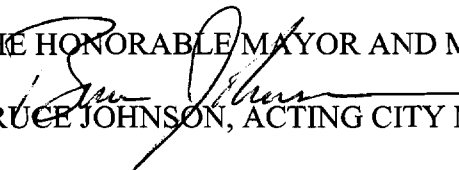


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 3, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM:  BRUCE JOHNSON, ACTING CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A REPORT ON THE DESIGN PROPOSAL FOR THE CHARLES HAMILTON HOUSTON MEMORIAL

ISSUE: Consideration of a report on the design proposal for the Charles Hamilton Houston memorial to be located outside the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Receive the report of the design proposal and schedule it for public hearing and consideration on Saturday, June 25, 2011; and
- (2) Following the public hearing, approve the winning artist and design proposal by the team of Jennifer Andrews and Gregg LeFevre (Attachment 1) for the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial, as recommended by the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial Selection Panel and Stakeholder Advisory Group, the Public Art Committee, and the Alexandria Commission for the Arts.

BACKGROUND: The goal of the public art project is to honor and memorialize Charles Hamilton Houston and to recognize the historical importance of the former Parker-Gray High School. The project's overarching theme is *Education and Civil Rights*.

As a nationally-known civil rights leader and vice dean of Howard University Law School, Charles Hamilton Houston influenced a generation of civil rights lawyers. He was a master tactician and successfully argued the *Missouri ex. Rel. Gaines v. Canada* case before the United States Supreme Court in 1938. The Gaines case, the first to establish the principle of equality of education, paved the road for the landmark decision in 1954 of *Brown v. Board of Education*. Fittingly, the victorious lawyer in the case that ended racial segregation was Houston's protégé, Thurgood Marshall.

Charles Hamilton Houston's involvement with Alexandria began when a group of concerned citizens petitioned for a new school and eventually appealed to the NAACP for assistance. Houston took on this challenge and used his knowledge and influence to aid Alexandria's African American community in their fight. Their efforts were successful and a new Parker-Gray High School was built in 1950. In appreciation for his contributions to obtain the new school and to improve Alexandria's education system, the former Parker-Gray School was renamed the Charles Houston Elementary School. The school later became the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

During the renovation project of the Charles Houston Recreation Center, Councilman Ludwig Gaines suggested the incorporation of public art to honor the memory of Charles Hamilton Houston. On June 19, 2008, City Council voted to authorize the City Manager to appoint a selection panel, authorize the Mayor to appoint a stakeholder advisory group, and request staff and the Alexandria Commission for the Arts to proceed with fundraising for the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial (Attachment 3).

DISCUSSION: By invitation of the City Manager, a Selection Panel was formed in September of 2008. Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial Selection Panel members are as follows:

- Mary Cook, Torpedo Factory Artist Association
- David Hamilton, Howard University and Public Art Consultant
- Matthew Harwood, Public Art Committee
- Randy Schessele, Del Ray Artisans
- David Smedley, Professional Sculptor
- Beth Temple, Alexandria Arts Forum

By invitation of the Mayor, a Stakeholder Advisory Group was formed in October of 2008. The Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial Stakeholder Advisory Group members are as follows:

- Rebecca Adams, Public Art Committee
- Lavern Chatman, Northern Virginia Urban League and Project Chairperson
- William Cromley, Park and Recreation Commission
- Eric Gray, Charles Houston Recreation Center Parent Advisory Board
- Ramona Hatten, Citizen at Large
- James Henson, Departmental Progressive Club
- Charles Hamilton Houston III, Relative
- Lovell Lee, Parker Gray Alumni Association
- Roscoe Lewis, TC Williams High School Student
- Jennifer Lightfoot, NAACP
- Kathleen Pepper, Historic Alexandria Resources Commission
- Ethel Underwood, Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage

City staff from the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities served in a non-voting, ex-officio capacity on the Selection Panel. Staff from the Office of Historic Alexandria also participated in the project.

Prior to the formation of the Selection Panel and Stakeholder Advisory Group, the Alexandria Commission for the Arts held numerous community meetings to learn about the interests of the community as it related to the public art project. The Selection Panel and Stakeholder Advisory Group hosted additional community meetings and outreach programs to gather input and support as well as to promote the public art project and contributions of Charles Hamilton Houston:

- 05/28/09 Youth Mural Project, in partnership with the Target Gallery's FRESH Exhibition
- 06/08/09 "Tea and Talk: Sharing Alexandria's Parker-Gray and Civil Rights Stories"
- 06/29/09 Eight-week, youth art workshop
- 12/07/09 "Tea and Talk II"
- 04/02/11 "Meet the Artists" Reception
- 04/21/11 Community Meeting

The City issued the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial on August 7, 2009 and closed the submission period on October 1, 2009. City staff widely distributed the "Call to Artists" through various print and electronic media, a Web site, the City's electronic procurement system, several national public art listservs, and an artist database maintained by the Office of the Arts. The Selection Panel and Stakeholder Advisory Group used the RFQ applications to determine artist qualifications for the design, fabrication and installation of the memorial.

Fifty-nine artists/design teams submitted applications in response to the RFQ. The Selection Panel reviewed all 59 applications independently and then met as a group on November 21, 2009 to discuss and evaluate the submissions. Based on scores, the Selection Panel narrowed the list to eight for review by the Stakeholder Advisory Group. After evaluation by the Stakeholder Advisory Group and much discussion, the two groups voted to invite four artists/design teams to develop proposals:

- Team of Jennifer Andrews and Gregg LeFevre, New York, NY
- Christopher Erney, Alexandria, VA
- Team of Robert Firmin and Eugene Daub, Kensington, CA
- Preston Jackson, Dunlap, IL

Each finalist received a \$2,000 honorarium to develop a proposal and concept model for the memorial. On April 2, 2011, the four artists presented their proposals in person to the Selection Panel and Stakeholder Advisory Group at the Charles Houston Recreation Center. Staff from the Alexandria Black History Museum also attended the presentations.

The public was invited to view the proposals, meet the artists, and submit their written comments at a public reception held that evening at the Charles Houston Recreation Center. The four finalists' concept models and sign boards were exhibited for public viewing for six weeks as follows:

- April 2 – May 2: Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe Street
- May 2 – May 16: City Hall, 301 King Street

The proposals represented the results of several months of extensive research by the artists and their creative vision and interpretation of the contributions of Charles Hamilton Houston and the Parker-Gray High School to Alexandria.

On May 17, 2011, the Selection Panel and Stakeholder Advisory Group received copies of the public comments for their review. On May 19, 2011, the two groups met and discussed their evaluations of the proposals. The Panel discussed the proposals and used the following criteria to evaluate the proposals:

- Artistic merit of completed projects based on references, appropriateness of materials and concepts as they relate to the project goals and setting/context;
- Ability to meet the project's intent;
- Experience and success in creating public artworks, particularly outdoor installations, based on digital images of past work, including site-specific, sculptural, and functional works;
- Experience collaborating with other design professionals and citizens; and
- Maintenance requirements of proposed project

The Selection Panel also considered the public comments, artists' resumes and staff interviews of the artists' professional references before submitting their evaluation scores and comments.

After careful consideration and discussion, the Selection Panel and Stakeholder Advisory Group recommend that City Council awards the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial commission to:

- Team of Jennifer Andrews and Gregg LeFevre

On May 23, 2011, the Public Art Committee and Alexandria Commission for the Arts voted to endorse the Selection Panel's and Stakeholder Advisory Group's recommendation of the team of Jennifer Andrews and Gregg LeFevre. After a public hearing, I recommend that City Council award the commission to the winning artist team of Jennifer Andrews and Gregg LeFevre for the design proposal of the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial.

The estimated budget for the memorial is \$300,000. A fundraising committee, led by Lavern Chatman, Chief Executive Officer, Northern Virginia Urban League and Mame Reiley, President, The Reiley Group, will assist with raising the necessary funds for the project.

FISCAL IMPACT: The \$300,000 budget will include the design, fabrication, materials, insurance, delivery and installation, travel, and any other incidental costs. A portion of the funds raised will be allocated toward maintenance of the project. There is no money budgeted for this public art project in the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities budget. The goal is to have all project costs funded by private donations and grants, if possible. When fundraising is completed the design development and installation of the artwork will proceed through regular City processes. Should a phased-in approach be agreeable by all parties through a contract, work may commence in stages as funds are collected and as the design allows.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Design Proposal by Team of Jennifer Andrews and Gregg LeFevre

Attachment 2: Artists' Resumes

Attachment 3: Docket Memo for 06/19/08 City Council Legislative meeting

Attachment 4: Request for Qualifications

Attachment 5: Press Releases

Attachment 6: Public Comments Received During the Public Display Period

Attachment 7: Memorandum to Public Art Committee and Alexandria Commission for the Arts
Dated 05/20/11

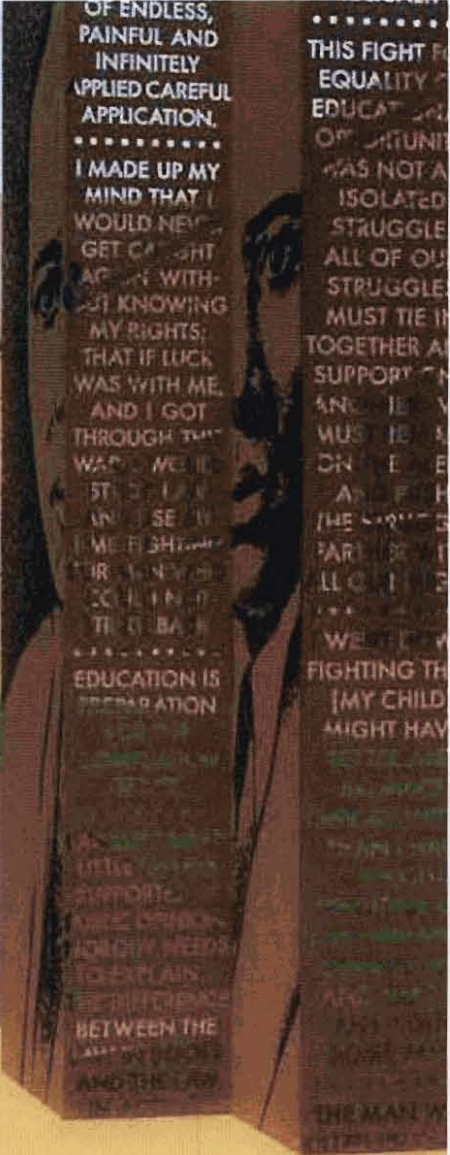
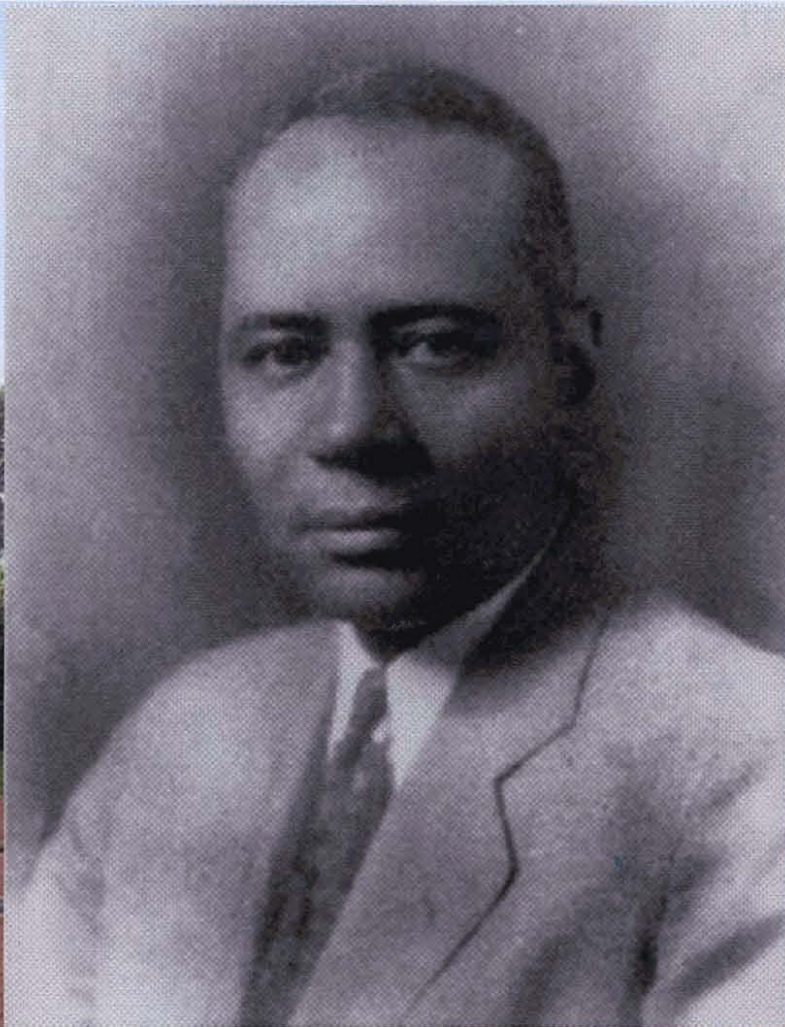
Attachment 8: Public Art Committee and Alexandria Commission for the Arts Recommendation

