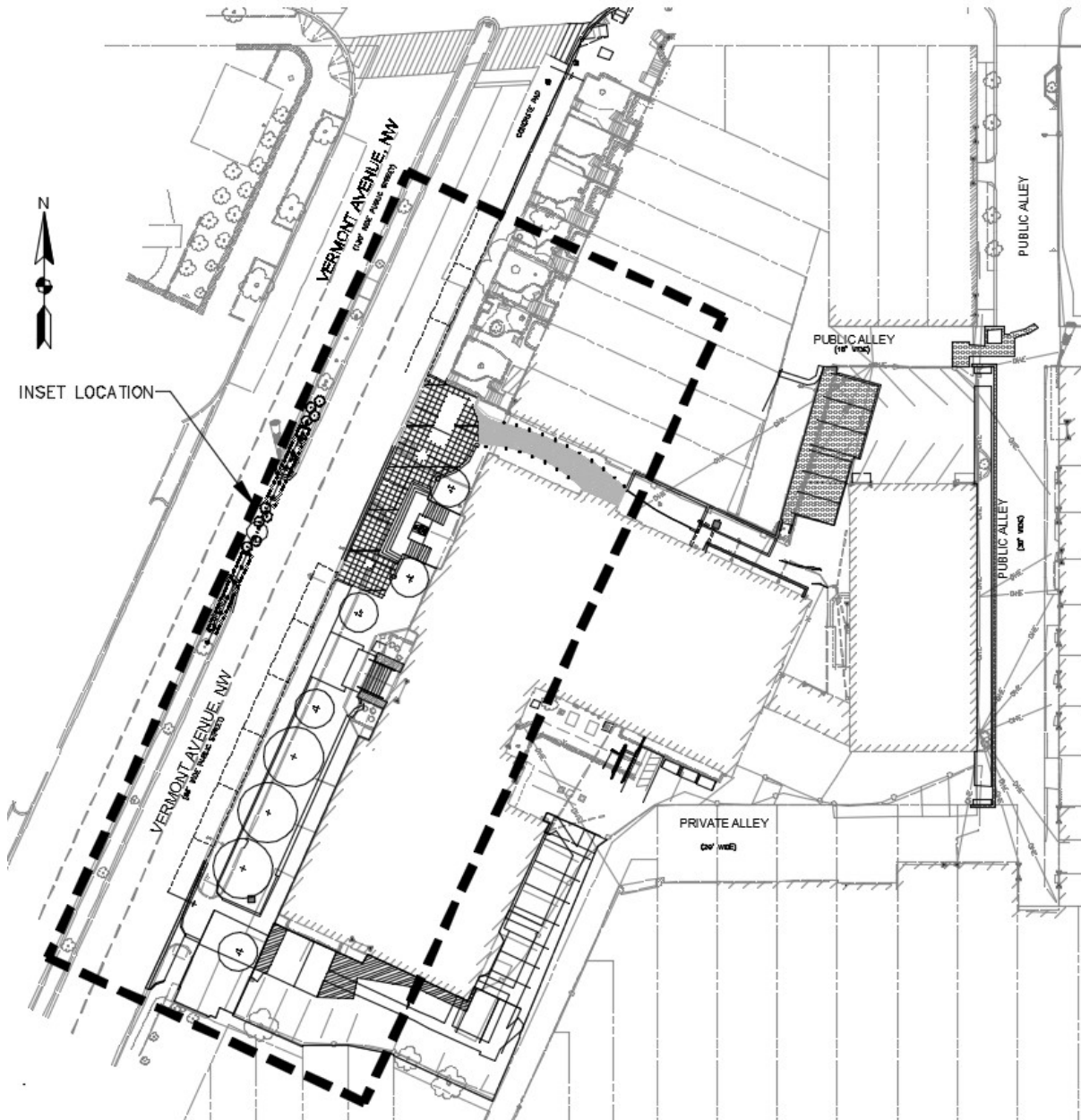


Figure 5 – Property Proposed Site Plan

The site is currently under construction with improvements including closure of an existing curb cut, relocation of a curb cut, sidewalks, monumental stair, planters, ADA ramp, bioretention, streetlights, bike racks, and landscaping (DDOT permit 318436). The African American Civil War Museum seeks to modify the proposed monumental stair to insert the President Lincoln statue and add granite paving surrounding the monumental stair (DDOT permit 358730, pending).

