

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE January 14, 2021

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life, Arts and Culture Committee

SUBJECT **Project Update for Memorial to Victims of Racial Violence**

On August 17, 2020, the Committee was briefed on the subject project and requested additional review and consideration of the accessibility of the recommended site. This memorandum provides an update on the sites under consideration and upcoming opportunities for public input.

## **Background**

This memorial project is the result of actions requested by City Council Resolution 18-0626, adopted on April 25, 2018, to address Confederate monuments in Dallas. An advisory working group of local community leaders initially recommended Martyr's Park, located at 379 Commerce Street, which was also approved by the Park Board.

## **Update**

Office of Arts and Culture staff, in discussion with the Public Art Committee members, has assessed the recommended site at Martyr's Park for needed improvements, including space for the Memorial and additional park amenities. Suggested basic park amenities that should be provided prior to the siting of the art piece include:

- a. Wayfinding from the parking near the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza
- b. Wayfinding along Elm Street, down the hill and through the railroad trestle
- c. Lighting and maintenance of the interior of the railroad trestle
- d. Requested pull-out for drop-offs by vehicles traveling west on Commerce Street
- e. Address current homeless encampments in the park area
- f. Confirm access to electrical service
- g. Obtain necessary agreements from the multiple jurisdictions, including TxDOT

Park and Recreation staff have provided a concept visual for the design of the area inside the park to accommodate the memorial (attached).

Given these needed improvements, an additional site is under consideration at Founders Square, located at 900 Jackson Street. Park and Recreation staff finds that this location already includes:

- a. Adjacent street parking
- b. ADA accessibility
- c. Proximity to other historical elements of Dallas including: an open park area, the Old Red Courthouse, John Neely Bryan Cabin, Kennedy Memorial and a terrazzo map of Dallas County in the 1800s.
- d. Electrical access

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**Next steps**

Costs for remediation of Martyr's Park and Founders Square are being determined by the Park and Recreation. Revision of the open areas to include the proposed Memorial for Victims of Racial Violence would likely be less costly at Founders Square than remediation of Martyrs Park.

A survey for public input on this important project will be conducted in February 2021. The feedback, costs and recommendations will be shared with the Quality of Life, Art and Culture Committee in March.

Please let me or Jennifer Scripps, Director of the Office of Arts and Culture, know if you have any questions.



Joey Zapata  
Assistant City Manager

**Attachment(s)**

T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
Chris Caso, City Attorney  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Billieae Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager  
Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager  
Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services  
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer  
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion  
Directors and Assistant Directors

FOUNDERS SQUARE | SHADOW LINES SCULPTURE  
12.18.20

Aerial View from North

DRAFT

A. Maceo Smith  
Federal Building

S. Lamar Street

Young Street

Young Street

S. Griffin Street



Dallas Park & Recreation



# MARTYRS PARK | SHADOW LINES SCULPTURE

12.02.20

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