STAFF:

James Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA)

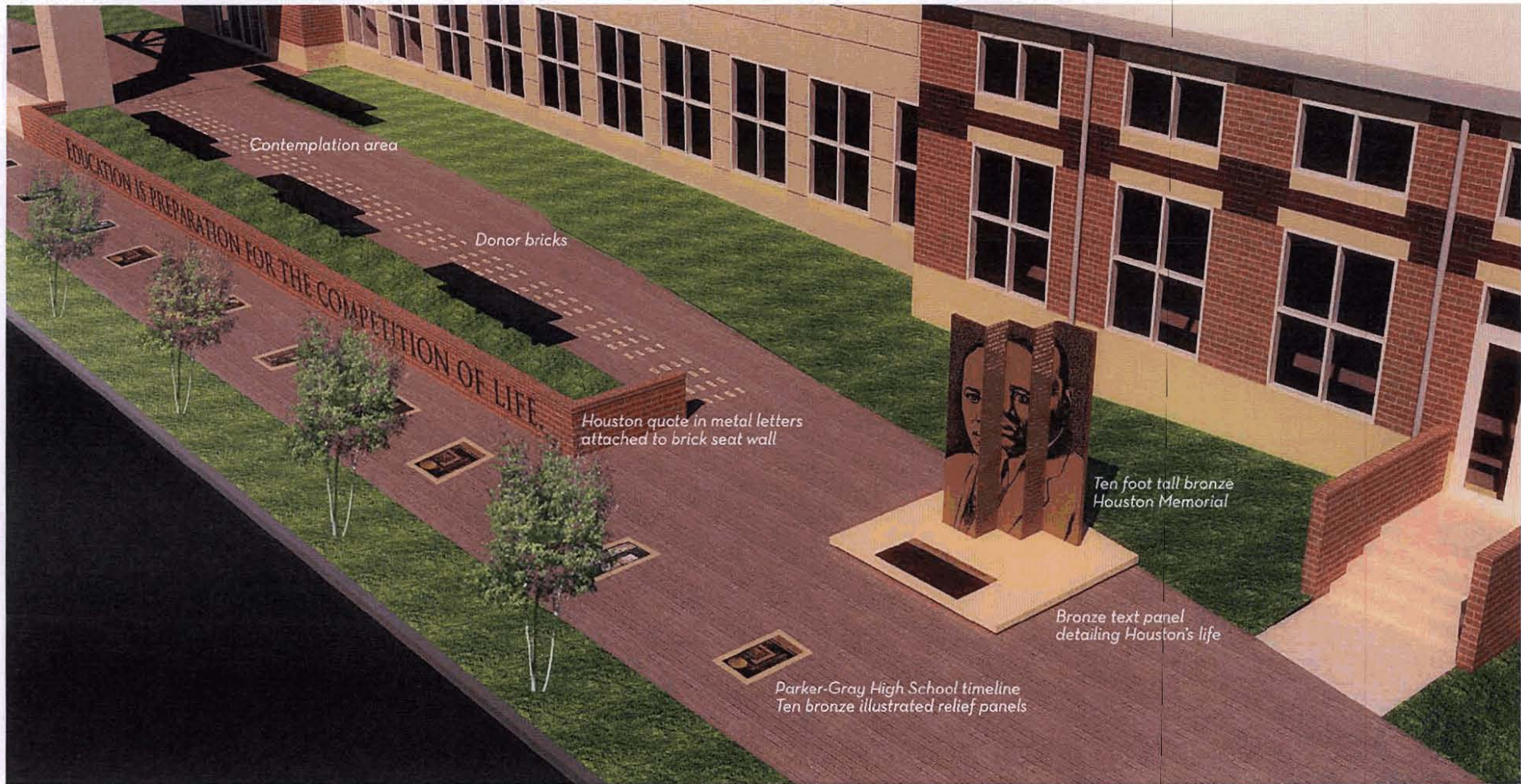
Alisa Carrel, Deputy Director, RPCA/Office of the Arts

Cheryl Anne Colton, Regional Program Director, RPCA/Office of the Arts



**CHARLES HAMILTON HOUSTON
MEMORIAL + *Parker-Gray History Series***

Conceptual Proposal >> Andrews/LeFevre Studios 2011



Contemplation area

Donor bricks

EDUCATION IS PREPARATION FOR THE COMPETITION OF LIFE

Houston quote in metal letters attached to brick seat wall

Ten foot tall bronze Houston Memorial

Bronze text panel detailing Houston's life

Parker-Gray High School timeline
Ten bronze illustrated relief panels

Project overview

CHARLES HAMILTON HOUSTON MEMORIAL + *Parker-Gray History Series*

Conceptual Proposal >> Andrews/LeFevre Studios 2011

STATEMENT OF DESIGN INTENT: CHARLES HAMILTON HOUSTON MEMORIAL

Nearing his untimely death at fifty-four, Charles Hamilton Houston said he wanted his son "to remember his father as vigorous, impressive, and strong." Our design for a Memorial to Houston seeks to embody these characteristics. Created in multiple sections, the experience of the Memorial changes in relation to a viewer's vantage point. From the front, a photographic representation of Houston as a young lawyer aligns as a strong "public face." The bronze sculpture, rising ten feet off the ground, is situated so that Houston's eyes look across Wythe Street toward visitors of the Alexandria Black History Museum. Viewed from the side, the portrait opens up as one walks around it, revealing a series of quotes taken from different points in Houston's life. A transparent look into the inner workings of Houston's mind; reading these inspired words awakens a viewer's interest to know more.

Stepping closer, a text panel on the Memorial's base details Houston's life and work. By sharing details about Houston's childhood, his struggles with military service, devotion to his studies as well as his accomplishments as a teacher and lawyer, this panel helps to bring his story to a human, relational level.

Houston wanted people to comprehend and act upon the disparity that existed between African American schools and white schools. He realized the advantage of using a new medium to help people understand the existing situation. Movie camera in hand, Houston traveled across the US filming footage of African American and white schools. Unlike previous written reports of the disparity, Houston gave people a visual experience allowing them to witness the inequality first-hand.

By designing a contemporary version of bronze statuary for this Memorial, we follow a similar aim to keep Houston and his life's work fresh for new audiences. Viewers are confronted with the complexity of this man, and invited to have an interaction with him. The portrait of Houston we present also challenges youth to view and understand this 'historic' figure in a contemporary way. As we move farther away from the Civil Rights era, we have a responsibility to keep an understanding of the Movement alive in the eyes of each generation. Unfortunately stories like Houston's can disappear into the pages of history books; too often they don't make it there at all. Using a contemporary visual language can help ensure the Memorial remains 'seen.'

"Education is preparation for the competition of life." These words in bold metal text highlight the purpose of Houston's work and resonate as a challenge for us today. Large enough to read from vehicles on Wythe Street, this text running along the seat wall serves as a visual connection point between the Memorial and the building entrance. The quote's theme of the importance of education also relates to the adjacent timeline detailing the history of the Parker-Gray School. *(Please see next page for more about the Timeline.)*

Our design intention for the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial is to express the outward strength, balanced humanity and intelligence of this leader. Equally important to us is a viewing experience that opens minds up to exploring ideas – creating a place that not only honors a great man, but also encourages interaction, thought and questioning. Houston's campaign to challenge the Jim Crow laws and dismantle the legal theory of "separate but equal" was ultimately successful not only due to his energy and drive, but for his ability to analyze a complex legal structure with new insight. His aptitude for critical thinking was a powerful tool for change. We want visitors to the Houston Memorial to recognize this, and in turn be inspired to look at their own society with eyes opened and realize the potential power of their questioning.



**CHARLES HAMILTON HOUSTON
MEMORIAL + Parker-Gray History Series**

Conceptual Proposal >> Andrews/LeFevre Studios 2011

STATEMENT OF DESIGN INTENT: PARKER-GRAY TIMELINE

There is no "one way" to tell the story of Alexandria's first African American High School, which is why our design includes a multi-faceted telling of history. Alexandria is lucky to have a number of former Parker-Gray students among its community who are willing to share their stories. Their descriptions of what the classrooms looked and felt like, lessons learned from favorite teachers and other recollections can provide a genuine texture to the memory of the site that viewers can relate to. We would like to combine these personal histories alongside other historic texts and photographs to create a timeline that tells the story of education in Alexandria during the Civil Rights era and opens a discussion about current issues in education.

Working with and learning from the members of a community is a process integral to our creative practice. Members of Alexandria's community will be encouraged to join our design team as we study and learn about the history of Parker-Gray High School, Houston's role in the school's existence, and the school's place in the larger context of the Civil Rights Movement. From research to fabrication, we envision this timeline of inset bronze panels as a collaboration with the neighborhood.

The story of our shared Civil Rights history is a complex one. While the Civil Rights Movement may have had a common goal, people held very different ideas of equality and how to accomplish a free and equal society. We want to be honest to this complexity by sharing this site's story from different perspectives.

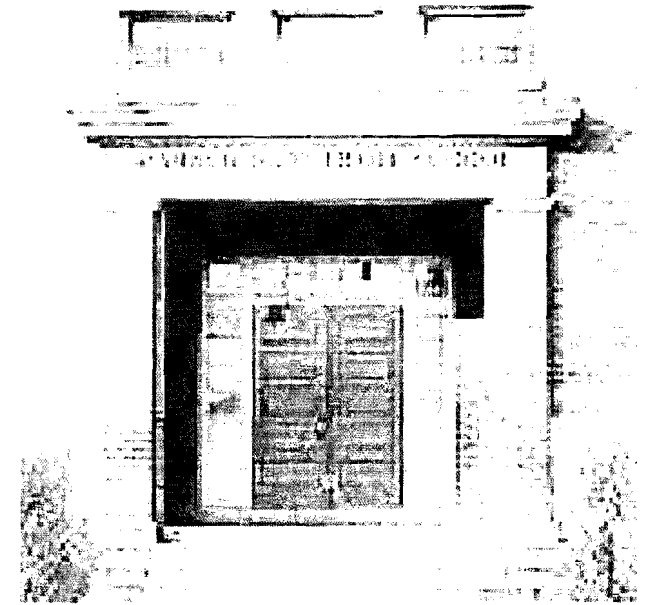
The timeline leads a visitor from the Community Center in a path that culminates at the front of the Houston Memorial. It flows chronologically, touching on a number of different events and themes. Collaborating with the community will help us develop the content, and we currently imagine possible topics such as those listed above, right.

Our studio has produced many projects which feature detailed bronze reliefs set underfoot in public spaces. "Art you can walk on" invites interaction, and we have witnessed the effect this installation method has of bringing people together. When people move next to each other to share the space above an inset work, barriers are broken and conversations are sparked.

Visitors of all ages will find connection to the timeline. Interactive components will be included – perhaps a provided curriculum aid for local school programs, a place for students to leave their letters to Houston, an incorporated game, clue-hunt or opportunity to make rubbings with a crayon and paper from the bronze reliefs. These activities will encourage younger visitors to explore the timeline more intensively. Finally, it is important to us that questions about education are included alongside the historic texts and 'facts'. We want the timeline series to function as a springboard for further discussion and thought for many generations to come.