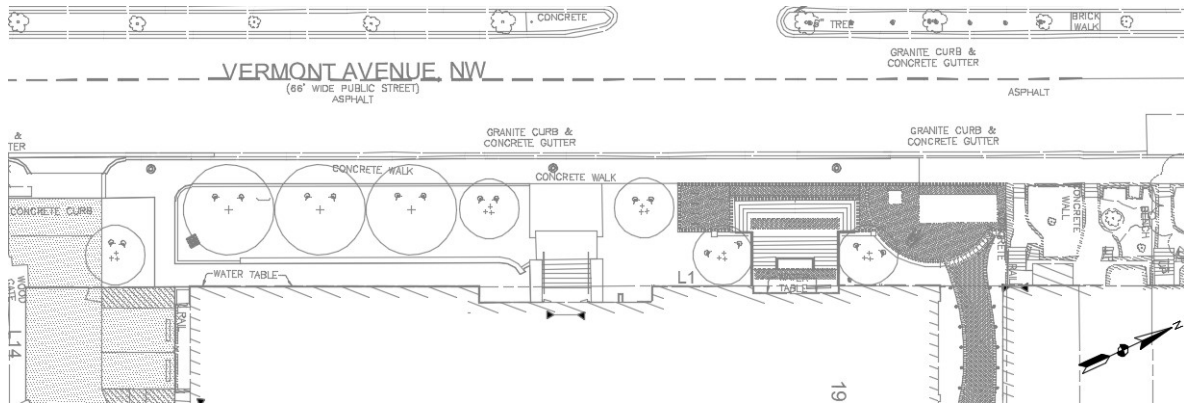


Figure 6 – “Existing Conditions” Site Plan (Under Construction)
Source: AMT, LLC

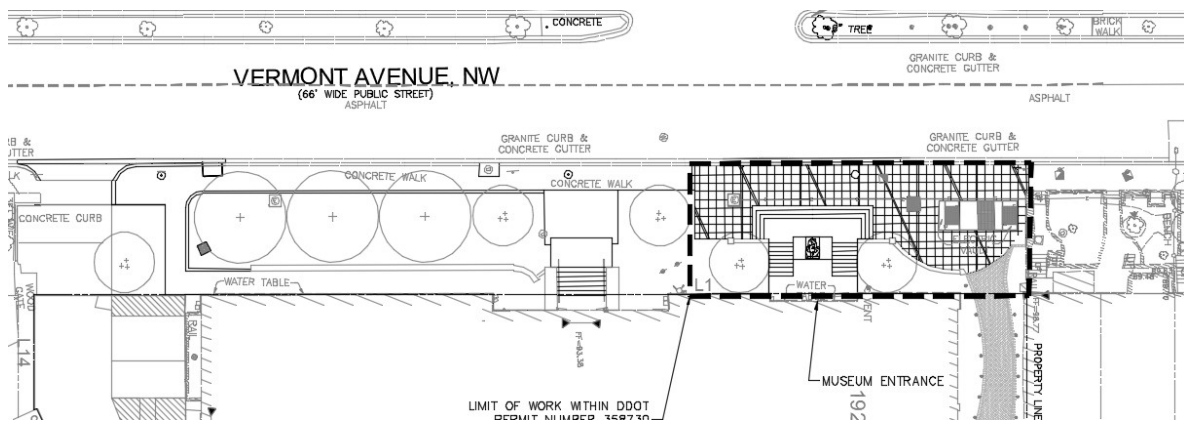
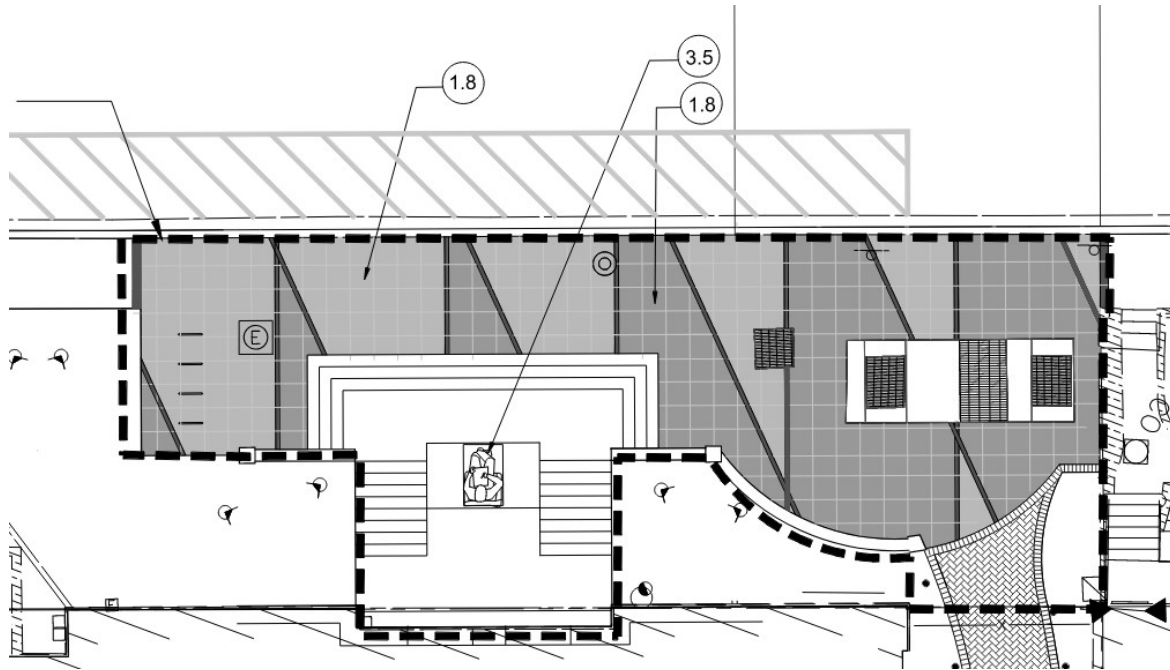


Figure 7 – Proposed Conditions Site Plan
Source: AMT, LLC



- 1.8 GRANITE PAVING TO MATCH AFRICAN AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ACROSS VERMONT AVE
- 1.9 8"x12" GRANITE CURB
- 3.5 MODIFICATION TO MUSEUM ENTRANCE STEPS TO PROVIDE PLATFORM FOR SCULPTURE

Figure 8 - Project Site Plan
Source: Synterra, Ltd.

Topography is relatively flat with Vermont Avenue NW falling from north to south. The site drains towards the Vermont Avenue NW roadway where water is collected in drainage inlets and directed to the combined sewer system. See Figure 8 for a Grading Plan.