POSSIBLE TIMELINE CONTENT:

- Early schools for African American children in Alexandria during and after the Civil War
 - Details on the Hollowell and Snowden segregated boys and girls schools
- Profiles of principals Sarah Gray and John Parker
 - Profiles of notable students
 - The story of the Robert Robinson Library
- Images and descriptions of African American and white schools throughout the country
- An approachable narrative of the Gaines case and description of Houston's legal tactics for taking on "separate but equal"



CHARLES HAMILTON HOUSTON MEMORIAL + Parker-Gray History Series

Conceptual Proposal >> Andrews/LeFevre Studios 2011



View from across Wythe Street, at entrance to the Alexandria Black History Museum

**CHARLES HAMILTON HOUSTON
MEMORIAL + *Parker-Gray History Series***

Conceptual Proposal >> Andrews/LeFevre Studios 2011



Straight-on view of Memorial and Timeline insets

**CHARLES HAMILTON HOUSTON
MEMORIAL + *Parker-Gray History Series***

Conceptual Proposal >> Andrews/LeFevre Studios 2011



Side view of Memorial featuring quotations from Houston and a text plaque about his life.

CHARLES HAMILTON HOUSTON MEMORIAL + Parker-Gray History Series

Conceptual Proposal >> Andrews/LeFevre Studios 2011

GENIUS IS NOT
HALF SO MUCH
INSPIRATION
AS IT IS THE
CULMINATION
OF ENDLESS,
PAINFUL AND
INFINITELY
APPLIED CAREFUL
APPLICATION.

THERE IS NO
SUCH THING
AS SEPARATE
BUT EQUAL.
SEGREGATION
ITSELF IMPORTS
INEQUALITY.

EDUCATION IS
PREPARATION
FOR THE
COMPETITION
OF LIFE.

LAWSUITS MEAN
LITTLE UNLESS
SUPPORTED BY
PUBLIC OPINION.
NOBODY NEEDS
TO EXPLAIN...
THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN THE
LAW IN BOOKS
AND THE LAW
IN ACTION.

I MADE UP MY
MIND THAT I
WOULD NEVER
GET CAUGHT
AGAIN WITH-
OUT KNOWING
MY RIGHTS;
THAT IF LUCK
WAS WITH ME,
AND I GOT
THROUGH THIS
WAR, I WOULD
STUDY LAW
AND USE MY
TIME FIGHTING
FOR MEN WHO
COULD NOT
STRIKE BACK.

THIS FIGHT FOR
EQUALITY OF
EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITY
WAS NOT AN
ISOLATED
STRUGGLE.
ALL OF OUR
STRUGGLES
MUST TIE IN
TOGETHER AND
SUPPORT ONE
ANOTHER - WE
MUST REMAIN
ON THE ALERT
AND PUSH
THE STRUGGLE
FARTHER WITH
ALL OUR MIGHT.

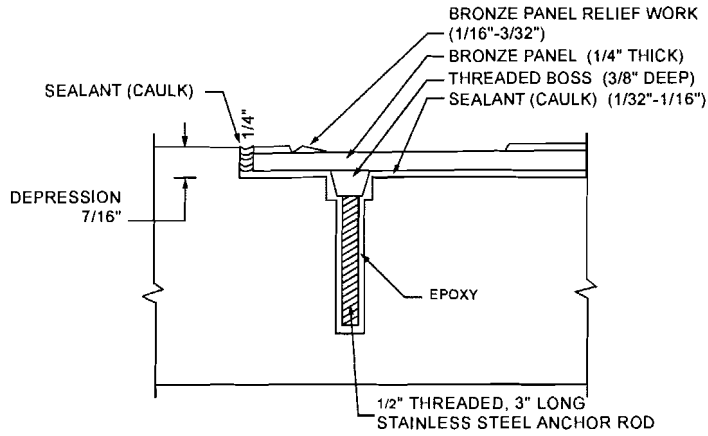
I WENT DOWN
FIGHTING THAT
[MY CHILD]
MIGHT HAVE
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THAN I HAD
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BIAS OPERATING
AGAINST HIM,
AND THAT IN
ANY FIGHT
SOME FALL.

- THE MAN WHO
KILLED JIM CROW

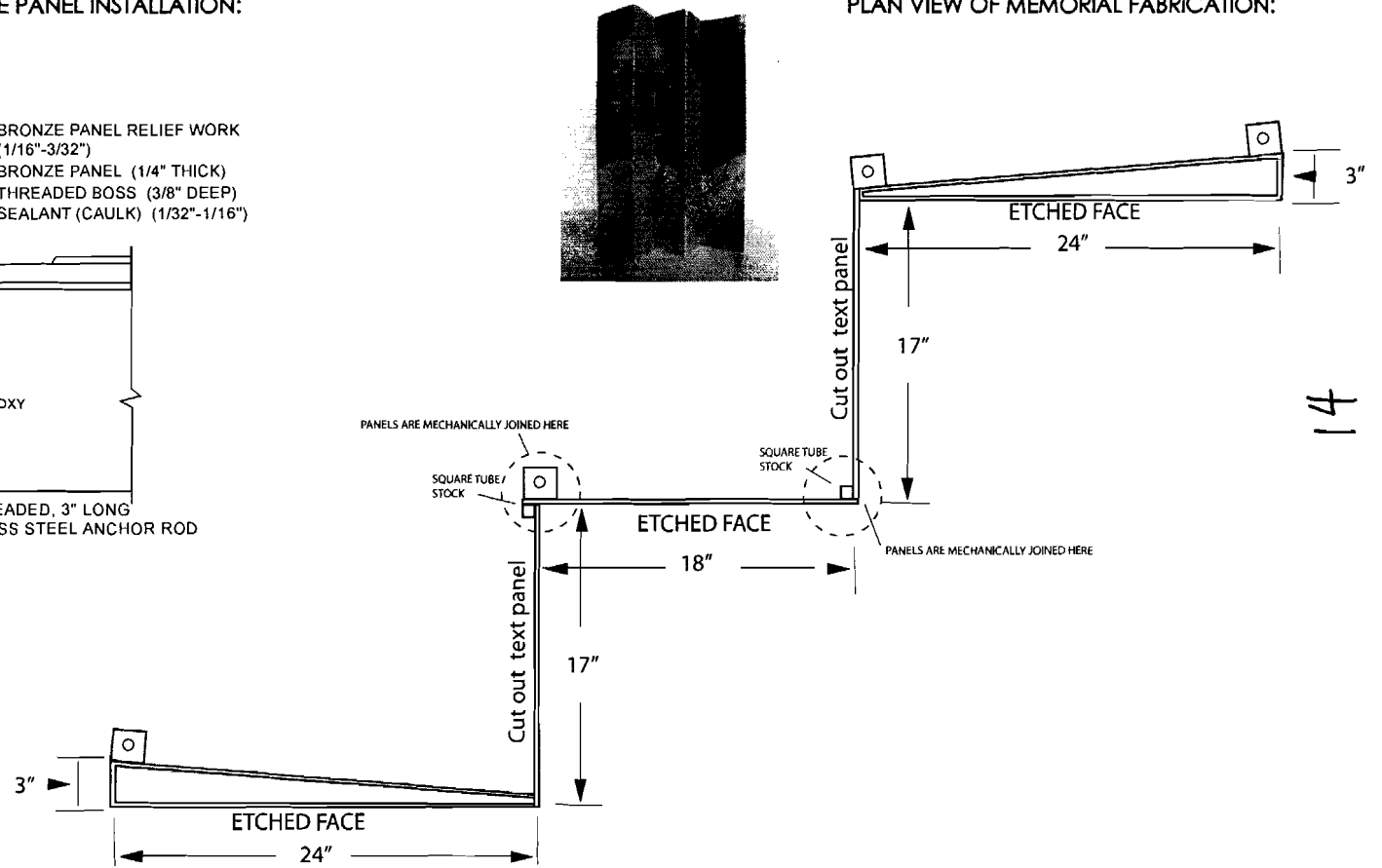
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CHARLES HAMILTON HOUSTON
MEMORIAL + *Parker-Gray History Series*

CROSS SECTION OF TYPICAL TIMELINE PANEL INSTALLATION:



PLAN VIEW OF MEMORIAL FABRICATION:



CHARLES HAMILTON HOUSTON
 MEMORIAL + *Parker-Gray History Series*

Conceptual Proposal >> Andrews/LeFevre Studios 2011

CHARLES HAMILTON HOUSTON

1895 - 1950

EARLY LIFE

Charles Hamilton Houston was born on September 3, 1895 to a hairdresser named Mary and a lawyer named Charles in a house just blocks from the US Supreme Courthouse. Resolved to give their intellectually curious child every advantage they could, his parents provided him with books and piano lessons and enrolled him in the M Street High School - the first black high school in the US. His record at M Street earned him a scholarship to Amherst, where he was the only black student in the class of 1915. Charles described himself as "too shy or too proud" to visit classmates in the all-white fraternity houses and the alienation he felt spurred his academic achievement and growing self reliance. "Genius," he wrote his father, "is not half so much inspiration as it is the culmination of endless, painful and infinitely applied careful application."

MILITARY SERVICE

When the US entered WWI in 1917, Charles decided to enlist as an officer in an attempt to enter with better status than what drafted African-American draftees generally received. The racial discrimination he experienced in the military made a strong impression on him. "I made up my mind that I would never get caught again without knowing my rights; that if luck was with me, and I got through this war, I would study law and use my time fighting for men who could not strike back." In February of 1919, Charles returned home where he "felt damned glad I had not lost my life fighting for this country. My battleground," he declared, is "in America, not France."

LAW SCHOOL

Charles Houston returned to an America in turmoil. Witnessing the unjust convictions of blacks during this time, he realized that law school would provide him with the tools to make a difference and was soon working as the first African American on the editorial board of the Harvard Law Review. His graduate law studies took him to Spain, Algeria, and Tunisia. Standing for the first time on the African continent, Charles wrote his grandmother "Thank God one of the Houston clan stands back on native soil. I count it as a happy privilege."

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Houston believed that the training of black lawyers was key to mounting a successful attack on segregation, and began teaching at Howard Law School where he demanded a lot from his students. Houston's efforts to elevate the status of Howard encouraged many promising black students to enroll, including Thurgood Marshall. Marshall affectionately called his mentor "Iron Shoes" for his relentless drive. Directing a survey in the South of practicing black attorneys, he found in some states, the ratio of blacks to black lawyers was over 200,000 to 1. From this he drew the conclusion that Howard should send as many of its graduates as possible to the South, where the need and antagonisms were the greatest.

EDUCATION and CIVIL RIGHTS

The NAACP called on Houston to serve on its National Legal Council. He believed that cases defended by entirely black counsel would be "a turning point in legal history." In October 1934, Houston recommended to the NAACP board that they concentrate their legal efforts on ending discrimination in education. As was true throughout the Movement, there were different lines of thought among black leaders and activists as to how the fight should progress. Houston's stance, controversial to some, was that if blacks were "to make any further progress" against "private prejudice and public administration" they "must unite with the poor white" and urged cooperation.

To successfully challenge segregated schools it would require more than political guarantees of "equality," it would require the ability to communicate a real understanding of the effects of discrimination in education. Houston traveled through the South with a movie camera, documenting the blatant differences of the available schools for black and white children in an effort to show that separate facilities provided by law were in no way comparable in quality. Houston saw this inequality as "no accident." "Discrimination in education is symbolic of all the more drastic discrimination which Negroes suffer in American life." It was, he argued, the objective of whites to prepare blacks "to accept an inferior position...without protest or struggle."

He chose to focus on segregation in the graduate and professional schools of state universities first. Not a single state-supported institution of higher learning allowed a black to pursue professional or graduate training at public expense. The border states of Missouri and Maryland provided tuition for blacks to attend integrated schools in neighboring states.

In a 1936 trial against the University of Missouri, a black student named Gaines argued that the education he would receive at the integrated school in the next state would not be "equal" as the commute would be expensive, there was no law school there and even if there was - it wouldn't teach law specific to Missouri where he wanted to practice. Under Houston's counsel the case went to the Missouri Supreme Court, the fees for which the NAACP could barely afford during The Depression.

In 1936, Houston wrote to Thurgood Marshall that he needed help with the legal demands of the NAACP, "I am not only a lawyer but evangelist and stump speaker...I don't know of anybody I would rather have in national office than you." Marshall accepted the invitation.

By 1938, Houston prepared to take the Gaines case to the US Supreme Court which decided in his favor. The New York Times declared, "Once more the Supreme Court has spoken out in defense of equality of human rights." Southern papers worried over what the decision might mean for their own state universities. When the University of Missouri did not honor the decisions of the Supreme Court, other black students attempted to enroll with the legal support of the NAACP and the fight for integrated education continued.

A FIGHT UNTIL THE END

Charles Houston worked tirelessly to make America a better place. When he saw how all-white railroad brotherhoods used their power to exclude blacks from high-paying positions, he sued on their behalf. When he saw how racially restrictive covenants kept blacks out of desirable residential areas, Houston sued and received a unanimous Supreme Court decision. More than just a civil rights lawyer, he served as a publicist and champion of many causes. He protested the decision by the Daughters of the American Revolution to bar Marian Anderson from singing in Constitution Hall, and staged an integrated swim in a District of Columbia pool to protest the segregation of recreational facilities. Houston did not limit his efforts to specifically black causes. He spoke out against the House Un-American Activities Committee and filed a petition on behalf of two leading Communists, alleging a violation of their First Amendment rights.

With all these causes contending for his time, Houston still managed to teach occasionally at Howard and assist his father's private legal practice. When Supreme Court Justice Frank Murphy died in 1947, Houston was mentioned as a possible replacement—but the honor of being the first African-American on the Court would go instead, two decades later, to his former student and close friend, Thurgood Marshall.

The birth of Houston's son in 1944 inspired an even greater zeal in his efforts to create a better future for blacks. Nothing so upset Houston as seeing his son victimized by racism. The relentless procession of fourteen to eighteen-hour days slowly took its toll on Houston's health. At the young age of fifty-four, Houston knew he was weakening and sent his son away to live with relatives so he would "remember his father as vigorous, impressive and strong." On April 22, 1950 Charles Hamilton Houston died in his hospital bed, after suffering two heart attacks. A book found lying by his bedside included a few final words to his young son: "Tell Bo I did not run out on him but went down fighting that he might have better and broader opportunities than I had without prejudice or bias operating against him, and that in any fight some fall."

Houston lived almost long enough to see his fight culminate in the landmark 1954 US Supreme Court decision in Brown v Board of Education in which a unanimous Court declared: "We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." Jim Crow was overturned. Thurgood Marshall, who directed the arguments in the case viewed Houston with an admiration that bordered on reverence. Comparing his own efforts and those of his associates to those of Houston, Marshall said, "We were just carrying [his] bags, that's all."

Line to include citation of sources, commission agency information, date and copyright.

Text panel at base of Memorial. To be revised during design process with stakeholders.

CHARLES HAMILTON HOUSTON MEMORIAL + Parker-Gray History Series

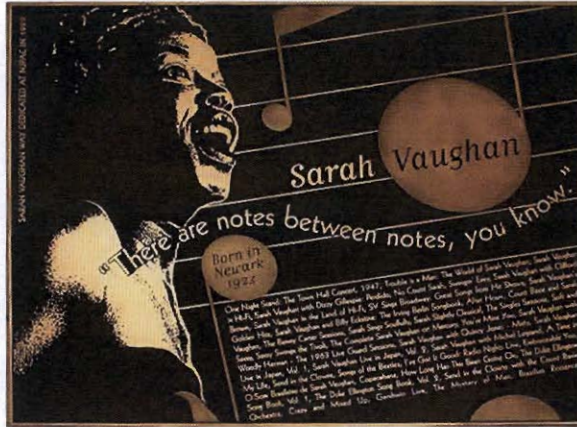
Conceptual Proposal >> Andrews/LeFevre Studios 2011



"Savion Glover" detail

NJ WALK OF FAME NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

A Walk of Fame honoring the lives and achievements of extraordinary performing artists born in New Jersey or who have spent formative and/or creative years in the State was commissioned for the front plaza of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Thirty artists from an original list of over 125 candidates were selected to be represented in the inaugural installation.



UNION SQUARE TIMELINE NEW YORK, NEW YORK

This historic timeline of NYC's Union Square consists of twenty bronze panels inset into a block-long ellipse of bluestone pavers with inscribed dates. The timeline starts in Native American times and runs through the late 1800's, and an extension to modern times is planned.



Union Square Timeline - aerial view



Union Square Timeline - detail view



CEDAR SQUARE MANHOLE COVERS BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

These manhole covers detail the history of the Roxbury section of Boston. The young artists who helped design and fabricate the pieces are pictured here.

CHARLES HAMILTON HOUSTON MEMORIAL + Parker-Gray History Series

Past Project Examples >> Andrews/LeFevre Studios 2011

Andrews LeFevre Studios - Jennifer Andrews Resume:**SELECTED PUBLIC COMMISSIONS** with Andrews LeFevre Studios:

2006, New Jersey Walk of Fame, NJPAC Newark, NJ
 2006, Alabama Archives Map, Montgomery, AL
 2004, MBTA Silver Line History Medallions, Boston, MA
 2004, Edison History Map and Insets, Edison College, NJ
 2004, Hiawatha Light Rail Stop, Minneapolis, MN
 2003, Library Walk - NYC Public Library
 2003, Dallas Police Headquarters, Dallas, TX
 2003, Union: Due East/ Due West, Union, NJ
 2003, Rte. 29 Park History of Trenton Series Trenton, NJ
 2003, Augusta Commons Map, Augusta, GA
 2003, Augusta State University Arsenal Map Augusta, GA
 2003, UNITE! Labor History Series, NYC
 2002, Union Square Timeline, New York, NY
 2002, Library Station / Trax Stop, Salt Lake, City UT
 2002, Brooklyn Promenade, Skyline Series Brooklyn, NY
 2002, Plainfield Map, Plainfield, NJ
 2001, Colonial Williamsburg Map, Colonial Williamsburg, VA
 2001, Iowa Literary Walk, Iowa City, IA
 2000, West Point Thayer Walk, West Point Academy, NY
 2000, Harbor Islands, Boston Fed. Courthouse Boston, MA
 1999, Hyde Park Public Library, Hyde Park, MA
 1999, NJTransit / Exchange Place Jersey City, NJ
 1999, Pomona College Student Center, Claremont, CA
 1999, Foley Square Park - 5 sites, NYC
 1999, Herald Square Gates, New York, NY
 1999, Greeley Square Gates, New York NY
 1999, Red Bank Rail Station, Red Bank, NJ
 1999, Norfolk: 1851 and Hampton Roads Maps, Norfolk, VA
 1999, NJ Transit / Danforth Map, Jersey City, NJ
 1999, NJ Transit / 45th St. Tracking Stories Jersey City, NJ
 1998, McCarran Airport Atrium Floor, Las Vegas, NV

LECTURES:

2008 Heckscher Museum, Huntington NY "Our New Nature; Artist Jennifer Andrews"

RESIDENCIES:

2007 Stichting Atelierbeheer SLAK Guest Atelier, Arnhem, The Netherlands
 2006 Studio SGN: Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

2009 "Recent Work," Badge Building, NYC
 2008 "Holland is for the birds," Space 2B, NYC
 2008 "Netherland is voor de vogels," cbkArnhem, NL (Center for Fine Arts, the Netherlands)
 2007 "Viet Nam," Tisane Gallery, Hartford, CT
 2007 "Viet Nam and New York City," Space 2B, NYC
 2005 "August Bridge Series," Space 2B, NYC
 2003 "Recent Works," Tisane Gallery, Hartford, CT
 2002 "Places With Words," Shim Productions, Harrisburg, PA

EDUCATION:

1993-1997 Hartford Art School, University of Hartford, CT, Summa Cum Laude BFA in Painting

Andrews LeFevre Studios - Gregg LeFevre Resume:

SELECTED PUBLIC COMMISSIONS with Andrews LeFevre Studios:

2006, New Jersey Walk of Fame, NJPAC Newark, NJ
2006, Alabama Archives Map, Montgomery, AL
2004, MBTA Silver Line History Medallions, Boston, MA
2004, Edison History Map and Insets, Edison College, NJ
2004, Hiawatha Light Rail Stop, Minneapolis, MN
2003, Library Walk - NYC Public Library
2003, Dallas Police Headquarters, Dallas, TX
2003, Union: Due East/ Due West, Union, NJ
2003, Rte. 29 Park History of Trenton Series Trenton, NJ
2003, Augusta Commons Map, Augusta, GA
2003, Augusta State University Arsenal Map Augusta, GA
2003, UNITE! Labor History Series, NYC
2002, Union Square Timeline, New York, NY
2002, Library Station / Trax Stop, Salt Lake, City UT
2002, Brooklyn Promenade, Skyline Series Brooklyn, NY
2002, Plainfield Map, Plainfield, NJ
2001, Colonial Williamsburg Map, Colonial Williamsburg, VA
2001, Iowa Literary Walk, Iowa City, IA
2000, West Point Thayer Walk, West Point Academy, NY
2000, Harbor Islands, Boston Fed. Courthouse Boston, MA
1999, Hyde Park Public Library, Hyde Park, MA
1999, NJTransit / Exchange Place Jersey City, NJ
1999, Pomona College Student Center, Claremont, CA
1999, Foley Square Park - 5 sites, NYC
1999, Herald Square Gates, New York, NY
1999, Greeley Square Gates, New York NY
1999, Red Bank Rail Station, Red Bank, NJ
1999, Norfolk: 1851 and Hampton Roads Maps, Norfolk, VA
1999, NJ Transit / Danforth Map, Jersey City, NJ
1999, NJ Transit / 45th St. Tracking Stories Jersey City, NJ
1998, McCarran Airport Atrium Floor, Las Vegas, NV

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

"The World at Your Feet" The Washington Post Magazine, Oct. 30, 2005
"What Lies Underfoot" The New York Times, October 14, 2005
"Bronze Star . . ." The New York Times, February 16, 2003
"Artists Lend Vision . . ." The Dallas Morning News, May 9, 2003
"Meet the Union Square Plaque Artist-Philosopher" The New York Sun, July 5-7, 2002
"I.C.'s Literary Walk Becomes Reality" Iowa City Gazette, October 9, 2001
"Making Public Art Work" Sculpture, April 2000
"Art Will Bring Norfolk to Life" Virginian-Pilot, October 21, 1998
"Civic Beauty . . ." Mercator's World, July/August 1998

GRANTS:

1991, Browne Fund, Boston, MA
1986, Browne Fund, Boston, MA
1979, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, DC
1979, Coleman Award, Boston, MA

Andrews LeFevre Studios - Gregg LeFevre Resume ctd.:

RECENT SELECTED EXHIBITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS:

2005 The Cooper Collection, New York, NY
2002 The JCC, New York, NY
1998 The DeCordova Museum, Lincoln, MA
1997 Stewart Levy Gallery, New York, NY
1993 Socrates Sculpture Park, Queens, NY
1992 The Nippon Gallery, New York, NY
1992 The Blue Hill Center, Piermont, NY
1990 The Queens Museum, Queens, NY
1990 The Charles Lucien Gallery, New York, NY

MUSEUM, CIVIC & CORPORATE COLLECTIONS:

Aetna
Boston Public Library
Boston Symphony
Boston University
City of Boston
City of Chicago
City of Miami
City of New York
City of Norfolk
City of NY Parks Dept
City Univ of New York
Dean Witter
DeCordova Museum
Dominion Bank
Everson Museum
Fitchburg Museum
Grand Central Partnership
Hamilton College
Hartford National Bank
Hewlett Packard
James Center Richmond
John Hancock Insurance
King County Courthouse
Las Vegas McCarran Airport
Museum of the City of NY
Natl Air & Space Museum
NASA Washington DC
Natl Acad of Engineering
New Jersey Transit
Price Waterhouse & Co
Sheraton World Hdqrs.
Smithsonian Institution
State Univ of New York
TWA San Francisco
US Department of State
Warner Communications

EXHIBIT NO. 136

6-24-08

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 19, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON THE PROPOSED PUBLIC ART HONORING CHARLES HOUSTON AND THE DESIGN PROCESS FOR THE PUBLIC ART

ISSUE: Status Report on the proposed public art honoring Charles Houston and the design process for the public art.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That City Council:

- (1) Authorize the City Manager to appoint a selection panel to oversee the design process as outlined in this report;
- (2) Authorize the Mayor to appoint a Charles Houston Art Project Stakeholder Advisory Group to work with City staff and the selection panel in selecting the finalist for the design competition; and
- (3) Request staff and the Commission for the Arts to proceed with the fundraising and design competition for the Charles Houston Art Project.

BACKGROUND: Charles Houston was an attorney of national reputation and a seminal figure in the civil rights movement. He used his expertise and influence to bring educational opportunity to the Alexandria-African American community. In appreciation for his contributions, the elementary school on Wythe Street was renamed in his honor. He later became Dean of Howard University Law School and authored a legal brief that was used by his protégé, Thurgood Marshall, to win the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case, *Brown vs. the Topeka Board of Education*, which helped end racial segregation in schools in the United States.