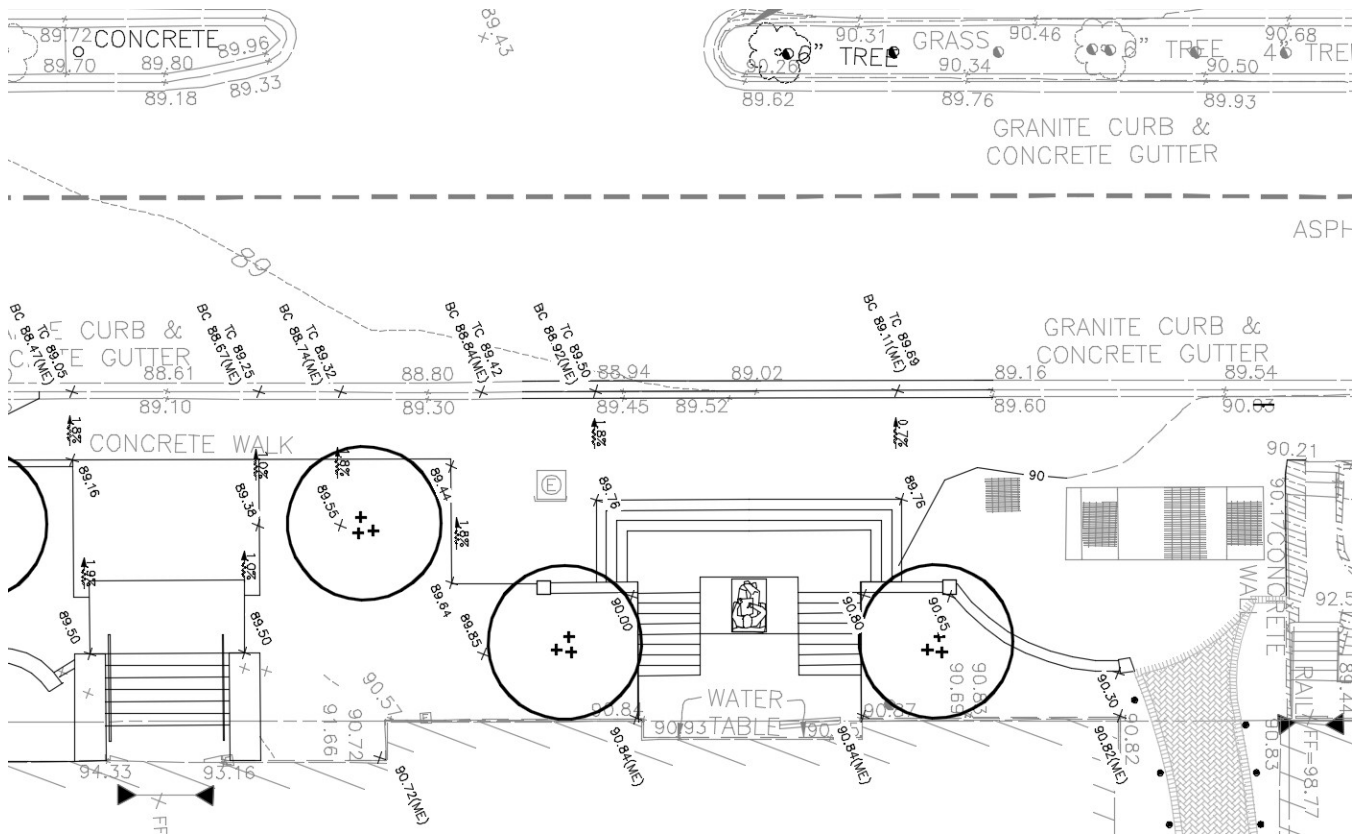


Figure 9 – Grading Plan
 Source: AMT, LLC

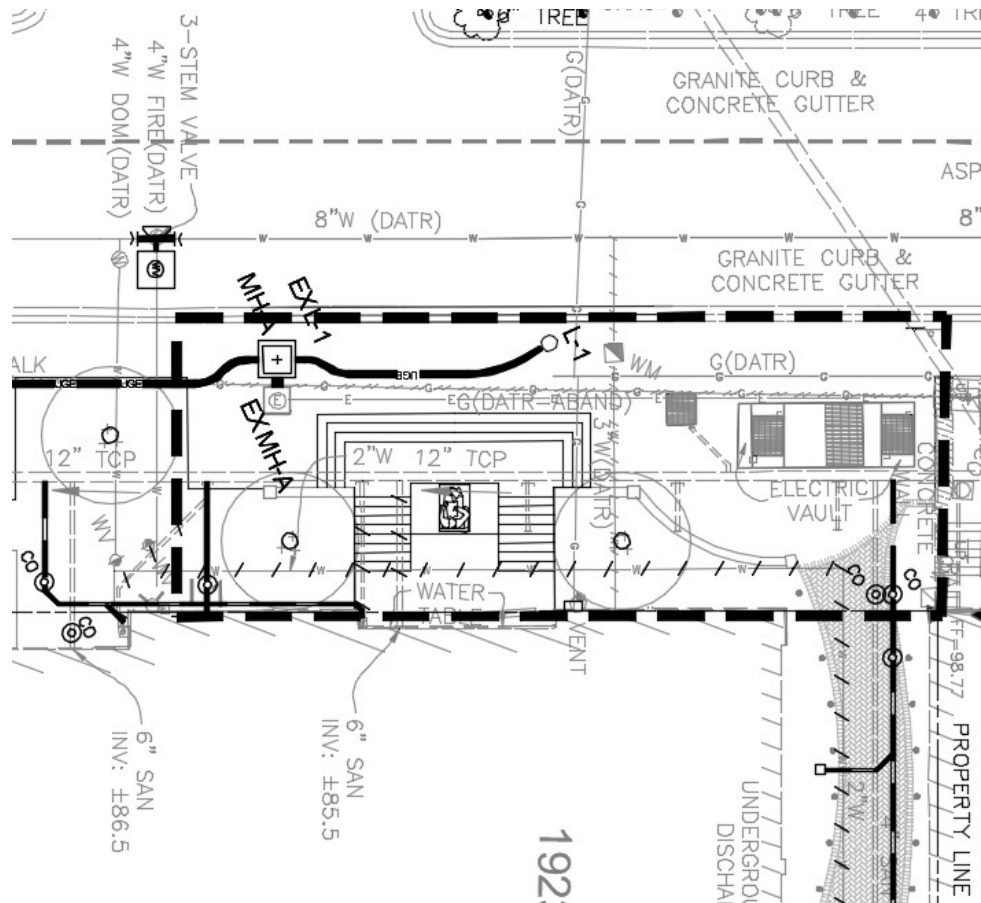


Figure 10 – Utility Plan
Source: AMT, LLC

11. Historic Preservation Considerations

The scope of work encompassing the statue and sidewalk is not part of an historic or protected area. The building’s front façade was approved the Historic Preservation Review Board; no restrictions were made.

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

The Lincoln is consistent with the Duke Plan to combine to use art, shrubbery, pavers and art elements to join the Grimke building into an African American Civil War Memorial Plaza.

13. Economic Impact

The African American Civil War Memorial had a major focus to use cultural tourist spending dollars to contribute to the fledgling economy of historic U Street. To achieve that goal the AACWMFF obtained funding and authorization to construct the African American Civil War Memorial at the entrance of the U Street Cardoza African American Civil War Memorial subway entrance. Over the past twenty years the memorial and museum have attracted thousands of tourists to the area. The Grimke Development

project will also provide some additional low income housing to the area in addition to about 100 jobs that will be relocated from Maryland as the Torti Gallas architect firm relocates its offices to Grimke.

IV. PROJECT DESIGN

14. Project Design

The existing African American Civil War Museum is being relocated into the newly redeveloped three story, historic brick Grimke School building at 1925 Vermont Avenue, Square/Lot 0361/0837. At this location the Museum will face the existing African American Civil War Plaza on the opposite side of Vermont Avenue NW. The proposed Commemorative Improvements will be the first step, Phase I in establishing a link between the two. Phase II will include additional improvements addressing the Vermont Avenue division and link the two.