At City Council's meeting on October 25, 2005, Councilman Ludwig Gaines suggested that the Charles Houston Recreation Center renovation project incorporate a piece of public art honoring the memory of Charles Houston. Councilman Gaines also asked that the Alexandria Commission for the Arts take the lead in this effort. Council agreed with these suggestions and Mayor Euille asked that the proposal be docketed for Council consideration. On June 12, 2007, Council endorsed the concept of incorporating public art honoring Charles Houston into the Charles Houston Recreation Center and requested that the Commission for the Arts work with the Department of Recreation, Parks and

Cultural Activities to coordinate discussions with the Charles Houston Parent Advisory Board and staff at the Black History Museum. Council asked that staff schedule public meetings to obtain input and community support and to identify the type of public art that should be located at the Charles Houston Recreation Center. Council also requested that the Commission for the Arts work with the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities to prepare a report on its findings from the public meetings and to provide Council with a scope of work, anticipated costs and fund-raising plans for the public art project.

From September 2007 through May 2008 Pat Miller, Chair of the Commission for the Arts, and staff have met with representatives of numerous organizations and stakeholder groups to discuss the Charles Houston art project. Ms. Miller and Matthew Harwood, Chair the Public Art Committee conducted a series of meetings with representatives of the Charles Houston Center Parent Advisory Board, the Departmental Progressive Club, the Parker-Gray Alumni Association and the Black History Museum. The Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Department staff also conducted meetings (Attachment 1) April 24, 2008, at the Dr. Oswald Durant Memorial Center and on April 29, 2008, at the Black History Museum. On May 20, 2008, the Commission conducted a public hearing on the Charles Houston art project and collected additional public input (Attachment 2).

The Commission has established a fund-raising advisory group and has begun to meet and develop fund-raising strategies for the project. The fund-raising advisory group consists of Lavern Chatman, President and CEO, Northern Virginia Urban League; Vonda Stanford, President of the Charles Houston Parent Advisory Board; Mame Reiley, President, The Reiley Group; Matthew Harwood, Public Art Committee; and Pat Miller, Chair of the Commission for the Arts. The goal of the group is to raise the projected funds required for this project, (\$300,000). Initial plans from the group include soliciting individual donors, corporate and organizational donors along with a campaign to sell bricks for the plaza location. The budget includes the cost of design, fabrication, materials, insurance, delivery and installation, travel, and any other incidental costs. A portion of the budget will also be allocated toward maintenance of the project.

DISCUSSION: The Charles Houston Art Project design competition is anticipated to begin in summer of 2008. The competition will be advertised widely and will target local, national, and minority participation. The competition and process will be similar to the highly successful processes used for the Freedmen's Memorial Project and Rocky Versace Memorial Project at the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center.

A draft prospectus for the commissioning of public art for the Charles Houston Center has been developed based on the public comment received by members of the Commission for the Arts (Attachment 2). A Selection Panel made up of design and art experts appointed by the City Manager would conduct the search for qualified artists through a widely distributed Request for Qualifications. The Panel would include:

- One member of the Arts Forum
- One member of the Torpedo Factory Artist's Association
- One member of the Del Ray Artisans

- One experienced professional Sculptor
- One individual with a background in Design Competitions.

The Panel will evaluate applicants' qualifications, and three semi-finalists will be selected and will be vetted through the Stakeholder Advisory Group. Each finalist will receive a \$1,000 honorarium to develop a concept model for the public art.

The semi-finalists will be expected to present their proposals to the Selection Panel and to the Stakeholders Advisory Group. The Stakeholder Advisory Group, appointed by the Mayor, would be made up of the following:

- One member of the Charles Houston Recreation Center Parent Advisory Group
- One alumnus of Parker-Gray High School,
- One citizen-at-large,
- One T.C. Williams High School student,
- One relative of Charles Houston,
- One member of the Alexandria Chapter of the NAACP,
- One member of the Departmental Progressive Club,
- One member of the Northern Virginia Urban League,
- One member of the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, Public Art Committee,
- One member of the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black History,
- One member of the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission,
- One member of the Park and Recreation Commission.

The City Manager would designate the chair (or co-chairs) of the Selection Panel and Stakeholders Advisory Group. In addition, City staff designated by the Directors of the following departments, will serve in a support role for the Stakeholder Advisory Group and the Selection Panel: Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Office of Historic Alexandria, Planning and Zoning, General Services, and a representative from the Black History Museum.

The semi-finalist proposals/models will be exhibited for a two-week public review period. Based on public comment and Panel review and Stakeholder input, the Panel will select one of the proposals to recommend to the Stakeholder Advisory Group. Upon agreement from the Stakeholder Advisory Group, the finalist will be recommended to the Commission for the Arts. The Alexandria Commission for the Arts will review the concept and display the concept during a two-week public review period. The proposal then will be forwarded by the Commission to City Council.

Staff anticipates that the semi-finalists will be selected by late fall. The Charles Houston Recreation Center will be completed in Spring 2009. A location will be reserved for the public art which would be installed after the art work is complete. We expect the final concept to be recommended to City Council during the Winter of 2009.

When fundraising is completed the design development and installation of the artwork will proceed through the regular City processes.

FISCAL IMPACT: The City budget for this project is estimated to be \$8,000 for the design competition and solicitation. The \$300,000 budget will include the design, fabrication, materials, insurance, delivery and installation, travel, and any other incidental costs. A portion of the funding will be allocated toward maintenance of the project. There is no money budgeted for this public art project currently in the RPCA budget other than the \$8,000 for the design competition and solicitation. All other projects costs associated with this art project will be funded by private donations and grants.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1. Charles Houston Public Art Project, RPCA Public Meeting notes April 24, April 29

Attachment 2. Charles Houston Public Art Project, Commission for the Arts public hearing notes May 20, 2008

STAFF:

Kirk Kincannon, Director - Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Aimee Vosper, Division Chief, Park Planning - Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Cheryl Anne Colton, Cultural Arts Administrator - Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

CHARLES HOUSTON MEMORIAL PUBLIC ART PROJECT

**ALEXANDRIA DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS
AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES PUBLIC MEETINGS**

APRIL 24 AND 29, 2008

Suggestions/ideas gathered a community meetings held on Thursday, April 24 at the Dr. Oswald Durant Memorial Center, 1605 Cameron Street; and, Tuesday, April 29 at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street.

1. Plaque with/for Parker Gray School
2. Concern – not to take the creativity away from Artist
3. With proximity of site – with Black History next door developing stronger ties with/Recreation now; interpreting more opportunities within building that the site should be interpreted; tie Charles Houston with Parker Gray Alumni – help and provided resources for Black History in Plaza – interpretation along plaza; tie both together
4. Street and relationship to Black History Museum – and Reading Room/education
5. Library first started by Samuel Tucker and Charles Houston interconnection between Library/Charles Houston
6. Walking timeline across the front of the Plaza
7. Since this is a historical landmark, has this gone through National Register?
8. Construction Question on Jobs. What was allowed? What was done? Community did not get to see Architects work.
9. Have the “History Story”
10. Before Charles Houston there was Parker Gray – Relocated to Madison Street. Old Parker Gray was changed to Charles Houston, now no place is named Parker Gray – promoting Charles Houston in place of Parker Gray. direction should be toward both histories – Parker Gray – 2 principals – separate girls/boys schools combined both principals’ names. 2 schools for Black Children ; Parker Gray important to this City.
11. Something should represent both – want something there to honor Parker Gray as well as Charles Houston; Councilman Ludwig Gaines told of both important elements; equal pay and desegregation. Feel that Parker Gray is very important, Charles Houston great in his

work – want these combined; Parker Gray central to community. ,

12. Parker Gray Alumni Association President; Charles Houston Rec. Center – that is where it needs to be; reference to teachers and principals. Something large enough to see (don't need bifocals); exhibit and reflect.
13. Equal emphasis on both Charles Houston and Parker Gray stories.
14. Two stories should be incorporated
15. Issue – not able to place Parker Gray – Vocational ethnically – now have MLK, Jr. memorial; want *3 dimensional; Parker Gray shows evolution of Charles Houston full story. Should continue Parker Gray name.
16. Still have small sign on Wythe St. – but need more. MLK, Jr. Mem – may take few more years
17. Resident now knows about Charles Houston; advocate something like Roosevelt Memorial Plaque shows his life –something educational. Now knows about Parker Gray – Advocate for more education in the Art Space – to take about local History and Parker Gray Educational
18. A lot of Educational opportunities with both stories of Charles Houston and Park Gray School. Education!
19. Proposed future Memorial MLK – component of some presence – interactive to be placed here at Black History Museum
20. Emphasize theme of equality of all races and all people – like the one sculpture 3 figures leaning (Bali figures) interactivity and interdependence on one another– traditional with same interdependence.
21. Contemporary vs traditional
22. Related search for achieving equality
23. Howard University students to be involved with proposing ideas for the memorial; mindful that children are interacting with center
24. Very thoughtful that it has to be near children
25. Afro centric images, different – that no one else has thought of.
26. Permanent sculpture is very expensive, extensive. Commemorate what is alive, not

memorize what is dead

27. Children should be the audience, teach and educate – to focus on the next generation
28. Memorial should represent black peoples struggle for education
29. Instructional part – will there be space on the interior?
30. Vestibule – Charles Houston’s life; Black History Museum with Charles Houston
31. Multiple connections between Charles Houston to bring Samuel Tucker into the picture – the R. Robinson library; with Charles Houston right next door – to help people understand Black History Museum; educational; Walk across street to be able to talk and teach about Charles Houston and Parker Gray also. Charles Houston Recreation Center/Black History Museum; Interpreting library next door; Education and Reading significant struggle; Resources – larger way to interpret Black History Museum; Physical and intellectual – interpretation.
32. Need to know the first names for those individuals – Parker and Gray
33. Another significant event in Alexandria and Virginia; 1967 decision; While man can marry a black woman – Memorial plaque at lawyers, 110 North Royal Street. Charles Houston’s life – opportunity to do something in addition. PC process in dealing with James Bland. Public Park could communicate this event.
34. Fundraising effort – need to remember strong Art oriented with educational component; students need to participate; interactive; tie past into creativity of the future; History seeing History memorialized. Historical tie in to the future for the Children; Artsy/Educational “Ah Ha” moment. “High Art” not Artsy.
35. Annual reoccurring event – Adapt this educational component; caulk for peace – designed for children; free draw – annually and globally.
36. Consider temporary public art installations such as luminaries, or consider annual festivals.

Comments from index card:

Bricks that were removed from Charles Houston – salvage

Install bricks again w/medallions “Donor Willie” as fundraiser naming people on bricks, “in memoriam. (Vonda Stanford)

CHARLES HOUSTON MEMORIAL PUBLIC ART PROJECT
ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE PUBLIC MEETING

MAY 20, 2008

Public Comment:

1) Speaking

Charles Houston represented in a way that brings Past to Future and empowerment

Parker Gray & Charles Houston enter twined possibly through timelines/bricks/donations fundraising opportunities

Something that appeals to children and community surrounding the center – bring diversity together

2) Started out Civil Rights lawyer: Charles Houston and his legacy.

Highest significant and represented in Art connected with Parker Gray School

Photo of Parker Gray entry way photo – could be hung under entrance to Charles Houston. Photo – may have had name on it

Significance – Charles Houston a lawyer/Dean of Law School – inspired advocates of Civil Rights – argued for termination of segregation of school.

Community understood – equal education even though schools change. Art should put two things together (Photos Library of Congress) could they find something not as stern don't like emerging from stone image.

3) Public Art Committee Report

Fascinating figure to memorize.

What is his Alexandria story – connect/resonate with community.
1st thing found – Parker Gray connection

High School name changed – significant of Parker Gray story was in the past someone new in community didn't know signing.

Parker Gray Story –

Idea of the teachers – very important.

Alumina Association wanted to celebrate teachers – Names on list but then thought that a name might be left off.

Leave it to something more with break sales of facility – Personal approach

Importance of being education Opportunity – struggle for education and people fought that fight.

4) Black History Museum

Input to what is having across street. Critical involvement with Charles Houston interpretation or statue

As a Museum – Louis Hicks interest in Interpretation of site as a school and Charles Houston.

Interpretation Plaza – beyond just statuary.