The Lincoln Emancipation sculpture freezes Lincoln in the moment when he is signing the Emancipation Proclamation. He is in a sitting position with quill pen in hand while signing his name. The Lincoln is made from bronze, weighs more than six hundred pounds, sits on a bronze base and faces west towards the African American Civil War Memorial which lists the names of 209,145 Lincoln soldiers of the Civil War.

15. Project Materials

Granite paving, the same pavers and pattern as those existing paving in the African American Civil World Memorial across Vermont Avenue, is proposed in front of the ceremonial entrance to the Museum to create a visual connection between the Memorial and the Museum. Planting proposed are well suited for the climate in Washington DC area.

16. Infrastructure

There are no infrastructure improvements needed specifically for the proposed improvements. Within the area of work, there are existing electric, gas, water, and combined sewer utilities.

17. Architectural Design

A major element of the link between the Plaza and the Museum will be a new five feet tall statue of President Lincoln, seated as he signed the Emancipation Proclamation. The newly developed stairs in front of the Grimke School building's north wing shall be modified to accommodate a podium for the placement of the statue and its base, approximately 3'-6" above the sidewalk.

18. Schematic Design

Please refer to Appendices E, F, and G for drawings. Granite paving, the same pavers and pattern as those existing paving in the African American Civil World Memorial across Vermont Avenue, is proposed in front of the ceremonial entrance to the Museum to create a visual connection between the Memorial and the Museum. The stairs to the ceremonial entrance are to accommodate a podium for the placement of the statue and its base, approximately 3'-6" above the sidewalk.

19. Environmental Analysis

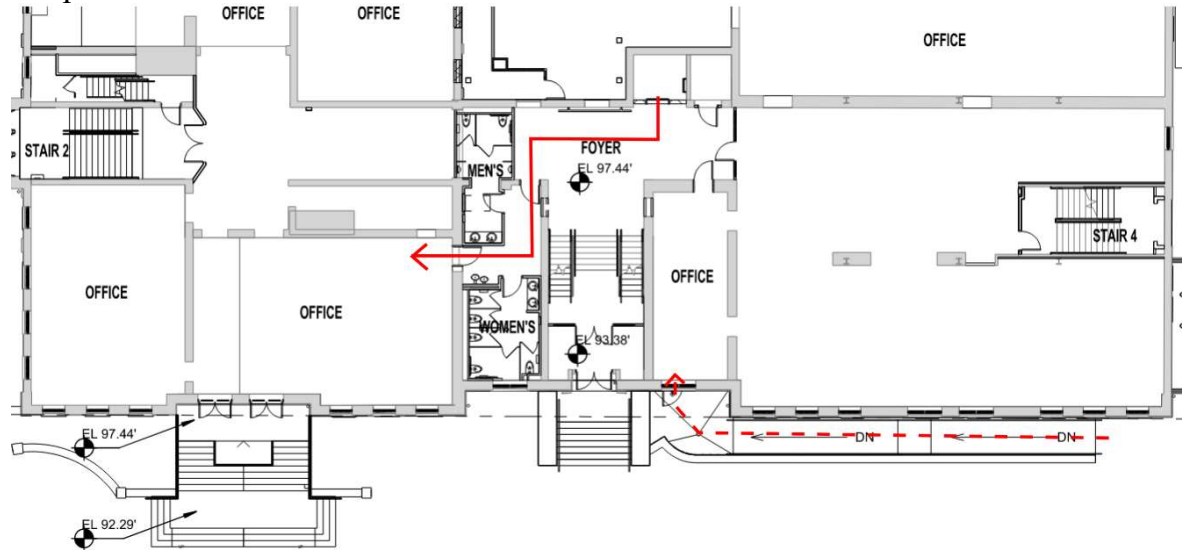
The site is currently under redevelopment by Community Three Grimke, LLC, the landlord. The EISF approval number is 18-00489. The EISF approval package is included in Appendix D for reference. The proposed statue has no impact to vehicular or pedestrian access or circulation.

20. Potentially Objectionable Construction Impacts

There are no unusual construction conditions associated with the construction of this project. Traffic control plans are being produced and permitted through DDOT in order to safely accommodate pedestrian and vehicular traffic and temporary relocation of a WMATA bus stop.

21. Accessibility

The project complies with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). The monumental stair, which will contain the proposed statue, does not provide ADA access to the Museum; however, ADA-compliant access is provided via an ADA ramp and internal elevators.



22. Proposed Timeline

DDOT Preliminary Design Review Meeting	5/4/2020
DDOT Public Space Committee	1/28/2021
CWC Submission	2/15/2021
DDOT Public Space Committee	2/26/2021
Building Permit	March 2021
Construction Commencement	Late March 2021

V. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

23. Community Outreach Program

Please refer to Appendix C for letters of support.

24. Letters from Local Stakeholders

Please refer to Appendix C for letters of support.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET

25. Budget and Financing Plan

The Lincoln was purchased with a matching grant from DC Arts that was matched by AACWM fundraising. It has been fabricated and was delivered to the museum last July where it is currently in storage awaiting installation. The construction work necessary to prepare the site for installation is being funded from a grant from DDOT grants office. Formal installation will cost about \$12,000 and the museum has reserved funds for this task.

26. Maintenance and Preservation Budget

Refer to Appendix I for the Management and Indemnification Agreement between the African American Civil War Museum as tenant and Community Three Grimke as landlord. The agreement requires the Museum to make a \$25,000 deposit and agree to maintain all improvements in the public space in front of Grimke including the Lincoln statue.

27. Insurance

Refer to Appendix I for the Management and Indemnification Agreement between the African American Civil War Museum as tenant and Community Three Grimke as landlord, which requires the Museum to maintain insurance on the items that we install.

VII. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

28. Construction

Multiple phases of Traffic Control Plans (TCP) provide safe access and passage for pedestrians and vehicles during the construction period.

29. Final Drawings

Please refer to Appendices E, F, and G for drawings.

30. Financial Ability to Complete Project

The Lincoln statue and all items installed under the Public Space amendment to the Community Three Grimke public space permit is being funded with Museum funds and by a grant from the DDOT Office of Grants.

Statue



Renderings



SULTON CAMPBELL BRITT & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
Architecture * Historic Preservation * Planning * LEED™ Consulting



SULTON CAMPBELL BRITT & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
Architecture * Historic Preservation * Planning * LEED™ Consulting

PROJECT	Lincoln and the Spirit of Freedom Statue African American Civil War Museum 1925 Vermont Avenue NW Washington, DC
SUBMITTED BY	The African American Civil War Memorial Freedom Foundation
REVIEW AUTHORITY	Recommendation to Mayor and District Council
ACTION TAKEN	Recommend Favorable Disposition

The Commemorative Works Committee (Committee) recommends favorable disposition of the proposed statue of President Lincoln in public space adjacent to the African American Civil War Museum (Museum) at 1925 Vermont Avenue NW. The Committee considered the commemorative work at its April 30, 2021 meeting and requested additional consideration of minor issues to be resolved through further discussion between the Sponsor and reviewing agencies:

1. Changes to the fence surrounding the commemorative work including the vertical design of its pickets to be horizontal or panels and the color of the fence so that it matches other metal fencing associated with the Museum;
2. Increasing the height of the commemorative work to exalt the figure of Lincoln by placing it on a low, granite base; and,
3. Additional consideration of ADA interface with the sculpture through interpretative panels or other means.

Background

The African American Civil War Memorial Freedom Foundation, a non-profit corporation with a mission to raise awareness of the United States Colored Troops who fought for the Union in the United States' Civil War, is proposing a statue of President Lincoln in public space controlled by the District Department of Transportation (DDOT). The public space is adjacent to the Museum located in the historic Archibald Grimke School at 1925 Vermont Avenue. The Museum is across the street from the African American Civil War Memorial (Memorial). The commemorative work is proposed to be placed on a podium integrated into stairs in front of the Grimke School building's north wing. The statue was also reviewed by the Public Space Committee and the Historic Preservation Office due to its location in public space and in the Greater U Street Historic District. The sidewalk and public space around the statue are designed as an extension of Memorial. The statue of Lincoln is a total height of 5' and sits upon a podium that is 3'6" above the sidewalk. The statue is made of bronze and depicts President Lincoln seated as he signs the Emancipation Proclamation.

There is a strong connection between the commemorative work, its location, and the District of Columbia. It is located near the Civil War-era contraband Camp Barker that was home to runaway slaves eventually freed by President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. President Lincoln also routinely traveled past the location of the proposed commemorative work on his way to and from the White House and the summer cottage he used at the Soldiers Home.

Assessment of the Application

Location and Relationship to the Subject Matter

The proposed site is appropriate considering the subject, use of the adjacent building, its association to important aspects of slavery in the District of Columbia, and direct ties to President Lincoln:

- Potential sites identified as part of developing a Draft Commemorative Work Location Strategy included this location as a potential "Shared Space" for a commemorative work as a District-owned property along Vermont Avenue, which is identified in the strategy as a Primary Corridor;
- The statue, design of public space, and Museum are intended to be an extension of the Memorial that is across Vermont Avenue from the proposed site; and,
- The commemorative work's setting is incorporated into a grand staircase leading to the original, main entrance to the Grimke School, close to the sidewalk where it is visually accessible, and entirely out of the pedestrian sidewalk.

There is also a strong and direct connection between the proposed commemorative work and site specific to the District of Columbia. Slavery was legal in the District of Columbia during the Civil War until 1862 when Congress authorized the DC Compensated Emancipation Act authorizing President Lincoln to purchase the freedom of about 3,100 enslaved persons living in the District. At the time of the compensated emancipation, more than 3,500 mostly runaway slaves were living at contraband Camp Barker located in an area near the proposed commemorative work, between 11th and 13th Streets NW and from S Street south to Logan Circle. A few of the slaves living there were freed by the April 16, 1862 Act, but most were not because they did not have their owners' consent.

President Lincoln would also occasionally travel north along Vermont Avenue to reach the Soldiers Home from the White House, passing the location of the proposed statue. In late June 1862 while writing the Emancipation Proclamation, the President stopped and visited former slaves at the site of William Lloyd Garrison Elementary School, two blocks south of the commemorative work's proposed location. Several community institutions important to DC's African American history grew out of Camp Barker: Howard University Hospital (which evolved out of Camp Barker Freedman's Hospital), Metropolitan Baptist Church, Vermont Avenue Baptist Church, and the first African American residents in the area of what would become the center of African American culture in the District of Columbia along U Street.

Proposed Work's Compatibility with District Policies and Values

The proposed commemorative work is consistent with District policies and values:

- The commemorative work's location is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan's policy to locate commemorative works outside of the Monumental Core and furthers the goal of the ARTS-2 zone where it is located, which is intended to promote art-related uses, encourage pedestrian activity, and strengthen the design character and identity of the area;

- President Lincoln is a person consistent with values defined in the final report of Mayor Bowser's District of Columbia Facilities and Commemorative Expressions (DCFACES) Working Group that emphasizes discouraging 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; and,
- The design of public space and incorporation of the statue into the redevelopment of the Grimke School is consistent with recommendations in the Office of Planning's DUKE plan (2004) that specifically calls for distinct streetscape improvements in front of the school to visually connect it to the Memorial plaza across Vermont Avenue and to install public art in front of the school.

Design of and Materials Used in the Commemorative Work

The materials proposed for the commemorative work are durable and appropriate for the subject. The statue and base are proposed to be bronze, a material that has historically been used for outdoor sculpture because of its durability. The bronze finish will have the same patina as the Memorial statue across Vermont Avenue. The sponsor will provide a mobile application with interpretive information available directly to users through cell phone display that informs the public about locations, exhibits, and other points of interest such as the African American Civil War Memorial Plaza, Spirit of Freedom Statue, Wall of Honor and Lincoln Statue to visitors. An illustration provided by the sponsor shows the steps of the Grimke School, podium, and Lincoln Statue directly in front of the main entrance to Museum during the day.