What school was about, not just statue. Integrate unto Black History Museum. Black History events at Charles Houston Recreation Center – Performances etc...comply opportunity to interpret Charles Houston legacy.

5) Same feeling with Parker Gray story goes back quote a while –

No local facility that bears the name parker Gray
Charles Houston a national story
Parker Gray a local story should be told

6) Just don't forget Parker Gray = and its story Parker Gray Alumni Association

7) City resident, Recreation Center does have Charles Houston name but we should tie in Parker Gray story –

Idea: opening for center diag. from Black History carve out Blacktop – connected walkway between Black History Museum and Charles Houston

Don't minimalism the affect that Charles Houston had on a local and national level – Charles Houston moved Thurgood Marshall in the landmark Case – test case in South Carolina – did though South Carolina. If there was a way – Charles Houston was involved in that. National affect – much larger community – more than what is said in larger US.

8) Agree with – prior

Relevance to Charles Houston and connection to Parker Gray
Census – Fred Day interest in the souls who have done so much over the
years and in the past.
City needs to be generous – don't neglect those that have sacrificed before
this.
Hope that Arts Commission takes these comments seriously.
Pivotal area – this is the place. Significant event

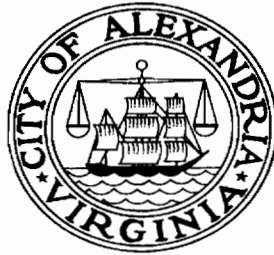
Check with Planning & Zoning, Federal Register, Parker Gray

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS NUMBER 00000061

Public Art Commission for the
Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial Alexandria, Virginia

Issue Date: August 7, 2009



CLOSING DATE: October 1, 2009

CLOSING TIME: 4:00 P.M., Alexandria, Virginia, Local Time

Notice from the City of Alexandria: City of Alexandria Bidder's Mailing List – To receive or continue receiving notices of solicitations issued by the City of Alexandria, current bidders and proposers as well as individuals and firms who wish to be added to the City's solicitation notification list must apply or re-apply (as applicable) at <https://eprocare.alexandriava.gov/bsollogin.jsp>. Firms and individuals who completed and returned a paper bidder's mailing list application at any point must submit a new application in eProcure, the City's new on-line application. Thank you.

NOTE: ALL ADDENDA IF ISSUED CAN BE ACCESSED AT THE WEBSITE ADDRESS ABOVE.

ISSUED BY: CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

BUYER: Dominic Lackey

SUITE 301 - BANKER'S SQUARE

100 NORTH PITT STREET

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

703-838-4946 Ext. 600

SUBMISSIONS MUST BE MAILED OR HAND DELIVERED TO THE ADDRESS SHOWN ABOVE, NO LATER THAN THE ANNOUNCED DATE AND TIME OF CLOSING. SUBMISSIONS SENT BY FACSIMILE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

QUESTIONS: Any interested party which has questions regarding this Request for Qualifications is invited to submit their questions to the Procurement Department via Fax at (703) 838-6493. Questions will be accepted until 4:00 PM, Alexandria, Virginia, Local Time, September 15, 2009. Official answers to questions will be furnished via an Addendum to this solicitation.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) #0000061

I. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

A. Project Summary

The City of Alexandria, Virginia seeks to commission public art for the new Charles Houston Recreation Center. The process will be managed by the Office of the Arts, a division of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, with the Alexandria Commission for the Arts Public Art Committee. The City will conduct the search for qualified applicants through this Request for Qualifications.

The purpose of the public art project is to honor and memorialize Charles Hamilton Houston and to recognize the historical importance of the former Parker-Gray High School to the community which surrounds the Center. The project's overarching theme is *Education and Civil Rights*.

The finalists' willingness to learn about the community and to maintain dialogue with interested community members will be a significant factor in project design development. There may be educational programming designed during the fabrication stage that could include discussions between the finalist and the community.

B. Budget

The budget for this project should not exceed \$300,000. The budget is all-inclusive and includes design fee, fabrication, materials, insurance, delivery and installation, travel, documentation and any incidental costs related to the design, construction and installation of the artwork. Funding for this project will be raised through grants and private donations.

C. Scope of Work

An artist or artists will be commissioned to integrate artwork into the open space pedestrian plaza along the 900 block of Wythe Street, between N. Alfred Street and N. Patrick Street (Route 1 North), near the main entrance of the new facility. The project may include modifications and additions to the plaza but must be predominately massed opposite the entranceway to the Alexandria Black History Museum located directly across the street.

This RFQ/National Call to Artists will result in a short list of three finalists, who will each receive an honorarium of \$2,000 to develop final proposals and make a presentation to the Selection Panel and Stakeholder Advisory Group in Alexandria, VA.

D. Submission Deadline

Materials must be received no later than:

Tuesday, October 1, 2009, by 4:00pm Eastern Daylight Time

E. Project Goals

The artwork shall:

- Create a civic space that visually and or physically links to the Alexandria Black History Museum and the Watson Reading Room located across the street
- Celebrate the life and accomplishments of civil rights leader Charles Houston who fought for equality of public education in the City of Alexandria
- Honor and commemorate the history associated with the establishment of Alexandria's first African American High School, Parker-Gray High School
- Inspire young people to remember the past and move them to see a legacy that belongs to them and to future generations

F. Site History

The site of the Charles Houston Recreation Center is significant in Alexandria's history as the original home of the Parker-Gray School, located in the Parker-Gray Historic District. In 1920, the Parker-Gray Elementary School was constructed on the southern end of the block, facing Wythe Street. The new public school was constructed for the education of African American boys and girls, replacing the deteriorating and inadequate Hallowell (girls) and Snowden (boys) schoolhouses. The new facility was named for John F. Parker and Sarah J. Gray, beloved African American teachers and principals in those two schools. Initially, the school served grades one through eight. African American students who could afford to continue their high school education traveled by bus to Washington, D.C., or went off to boarding school.

In 1932, the Parker-Gray High School became Alexandria's first African American high school. Its first four-year high school class graduated in 1936. Over time, the school gained a reputation for its dedicated teaching staff who, despite the constraints of segregation, were able to provide a positive learning experience. Over the years, increased enrollment created a need for larger quarters for the high school. In 1941, concerned citizens began to petition for a new facility and eventually appealed to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for assistance.

NAACP lawyers, led by Charles Houston, conferred with city, state and federal officials. An attorney with a national reputation, Houston used his influence and knowledge to aid the Alexandria African American community. On May 31, 1950, the new Parker-Gray High School, located at 1207 Madison Street, was dedicated. Sadly, Charles Houston died on April 22, one month before the dedication. In appreciation for all his hard work to obtain the new school and to help with other issues vital to improving Alexandria's education system, the former Parker-Gray School was renamed the Charles Houston Elementary School.

Charles Houston's legacy was far reaching. As Dean of Howard University Law School, Houston influenced a generation of civil rights lawyers. He was a master tactician and successfully argued the *Missouri ex. Rel. Gaines v. Canada* case before the United States Supreme Court in 1938. The Gaines case, the first to establish the principle of equality of education, paved the road for the landmark decision in 1954 of *Brown v. Board of Education*. Fittingly, the victorious lawyer in the case that ended racial segregation was Houston's protégé, Thurgood Marshall. Ten years later, integration of Alexandria's public schools was achieved.

For additional information, please visit the City web site at www.alexandriava.gov/arts.

G. Current Environment

The new Charles Houston Recreation Center opened in February 2009. The two acre site is located on Wythe Street between N. Patrick Street (Route 1 North, a one-way street) and N. Alfred Street and Madison Street to the rear. There are parallel parking spaces along Wythe Street and a parking lot to the back of the building along Madison Street.

The Wythe Street frontage, which functions as a civic open space plaza incorporates low seat-walls, plantings, benches and special paving to enhance the main entrance to the facility, as well as to accommodate gathering during recreational activities. This plaza receives a considerable amount of pedestrian traffic and youth activity which helps to activate this space.

Located directly across the street on Wythe Street (also known as Parker-Gray Way) are the Black History Museum and the Watson Reading Room. Other properties surrounding the site are residential, except for a small area across N. Patrick Street, which includes light industrial and commercial uses. Once a year, the block of Wythe Street between the Recreation Center and the Black History Museum is closed for a Juneteenth celebration, which attracts between 400 – 600 participants.

The Center functions as the neighborhood anchor and an important connective element for the City. It serves as a bridge for a racially and socioeconomically diverse group by providing a unique place within the community for all residents to come together and participate in common interests. The one-story recreation center offers an array of amenities including an arts and crafts room, dance room, library/computer room, boxing center, fitness/weight room, locker room, seniors room, multi-purpose room, kitchen, meeting spaces, pre-school area, state-of-the art playground, gymnasium and neighborhood pool.

H. Art Plan Premise

Complete design proposals are not accepted at this stage. However, the following information is provided to aid the artist/design team in the concept development.

The memorial along Wythe Street will be experienced both passively and actively by visitors to the Center and the Black History Museum, nearby residents, those walking to and from the Metro, and drivers passing through the neighborhood.

A vertical sculptural element should be a part of the memorial and located in the sight line of the entrance to the Black History Museum across the street. An area of approximately 20 feet x 12 feet is available for the vertical sculptural element.

A timeline of important milestones in the Parker-Gray History and its correlation to the national struggle for civil rights should be incorporated – whether within the pavement, along the existing seat-walls, as a part of the sculpture, or in some other fashion. There are two sidewalks that could be used – one is 10 feet wide x 140 feet long and runs closer to the building, the other is 8 feet wide x 140 feet long and runs closer to the street and will receive a high amount of pedestrian traffic. The seat-walls provide approximately 110 feet in length of wall on one side. The memorial should be incorporated into the plaza but not attached to the building itself.

To fund this project, a brick-selling campaign has been organized. These bricks will be located on the plaza in a yet to be determined location. It is at the artist's discretion to choose whether or not to include the location of the bricks within their concept.

Any artwork and new design elements must be durable, low maintenance, and appropriate to Alexandria's Parker-Gray Historic District. Applicants should consider the high amount of pedestrian traffic around the center, light (both natural and electric), outdoor weather conditions, and the architectural design of the new recreation center when designing the proposal.

It is intended for the sculpture to have lighting, possibly from uplighting or from the building. It is at the artist's discretion to choose whether or not to include the lighting within their concept. Inclusion of a water feature is discouraged.

I. Eligibility

The project is open to all artists or design groups, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, military status, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical or mental disability. Multidisciplinary teams are encouraged. Members of the Selection Panel and Stakeholder Advisory Group or City of Alexandria employees are not eligible.

J. Office of the Arts and Alexandria Commission for the Arts

Created in 2008, the Office of the Arts is a division of the City of Alexandria's Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities. Its mission is to promote the value of arts and culture in the City of Alexandria by nurturing, investing in and celebrating the creative contributions of artists and arts organizations. Through engaging the community, encouraging participation, and facilitating access to the arts, the Office strives to build a vibrant community for all of the City's residents, workers and visitors.

The Public Art Committee, a standing committee of the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, works closely with the Office of the Arts on the management of the public art program. The Alexandria Commission for the Arts is a 16-member volunteer body

appointed by City Council as advisors on arts-related policy. The Arts Commission and the Office of the Arts work together to promote and cultivate the arts in the City of Alexandria. The Alexandria Commission for the Arts is currently celebrating its 25th Anniversary.

II. SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. Projected Timetable

August 7, 2009	Request for Qualifications Announced
September 15, 2009	Deadline for Submitting Questions
October 1, 2009	Deadline for Submission
November 6, 2009	Finalists Selected
February 1, 2010	Proposals Due
February 6, 2010	Proposals Presented to Selection Panel
February 6, 2010 – March 6, 2010	Public Exhibit of Proposals
May 1, 2010	City Council Approval/Project Awarded
April, 2011	Artwork/Design Installed

Design development and installation of the project will begin after City Council approval. The City reserves the right to change the projected timetable.

B. Selection Criteria

Artists will be selected on the basis of the following primary criteria (of equal weight):

- Artistic merit of completed projects based on references, appropriateness of materials and concepts as they relate to the project goals and setting/context
- Ability to meet the project's intent, as articulated in Section I

In addition, consideration will be given to:

- Experience and success in creating public artworks, particularly outdoor installations, based on digital images of past work, including site-specific, sculptural, and functional works
- Experience collaborating with other design professional and citizens
- Maintenance requirements of completed project

C. Inquiries

Send questions to this solicitation to Dominic Lackey at the City of Alexandria. Questions may be sent by fax at 703-838-6493 or by email at dominic.lackey@alexandriava.gov. Please reference the solicitation number and title on the fax or email. For general questions related to the solicitation, call Dominic Lackey at 703-838-4946, ext. 600.

D. Compliance with the RFQ

Submissions must be in strict compliance with this RFQ. Failure to comply with all provisions of the RFQ may result in disqualification.

E. Submission Format

Please submit the following materials in the order listed below:

(all text must be typed in 12-point Arial or Helvetica font on single-sided pages)

1. **Application Form.** Please complete form attached hereto as Attachment 1.
2. **Letter of Interest.** The letter should address the selection criteria and explain the applicant's interest in the project. One page maximum.
3. **Statement of Design Intent.** The statement should explain the applicant's vision as it relates to the project's intent. One page maximum.
4. **Professional Résumé.** Résumé should highlight the applicant's experience with site-specific work, large scale art, sculptures, and public art commissions.
5. **Images of Applicant's Work.** 8 – 10 digital images (PC compatible-JPEG files only) on CD. JPEG's shall be no larger than 300 dpi at approximately 4" x 6". CD's must contain the applicant's name on both the CD and the case. Naming of files: all digital files must include applicant's name, please do not use quotations or spaces.
6. **Image List.** The list should correspond to the CD and include applicant's name and media, date, cost, dimensions (height x width x depth) and location (if permanently sited) of the artwork. One page maximum.
7. **References.** Names, titles/positions and contact information for three references who may be contacted by the Selection Panel. One page maximum.
8. **Optional.** Selected printed materials, such as catalogues, articles, etc. that might assist the panel in understanding the applicant's work.

No original artwork should be submitted. Full design proposals are not accepted at this stage. All materials submitted become the property of the City of Alexandria and will not be returned unless a self-addressed and stamped envelope, with sufficient postage, is provided. The City of Alexandria will make every effort to protect submitted materials, however, it will not be responsible for any loss or damage.

F. How to Apply

Submit one (1) original, and eight (8) numbered copies.

Sealed proposals must be mailed, hand-delivered, or submitted electronically within the City of Alexandria's e-procure system located at <http://eprocare.alexandriava.gov/bsol/>, on or before **4:00 P.M.**, Eastern Daylight Time, October 1, 2009 to:

City of Alexandria
Procurement Department – Attention: Dominic Lackey
100 North Pitt Street, Suite 301
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Mailed or hand delivered responses shall be marked:

**RFQ # [00000061] - Public Art Commission/Charles Houston Recreation Center
Due Date: October 1, 2009, 4:00pm**

Late applications will not be considered and will be returned unopened.

All applicants are encouraged to register on the eProcure web site in order to receive all updates and addendums.

III. SELECTION PROCESS

A. Selection Panel

The Panel, appointed by the City Manager, consists of an experienced professional sculptor, an individual with a background in design competitions and representatives of the Alexandria Arts Forum, Torpedo Factory Artists' Association, Del Ray Artisans, and Howard University.

B. Selection Process

The Selection Panel will evaluate applicants' qualifications according to the project selection criteria to develop a short list of three finalists, who will be vetted through a Stakeholder Advisory Group. Each finalist will receive a \$2,000 honorarium to develop a concept for the project. Finalists will be expected to present their proposals to the Selection Panel and Stakeholder Advisory Group in Alexandria, Virginia.

The final proposals will be exhibited for a two-to-four week public review period. Based on public comment and review, the Panel will select one proposal to recommend to the Stakeholder Advisory Group, Public Art Committee and the Alexandria Commission for the Arts. The proposal will go to City Council for final approval.

The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject all submissions and to cancel this Request for Qualifications. The selection of the finalists is wholly within the discretion of the City.

IV. RULES AND GUIDELINES

A. Requests for Clarification of Submission

The Office of the Arts may check references to assist in the evaluation of any submission.

B. Rejection of Submissions

The Purchasing Agent or designee reserves the right to accept or reject in whole or in part any or all proposals submitted.

C. Americans with Disabilities Act

The selected artist(s) will be required to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act in addition to related federal, state and local codes and will be encouraged to develop artwork(s) sensitive to programmatic as well as physical accessibility issues.

D. Call to Artists and Presentation Costs

The City will not be liable in any way for any costs incurred by the artist in the initial response to the Request for Qualifications. The City will award \$2,000 to each finalist for development and presentation of their proposal to the Selection Panel.

E. Public Disclosure

All submissions are considered public and subject to review upon request after an intent to award has been made.

F. Additional Information

For additional historical information, images, links, frequently asked questions, and more, please visit the web site and follow the link to Public Art:
www.alexandriava.gov/arts

For additional information on the City of Alexandria, please visit www.alexandriava.gov.

ATTACHMENT 1

City of Alexandria Application Form

I. General Information

Applicant/Team Lead Name _____

Mailing Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Artist Web Site _____

Telephone Number _____ Fax Number _____

If applying as a team, list the name(s) of other members:

Please tell us how you heard about this project:

II. Check List

- Completed Application Form
- Letter of Interest
- Statement of Design Intent
- Professional Resume
- Images
- Image List
- References

III. Statement

I affirm that the Statement of Design Intent submitted in connection with this RFQ is entirely my own or that of the design team listed above. I have not copied anyone else's design and my design does not infringe on anyone else's intellectual property rights.

Signature Date _____

Printed Name



City of Alexandria, VA

04/16/08

City of Alexandria to Host Community Meetings On Public Art to Honor Charles Houston

Input Needed to Develop Criteria for Art Honoring Famed African-American Lawyer

The public is invited to attend a series of community meetings to share ideas on the type of public art that will honor the memory and contributions of civil rights attorney Charles H. Houston at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, which is currently under construction. The meetings are at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 24 at the Durant Center (1605 Cameron St.) and at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29 at the Black History Museum (902 Wythe St.).

The recreation center is located on the former site of the first Parker-Gray School on Wythe Street, which was demolished in the early 1980s. Houston was an attorney of national reputation, and a seminal figure in the civil rights movement. He used his expertise and influence to bring educational opportunity to Alexandria's African American community. Houston (who later became Dean of Howard University Law School) authored a legal brief that was used by his protégé, Thurgood Marshall, to win *Brown vs. the Topeka Board of Education*, the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case that helped to end racial segregation in American schools.

Residents are encouraged to bring their suggestions about their preferences for the public art that will be placed in the new recreation center's pedestrian plaza. City staff will use the ideas generated from these meetings to develop the scope of work for the public art. The scope and concepts will then become part of the information used in the public art competition being sponsored by the Alexandria Commission for the Arts.

Persons unable to attend the meeting can send written comments to the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Attention: Cheryl Anne Colton, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, VA 22314, or e-mail cheryllanne.colton@alexandriava.gov. Written comments must be received by May 10, 2008.

For additional information on the community meetings, call the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities at 703.838.6348.

The City of Alexandria is committed to compliance with the City's Human Rights Code and the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation or to request materials in an alternative format, please call Cheryl Anne Colton, Cultural Arts Administrator, 703.838.6348 (TTY 703.838.4902), or e-mail cheryllanne.colton@alexandriava.gov.

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City of Alexandria, VA

May 7, 2008

**Alexandria Commission for the Arts Schedules
Public Hearing on Public Art to Honor Charles Houston**

Input Needed to Develop Criteria for Art Honoring Famed African-American Lawyer

The public is invited to attend a public hearing to provide input and to develop criteria for art that will honor the memory and contributions of civil rights attorney Charles H. Houston at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, which is currently under construction. The public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20 at 7 p.m. at the Dr. Oswald Durant Memorial Center (1605 Cameron St.). The Commission's regular monthly meeting will follow the public hearing.

The purpose of the public hearing is to gather input from the community, and to provide an update of information received from previous community meetings. Residents are encouraged to bring suggestions about their preferences for the public art that will be placed in the new recreation center's pedestrian plaza. City staff will use the ideas generated to develop the scope of work for the public art. The scope and concepts will then become part of the information used in the public art competition sponsored by the Alexandria Commission for the Arts.

The recreation center is located on the former site of the first Parker-Gray School on Wythe St., which was demolished in the early 1980s. Houston was an attorney of national reputation, and a seminal figure in the civil rights movement. He used his expertise and influence to bring educational opportunity to Alexandria's African American community. Houston (who later became Dean of Howard University Law School) authored a legal brief that was used by his protégé, Thurgood Marshall, to win *Brown vs. the Topeka Board of Education*, the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case that helped to end racial segregation in American schools.

Persons unable to attend the public hearing can send written comments to the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Attention: Cheryl Anne Colton, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, VA 22314, or e-mail cherylanne.colton@alexandriava.gov. Written comments must be received by June 6, 2008.

For additional information, call the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities at 703.838.6348.

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City of Alexandria, VA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 1, 2008

City Council Authorizes Plan for Design Competition To Develop Public Art Honoring Charles Houston

Art Will Be Displayed in Plaza of the Renovated Charles Houston Recreation Center

On Tuesday, June 24, the Alexandria City Council received a status report on the proposed public art honoring civil rights attorney Charles Houston, and authorized a plan to hold a design competition to select public art honoring Houston in the plaza of the renovated Charles Houston Recreation Center. The center is scheduled to reopen in the spring of 2009. The City Council authorized the City Manager to appoint a selection panel to oversee the design process for the public art. They also authorized Mayor William D. Euille to appoint a Charles Houston Art Project Stakeholder Advisory Group to work with City staff and the selection panel in choosing the finalist for the design competition. The Commission for the Arts will proceed with a plan to raise the \$300,000 needed to pay for all aspects of the design competition and the public art chosen from the competition.

In October 2005, Councilman Ludwig Gaines recommended to City Council that the Charles Houston Recreation Center renovation project feature public art honoring the memory of Charles Houston. Charles Houston was an attorney of national reputation and a seminal figure in the civil rights movement. He used his expertise and influence to bring educational opportunity to Alexandria's African American community. The Council endorsed Councilman Gaines' recommendation that public art honoring Charles Houston be incorporated into the renovated Center, and requested that the Commission for the Arts coordinate with City staff and obtain input from the community to identify the type of public art that should be located at the center.

From September 2007 through May 2008, Pat Miller, Chair of the Commission for the Arts, and City staff met with representatives of numerous organizations and stakeholder groups to discuss the public art for Charles Houston. In addition, two community meetings and a public hearing were held to solicit public input. The Commission for the Arts made a final recommendation to City Council that a design competition be held to develop the public art honoring Charles Houston.

A design competition is expected to begin in the summer of 2008. The competition will be advertised widely and will target local, national, and minority participation. A selection panel will choose three semi-finalists by late fall, each of whom will receive a \$1,000 honorarium to develop a concept model for the public art. The final proposals will be exhibited for a two-week public review period. Based on public comment, selection panel review, and Stakeholder Advisory Group input, one of the proposals will be chosen as the final concept to be recommended to City Council during the winter of 2009, in order for the art to be ready when the center reopens in the spring.

For more information, please contact Cheryl Anne Colton at 703.838.6348.

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City of Alexandria, VA

City Hall, 301 King St. Room 3500, Alexandria, VA 22314

Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 1, 2009

For More Information, Contact:

Cheryl Anne Colton,
Cultural Arts Administrator
Office of the Arts
703.838.6348
Cherylanne.colton@alexandriava.gov

“Tea and Talk” Sharing Alexandria’s Civil Rights History

WHEN: Monday, June 8, 2009
1 pm – 3 pm

WHERE: Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe Street

WHO: Sponsored by the Alexandria Black History Museum, Parker Gray Alumni Association, Alexandria Commission for the Arts, Charles Houston Memorial Public Art Project’s Selection Panel and Stakeholders Advisory Committee, Charles Houston Recreation Center, and The Office of the Arts

WHAT: Please join us for tea and conversation. You are invited to share the story of your civil rights experiences in Alexandria and how it was shaped by the Parker-Gray School and Charles Houston.

The “Tea and Talk” is an outreach project designed in collaboration with the Alexandria Black History Museum, Parker Gray Alumni Association, Alexandria Commission for the Arts, Charles Houston Memorial Public Art Project’s Selection Panel and Stakeholders Advisory Committee, Charles Houston Recreation Center, Parker Gray Alumni Association, The Office of the Arts, and the Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.