Further consideration of minor elements of the commemorative work and its setting warrant further discussion with staff and can be resolved through the permitting process:

1. Color and Design of Step Railing – Current color and orientation of railings on monumental steps where the commemorative work is located distract from the statue and make it appear fenced in. The Committee requested the Sponsor continue working with reviewing agencies to change the color of the railing to match other railings associated with the Museum and consider a revised railing design that uses horizontal pickets or panels instead of vertical pickets;
2. Height of Statue – Location of the statue surrounded by step railings make the figure of Lincoln appear to be fenced in. The Committee requested the Sponsor consider adding another tier under the statue, like a granite slab, to better exalt the figure of Lincoln; and,
3. Interface with All Users – Steps surrounding the commemorative work make it difficult for all users to approach the statue. The Committee requested the Sponsor consider ways to increase accessibility to the statue or interpretive elements, such as locating interpretive panels at the grade of the sidewalk or in accessible areas of the Museum's lobby.

Sponsor's Ability to Fund and Maintain the Commemorative Work

The Lincoln statue was purchased with a matching grant from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (CAH) that was matched by the Museum through fundraising. It was fabricated and delivered to the museum in July 2020 where it is in storage awaiting installation. Construction work necessary to prepare the site for installation is being funded through a grant from DDOT. Formal installation will cost about \$12,000 and the museum has reserved funds for this task. The Management and Indemnification Agreement between the Museum as tenant and Community Three Grimke as landlord requires the Museum to make a \$25,000 deposit and agree to maintain all improvements in

public space in front of the Grimke building including the Lincoln statue. This agreement also requires the Museum to maintain insurance on items it installs.

Summary of Reviews by Other Reviewing Agencies and Organizations

Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) - The ANC1B provided comments to OP on March 8, 2021 and raised no concerns with the application. Its support for the commemorative work is documented in their August 1, 2019 letter to CAH. This letter states, "Since 2014, ANC1B has promoted a vision for a 'civic plaza' at U Street and Vermont Avenue. The civil plaza will engage individuals existing the metro with a view of the African American Civil War Memorial, and the historic Grimke School." ANC1B also states support for a design of public space that includes, "the use of granite pavers, plants and trees, (and) installation of iconic statue of Spirit of Freedom and President Lincoln signing the Emancipation Proclamation."

District Department of Transportation (DDOT) – The Public Space Committee (PSC) reviewed this application for DDOT at their April 22, 2021 meeting and approved the location of the statue. However, it did not approve the lighting, noting a streetlight that is part of approved streetscape plans less than 20' from the proposed location of the statue and recommending additional lights be added later if the Sponsor determines it is necessary. PSC members also raised concerns about locating non-standard lighting in public space, specifically attaching non-standard spotlights to a light pole that can damage the structural integrity of the pole and how lights projecting onto the statue from its base would contribute to light pollution.

National Capitol Memorial Advisory Commission (NCMAC) - The Chair of NCMAC has reviewed the application, noted the commemorative work is not located in a park or other public or similarly prominent space, and concluded that given its placement no further review by the Commission is necessary.

Historic Preservation Office – The Historic Preservation Office has reviewed and approved the public space application associated with this project.

Commemorative Works Committee Recommendation

The Commemorative Works Committee recommends favorable disposition of the proposed statue of President Lincoln in public space adjacent to the African American Civil War Museum (Museum) at 1925 Vermont Avenue NW and requests additional consideration of minor issues to be resolved through further discussion between the Sponsor and reviewing agencies.



Andrew Trueblood

Director, DC Office of Planning

Chair, DC Commemorative Works Committee



PR 24-0238

RACIAL EQUITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

AFRICAN AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MUSEUM INSTALLATION OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN SPIRIT OF FREEDOM EMANCIPATION STATUE APPROVAL RESOLUTION OF 2021

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
FROM: Brian McClure, Director, Council Office of Racial Equity
DATE: June 28, 2021

COMMITTEE

Committee of the Whole

BILL SUMMARY

Proposed Resolution 24-0238, the “African American Civil War Museum Installation of the Abraham Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation Statue Approval Resolution of 2021,” would approve the installation of an Abraham Lincoln Statue.

CONCLUSION

Although the overall impact on residents’ lives will be minimal, PR24-0238 would contribute to widening the racial inequity between the number of commemorative works dedicated to white men and those dedicated to Black persons and other persons of color in the District of Columbia.

BACKGROUND

- **PR24-0238 would allow the installation of a statue of President Abraham Lincoln on public space controlled by the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) at the African American Civil War Museum.**
- **The mission of the African American Civil War Museum is to educate the public on the experiences of the United States Colored Troops and the Black community during the Civil War (1861-1865).**
- **The DC Commemorative Works Committee is charged with advising and recommending to the Mayor and the Council the status of each application for placement of commemorative works on public spaces in the District. This Committee gave a favorable ruling on the placement of the statue.**

If approved, PR24-0238 would allow the installation of a statue of President Abraham Lincoln on public space controlled by the District Department of Transportation (DDOT).¹ The space is adjacent to the African American Civil War Museum, located at the historic Archibald Grimke School.

The African American Civil War Memorial Freedom Foundation (AACMFF) is a nonprofit corporation located in the District of Columbia. Their mission is to raise awareness of the United States Colored Troops (USCT) who fought for the Union in the American Civil War.² Since 1998, the AACMFF has operated the African

¹ See [§ 9-204.11.\(2\)\(A\)](#) “Public space” means any public street, alley, circle, bridge, building, park, other public place or property owned by or under the administrative control or jurisdiction of the District of Columbia.

² See the [African American Civil War Museum website](#)

American Civil War Museum currently located at 1925 Vermont Avenue, NW. The museum's mission is to serve the educational needs of the local, national, and international community with a high-quality and effective learning experience while interpreting the history of the USCT and the community life of Black Americans before, during, and after the American Civil War.³

One of the existing statues in the museum is *The Spirit of Freedom: African American Civil War Memorial sculpture and its Wall of Honor*. The sculpture was dedicated in 1999 to honor the Black soldiers who bravely fought. The ten-foot sculpture portrays uniformed soldiers and a sailor with a family depicted on the back. The sculpture is in the center of a granite-paved plaza, encircled on three sides by the Wall of Honor.⁴ The wall lists the names of 209,145 USCT drawn from the official records of the Bureau of United States Colored Troops at the National Archives, on 166 burnished stainless steel plaques arranged by regiment.⁵

In 2018, the museum signed an agreement for a ninety-nine-year lease of the former Grimke School at 1923 Vermont Avenue, NW.⁶ A part of the \$8 million Grimke School⁷ expansion project will include the unveiling of another statue, a six-foot bronze statue depicting President Abraham Lincoln signing the Emancipation Proclamation, an executive order.⁸ The document declared that beginning on January 1, 1863, all enslaved people in states engaged in rebellion against the Union “shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.”⁹

According to Dr. Frank Smith, founding director of the museum, “the statue will place Lincoln in appropriate context as it positions him directly across the street facing the *Spirit of Freedom* monument honoring the USCT.”¹⁰ For visitors, a statue of Lincoln in proximity to the *Spirit of Freedom* can certainly help add nuance and complexity to understanding Lincoln’s legacy, the Civil War, and emancipation.

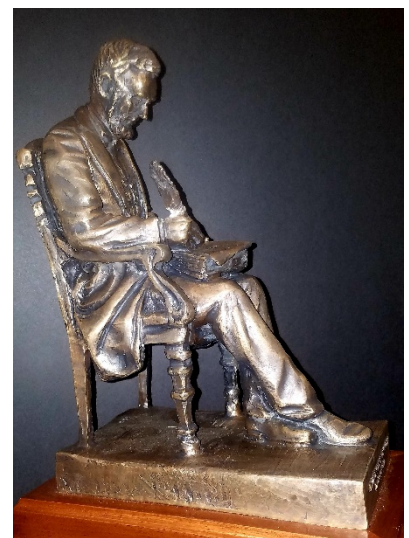
The Lincoln statue was delivered to the museum in June of 2020 and was placed in storage, where it will remain until it is installed in its permanent location on a ceremonial porch being constructed in front of the Grimke building.¹¹

The DC Commemorative Works Committee is tasked with advising and recommending to the Mayor and the Council the status of each application



The Spirit of Freedom: African American Civil War Memorial

Source: [National Park Service](#)



The Abraham Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation Statue

Source: [The Washington Post](#)

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ [99 Year Lease Signed African American Civil War Memorial Museum Grimke School Redevelopment](#), African American Civil War Memorial Museum, 2018.

⁸ Dr. Frank Smith, [A new statue of Lincoln will adequately honor him alongside Black Americans](#), Washington Post, August 7, 2020

⁹ [Emancipation Proclamation](#), History Channel, January 25, 2021

¹⁰ Dr. Frank Smith, [A new statue of Lincoln will adequately honor him alongside Black Americans](#), Washington Post, August 7, 2020

¹¹ Ibid.

for placement of commemorative works on public spaces in the District.¹² During their April 30, 2021 meeting, the group considered the placement of the commemorative statue of Lincoln. The committee found that “President Lincoln is a person consistent with values defined in the draft report of Mayor Bowser’s District of Columbia Facilities and Commemorative Expressions (DCFACES) Working Group.”^{13 14}

RACIAL EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS

There are at least four statues and commemorative works honoring President Lincoln’s legacy throughout the District, which has long been debated. The first statue of Abraham Lincoln was dedicated in 1868 on the third anniversary of his assassination.¹⁵ The statue is located in front the DC Court of Appeals (formerly, the DC City Hall). Additional pieces dedicated to Lincoln include one of our nation’s most iconic monuments, the Lincoln Memorial, which for many of the 6-7 million visitors¹⁶ it draws yearly serves as an enduring symbol of freedom.

There is also the lesser known Emancipation Memorial, which was erected in 1876 using funds collected by formerly enslaved men and women. Although Black Americans throughout the country provided money for the statue, it was designed without any feedback from them.¹⁷ The statue, however, has also been subject to interpretation. Depending on one’s vantage point, the person is either emerging from his chains or is kneeling before President Lincoln.¹⁸

Lincoln’s legacy has long been debated. The Council Office of Racial Equity cannot give this debate the space it’s due but encourages readers to review the resources cited below.^{19 20 21 22 23}

There is a severe lack of diversity amongst statues and commemorative works in the District of Columbia. In 2019, of at least 115 statues in DC, just six were of American women and only one was of a Black woman, that being Mary McLeod Bethune. Duke Ellington was the only Black native Washingtonian with a statue dedicated in his honor. Although this legislation was signed and enacted by the Mayor on January 11, 2021, PR24-0238 does not further the goals of Bill 23-0234 to diversify the representation of statues and memorials in the District. Instead, the very nature of erecting another statue of Lincoln underscores the need to close the existing gap called for by Bill 23-0234.

During the summer of 2020, the Mayor commissioned the District of Columbia Facilities and Commemorative Expressions (DCFACES). This working group evaluated named DC Government-owned facilities²⁴ and made recommendations as to what, if any, actions needed to be taken if the person the

¹² See § 9–204.12. [Commemorative Works Committee](#).

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ernest Furgurson, [Mr. Lincoln’s Washington](#), Washingtonian, February 1, 2009.

¹⁶ [David Lange, Number of recreational visitors to the Lincoln Memorial in the United States from 2008 to 2020](#), Statista, Mar 3, 2021.

¹⁷ Christian Zapata and Jacob Fenston, [Norton Reintroduces Bills To Remove Emancipation, Pike, And Jackson Statues](#), Dcist, February 18, 2021.

¹⁸ DeNeen L. Brown, [Frederick Douglass delivered a Lincoln reality check at Emancipation Memorial unveiling](#), The Washington Post, June 27, 2020.

¹⁹ WEB Dubois, *Black Reconstruction in America, 1860-1880*. The Free Press, 1935.

²⁰ David Blight, [Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory](#). Harvard University Press, 2002.

²¹ David Blight, [Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom](#). Simon & Schuster, 2020.

²² Eric Foner, [The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery](#). WW Norton & Company, 2011.

²³ Daniel Crofts, [Lincoln and the Politics of Slavery: The Other Thirteenth Amendment and the Struggle to Save the Union](#). University of North Carolina Press, 2016.

²⁴ [DC Government-owned Facilities Focus Areas](#) include: DC Government-owned streets, DC Government-owned buildings (libraries, schools, rec centers, etc.), DC Government-owned parks, statues in DC Government-owned parks, and other named public spaces.

facility was named for was found to be “inconsistent with DC values”²⁵ and in some way encouraged the oppression of Black Americans and other communities of color or contributed to our long history of systemic racism.

Although a final report has not been released, the draft report released by the working group recommended renaming, removing or contextualizing more than fifty different government-owned spaces in the city, after studying the history of racism and oppression behind the namesakes.²⁶ Figures such as Thomas Jefferson, Francis Scott Key, Benjamin Franklin and George Washington were initially named as problematic candidates for public works dedications, however, following criticism from conservatives and the Trump White House, recommendations related to federal sites were removed.²⁷

Additionally, research by the working group revealed that more than seventy percent of named assets²⁸ in the District carries the names of white men.²⁹ The group suggested that future assets should prioritize identifying diverse candidates to honor, particularly more women, people of color and LGBTQ Washingtonians.³⁰ PR-0238, does not honor a diverse candidate. Instead, it will be at least the fifth statue recognizing Lincoln in the District.

The Council Office of Racial Equity (CORE) is less concerned about Lincoln’s legacy and more concerned that PR24-0238 will not increase representation of native Washingtonians or communities of color. Commemorative works should be intentional about who is being honored, why they are being honored, and how that representation will inspire future generations. This point was recognized by the DCFACES Working Group and the Council when it passed the Diverse Washingtonians Commemorative Works Amendment Act of 2019 (Bill 23-0233),³¹ to increase the number of commemorative works in DC dedicated to women and native Washingtonians of color.³² The Committee Report for Bill 23-0233 noted that “testimony on creation of commemorative works for minorities and women was overwhelmingly positive” and that “proposing a commemoration for deserving individuals with a focus on classes of people who are underrepresented by the memorials...exists today.”³³ It also noted that:

Commemorative works that honor aspects of our history and individuals are important for later generations...In the District, where there are so many monuments and commemorative works to individuals of national importance—as there should be in the Nation’s capital—it is also imperative for our local history that we seek to honor native Washingtonians and others who made Washington their home, and for events important to local residents.³⁴

The Committee Report for Bill 24-0234, the “Commemoration Task Force Act of 2020,” further raises an important aspect of commemorative works. The report states that any such commemoration should

²⁵ See [Our Shared DC Values](#). The following eight values launched on May 10, 2019, initiating OP’s DC Values Campaign: accessibility, diversity, equity, livability, opportunity, prosperity, resilience, and safety.

²⁶ See the [DC FACES Working Group Report](#).

²⁷ Colleen Grablick, [Dozens Of D.C. Sites Could Get Renamed Or Removed Due To Ties With Slavery And Racism](#), DCist, September 1, 2020

²⁸ See [DCFACES Working Group Report](#). The working group recommendations are centered around three asset areas: (1) living, learning and leisure environments, (2) public spaces and (3) landmarks/commemorative works.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ See Bill 23-0233, [the Diverse Washingtonians Commemorative Works Amendment Act of 2019](#).

³² Ibid.

³³ See Bill 23-0233 [Committee Report](#).

³⁴ Ibid.

(among other things), “be inspirational,” that “contextualization of such commemorations can be more powerful in showing, indeed, that America itself has its own flaws,” and that commemorations, existing statues, and properties should, “be reviewed by experts—historians, academics, and those with expertise in advancing racial equity.”

PR24-0238 does not support Bills 23-0233 and 24-0234—efforts of the Council to provide residents and visitors with a deeper understanding of those whose stories have not been told, especially of local communities of color. While approving the installation of a statue of Lincoln would likely have a negligible impact, in this case, it takes away opportunities to honor and increase understanding of the role Black Americans and others played up to, during, and following the American Civil War.³⁵

In the future, the District could explore not only reviewing *existing* commemorative works through a racial equity lens, but also *future* commemorative works. This review would entail ensuring works are situated with appropriate context and evaluated against the goal of diverse representation.

ASSESSMENT LIMITATIONS

Alongside the analysis provided above, the Council Office of Racial Equity encourages readers to keep the following limitations in mind:

Assessing legislation’s potential racial equity impacts is a rigorous, analytical, and uncertain undertaking.

Assessing policy for racial equity is a rigorous and organized exercise but also one with constraints. It is impossible for anyone to predict the future, implementation does not always match the intent of the law, critical data may be unavailable, and today’s circumstances may change tomorrow. Our assessment is our most educated and critical hypothesis of the bill’s racial equity impacts.

This assessment intends to inform the public, Councilmembers, and Council staff about the legislation through a racial equity lens.

As a reminder, a REIA is not binding. Regardless of the Council Office of Racial Equity’s final assessment, the legislation can still pass.

This assessment aims to be accurate and useful, but omissions may exist.

Given the density of racial equity issues, it is unlikely that we will raise all relevant racial equity issues present in a bill. In addition, an omission from our assessment should not: 1) be interpreted as a provision having no racial equity impact or 2) invalidate another party’s racial equity concern.

³⁵ WEB Dubois, *Black Reconstruction in America, 1860-1880*. The Free Press, 1935.


Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Fitzroy Lee
Interim Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Fitzroy Lee
Interim Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: May 14, 2021

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – African American Civil War Museum
Installation of the Abraham Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation
Statue Approval Resolution of 2021

REFERENCE: Draft bill provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on May 14, 2021

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2021 through fiscal year 2024 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

The bill authorizes the installation of a public art installation known as the Abraham Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation Statue at 1925 Vermont Avenue N.W., in front of the Grimke Building, as part of the African American Civil War Memorial Museum Grimke Development.¹

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2021 through fiscal year 2024 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. There are no costs to the District; the installation is funded privately.

¹ <https://www.afroamcivilwar.org/news-events/press-releases/206-african-american-civil-war-museum-grimke-school-redevelopment.html>

4
5 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

6
7
8 24-238
9

10
11 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
12
13 _____
14

15 To approve the installation of a commemorative work, to be known as the “Abraham Lincoln
16 Spirit of Freedom Emancipation Statue,” on the public space adjacent to the African
17 American Civil War Museum located at 1925 Vermont Avenue N.W..

18
19 RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
20 resolution may be cited as the “African American Civil War Museum Installation of the
21 Abraham Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation Statue Approval Resolution of 2021”.

22 Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401 of the Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition
23 Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code §§ 9-
24 204.01.), the Council approves the installation of a commemorative work, to be known as the
25 “Abraham Lincoln Spirit of Freedom Emancipation Statue,” on public space adjacent to the
26 African American Civil War Museum, located at 1925 Vermont Avenue, N.W..

27 Sec. 3. Transmittal.

28 The Council shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the Mayor and
29 the African American Civil War Museum.

30 Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

31 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
32 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
33 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

34 Sec. 5. Effective date.

35 This resolution shall take effect immediately.