RSVP by June 5 at 703-838-6348, or email:aca@alexandriava.gov
For more information or to learn more about the Office of the Arts’ programs and services, contact the Alexandria Commission for the Arts at 703-838-6348 or aca@alexandriava.gov.

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts is celebrating its 25th anniversary. The Commission and the Office of the Arts, a division of the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities, work together to promote and cultivate the arts in the City of Alexandria. For more information, please visit their web sites at www.alexandriacommissionforthearts.org and www.alexandriava.gov/arts.



City of Alexandria, VA

Call for Artists Announced for Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial

August 18, 2009

News Highlights

- The City of Alexandria seeks public art for the Charles Houston Recreation Center.
- The deadline for responses to the Request for Qualifications is October 1, 2009.

More Information

- www.alexandriava.gov/arts
- <http://eprocare.alexandriava.gov/bsa>

The City of Alexandria is announcing a Call for Artists for the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial, which will be located at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. The City will conduct the search for qualified applicants through a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). The anticipated installation date of the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial is April 2011.

The purpose of the project is to honor and memorialize Charles Houston and to recognize the historical importance of the former Parker-Gray High School, Alexandria's first African-American high school. The project's overarching theme is education and civil rights.

Artists or design teams interested in applying to the RFQ are encouraged to register with the City of Alexandria's e-procure system at <http://eprocare.alexandriava.gov/bsa>. Applications may be submitted online, by postal mail or in person. The deadline for applications is October 1, 2009, at 4 p.m. EDT. Three finalists will each receive an honorarium of \$2,000 to submit a complete proposal. Please refer to the RFQ for complete details.

All inquiries regarding the RFQ should be directed to Dominic Lackey, City of Alexandria Procurement Department, by calling 703.838.4946, ext. 600, faxing to 703.838.6493 or e-mailing dominic.lackey@alexandriava.gov. Please reference the solicitation number and title on the fax or e-mail.

The memorial artwork will be funded with private donations. To make a contribution to the Memorial, please send a check, in any amount, payable to the City of Alexandria (note "Charles Houston Public Art Project" in the memo line) to: Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial; Attention: Alisa Carrel, Director, Office of the Arts; 1108 Jefferson Street; Alexandria, VA 22314.

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City of Alexandria, VA

City Hall, 301 King St. Room 3500, Alexandria, VA 22314

eNews

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 15, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Jack Browand, Director, Marketing, Public Relations and Special Events, at 703.746.5504

“Tea and Talk” Sharing Alexandria’s Parker-Gray and Civil Rights Stories

You are invited to share the story of your civil rights experiences in Alexandria and how it was shaped by the Parker-Gray School and Charles Houston on Monday, December 7 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St.

“Tea and Talk” is an outreach project designed in collaboration with the Alexandria Black History Museum, Parker Gray Alumni Association, Alexandria Commission for the Arts, Charles Houston Memorial Public Art Project’s Selection Panel and Stakeholders Advisory Group, Charles Houston Recreation Center, Parker Gray Alumni Association, The Office of the Arts, and the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.

“Tea and Talk” is free and open to the public. Reservations are required. Please reply by December 4 at 703.746.5588, or by email at aca@alexandriava.gov.

Sponsored by the Alexandria Black History Museum, Parker-Gray Alumni Association, Alexandria Commission for the Arts, Charles Houston Memorial Public Art Project’s Selection Panel and Stakeholders Advisory Group, Charles Houston Recreation Center, and The Office of the Arts

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts is celebrating its 25th anniversary. The Commission and the Office of the Arts, a division of the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities, work together to promote and cultivate the arts in the City of Alexandria. For more information, please visit alexandriacommissionthearts.org or alexandriava.gov/arts.

The City of Alexandria is committed to compliance with the City’s Human Rights Code and the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation or to request materials in an alternative format, please call Cheryl Anne Colton, Cultural Arts Administrator, at 703.746.5588, or e-mail cheryllanne.colton@alexandriava.gov.



City of Alexandria, VA

5/20/10

City of Alexandria Announces Finalists for Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial

News Highlights

- Four artists have been selected to develop proposals for the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial
- Public will be invited to comment on proposals to be displayed in the summer
- Committee seeks donations to fund the project.

More Information

- www.alexandriava.gov/arts

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts and the Office of the Arts announce the four artists who have been selected as finalists for the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial. The final four emerged from a talented pool of nearly 60 applicants from 23 states who responded to a widely promoted "Call to Artists." The Memorial will be located at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. The winning artist will be announced in the fall.

The finalists for the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial are

- Team of Jennifer Andrews and Gregg LeFevre, New York, New York
- Christopher Erney, Alexandria, Virginia
- Team of Robert Firmin and Eugene Daub, Kensington, California
- Preston Jackson, Dunlap, Illinois

The artists will have three months to develop a full proposal for the Memorial and present it to the Selection Panel and Stakeholder Advisory Group for their evaluation. Maquettes of the proposals will be on display for public comment for two to four weeks at the Charles Hamilton Houston Recreation Center. The Selection Panel will consider the public comments in making their decision on the winning artist to recommend to the Arts Commission.

Charles Hamilton Houston was a nationally known civil rights leader and NAACP attorney who fought for equality in public education. He became involved with Alexandria in 1941, when a group of concerned citizens petitioned for a high school for African American students and eventually appealed to the NAACP for assistance. Houston took on this challenge and used his knowledge and influence to aid the community in their fight. Their efforts were successful and a new Parker-Gray High School was built in 1950.

A committee of Alexandria residents has been established to raise \$300,000, through grants and private donations, for this project. To contribute to the Memorial, contact Alisa Carrel, Director of the Office of the Arts, at alisa.carrel@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.5590.

Follow us [@alexandriava.gov/Twitter](https://twitter.com/alexandriava)
Become a Fan [@alexandriava.gov/Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/alexandriava)

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City of Alexandria, VA

For Immediate Release: March 22, 2011

“Meet the Artists” Reception to Honor the Finalists for the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial on April 2

News Highlights:

- Public is invited to meet the four finalist artists and view their proposals on Saturday, April 2, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m., at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St.
- Proposals will be on display at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, April 2 – May 2 and at City Hall, May 2 – 16. Public is invited to comment on proposals.
- Private donations are being raised to fund the project.

More Information:

- alexandriava.gov/arts

The finalist artists for the commission of the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial will be in attendance at a reception on April 2, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. Design proposals will be on display during the reception and at the Recreation Center for one month. On May 2, the maquettes will move to City Hall, 301 King St.

The public is encouraged to view the proposals and add their comments to a notebook that will be located next to the displays or send via e-mail to aca@alexandriava.gov (please write “Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial Comment” in subject line). Public comments will be considered by the Selection Panel during the selection process. The recommendation for the winning artist will be voted on by the Alexandria Commission for the Arts and City Council.

The memorial will represent, honor and memorialize Charles Hamilton Houston and preserve the story of the city’s fight for equality in education, highlighting the history of the Parker-Gray High School. The memorial will be located at the southeast corner of the Charles Houston Recreation Center. It is anticipated that the winning artist will be announced in June.

The finalists for the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial were chosen as a result of an international “Call for Artists” that generated applications from 59 artists representing 23 states. The finalists are:

- Team of Jennifer Andrews and Gregg LeFevre, New York, NY
- Christopher Erney, Alexandria, VA
- Team of Robert Firmin and Eugene Daub, Kensington, CA
- Preston Jackson, Dunlap, IL

Stakeholder Advisory Group member Jim Henson said “Attorney Houston, a great civil rights strategist and litigant of national fame, traveled to Alexandria to persuade the City to build a separate, larger high school for Parker Gray, which was ‘bursting at the seams’ with ‘expanded curriculum and increased enrollment.’ Thanks to his efforts, the City agreed. It is appropriate that we recognize Mr. Houston with a proper memorial. I can hardly wait to see the artists’ proposals!”

A committee of Alexandria residents will raise the funds for this project, in the amount of \$300,000, through grants and private donations. To contribute to the Memorial, contact Alisa Carrel, Deputy Director, Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities, at alisa.carrel@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.5590.

The City of Alexandria complies with the City’s Human Rights Code and the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation or to request materials in an alternative format, contact Cheryl Anne Colton, Regional Program Director, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, at 703.746.5565 (TTY 703.838.4902) or e-mail cheryllanne.colton@alexandriava.gov.



City of Alexandria, VA

For Immediate Release: April 12, 2011

Public Meeting for Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial Set for April 21

News Highlights:

- Proposals for the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial now on display
- Public is invited to view the proposals and provide comments
- Committee seeks donations to fund the project to memorialize the civil rights leader

More Information:

- alexandriava.gov/arts

Alexandria Commission for the Arts and the Office of the Arts announce a Public Meeting for the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial for Thursday, April 21, 7 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St.

The four finalist artists/artist teams have submitted their proposals for the Memorial. The final four emerged from a talented pool of nearly 60 applicants from 23 states who responded to a widely promoted "Call to Artists." The Memorial will be located at the Charles Houston Recreation Center. Announcement of the winning artist is anticipated in June.

The finalists for the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial were chosen as a result of an international "Call for Artists" that generated applications from 59 artists from 23 different states.

The finalists are:

- Team of Jennifer Andrews and Gregg LeFevre, New York, New York
- Christopher Erney, Alexandria, Virginia
- Team of Robert Firmin and Eugene Daub, Kensington, California
- Preston Jackson, Dunlap, Illinois

The proposals are now on display as follows:

- April 2 – May 1: Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St.
- May 2 – May 16: City Hall, 301 King St.

The public is invited to record comments in the notebook provided at the display location, or e-mail comments to aca@alexandriava.gov. The Selection Panel and Stakeholder Advisory Group will consider the public comments during the selection process. The recommendation for the winning artist will be voted on by the Alexandria Commission for the Arts and City Council.

Charles Hamilton Houston was a nationally-known civil rights leader and NAACP attorney who fought for equality in public education. He became involved with Alexandria in 1941, when a group of concerned citizens petitioned for a new school and eventually appealed to the NAACP for assistance. Houston took on this challenge and used his knowledge and influence to aid the community in their fight. Their efforts were successful and a new Parker-Gray High School was built in 1950. The memorial will represent, honor and memorialize Charles Hamilton Houston and preserve the story of the city's fight for equality in education, highlighting the history of Parker-Gray High School.

A committee of Alexandria residents has been established to raise the funds for this project, in the amount of \$300,000, through grants and private donations. To contribute to the Memorial, please contact: Alisa Carrel, Director of the Office of the Arts, at alisa.carrel@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.5590.

For more information, contact Alisa Carrel, Director of the Office of the Arts, at 703.746.5590 or e-mail alisa.carrel@alexandriava.gov.

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Public Comment Form – Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial

To be installed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center

For more information on the Memorial, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/artsName: S. Scruggs. Zip code: 22314How did you hear about the proposal? Saw Display eNews Web Site Word of MouthComment: Think it's a wonderful idea.Name: Asha Glover Zip code: 22314How did you hear about the proposal? Saw Display eNews Web Site Word of MouthComment: The Christopher Emey & the Team of Jennifer Andrews and Greg L., were my favorite exhibits.Name: Derek Bibbs Zip code: 22314How did you hear about the proposal? Saw Display eNews Web Site Word of MouthComment: All exhibits were exceptionally great.Name: Louise Parker Zip code: 22314How did you hear about the proposal? Saw Display eNews Web Site Word of MouthComment: The Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial is very eye catching and powerful as a message to today's upcoming youths.

Public Comment Form – Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial

To be installed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center

For more information on the Memorial, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts

Name: Amirgon New York Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the proposal? Saw Display eNews Web Site Word of Mouth

Comment: I Love it.

Name: KhangJa Tolbert Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the proposal? Saw Display eNews Web Site Word of Mouth

Comment: I think that New York was very creative by team Jennifer Andrew and Gregg LeFevre, very nice.

Name: Jason Kirkpatrick Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the proposal? Saw Display eNews Web Site Word of Mouth

Comment: I like Robert Firmin and Eugene Daub. To nice for me.

Name: ~~Melita~~ ~~Bea~~ ~~Mabskatosee~~ Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the proposal? Saw Display eNews Web Site Word of Mouth

Comment: I like it it's cool

Public Comment Form – Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial

To be installed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center

For more information on the Memorial, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts

Name: Dejaneae Carothers END Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the proposal? Saw Display eNews Web Site Word of Mouth

Comment: I really like it is creative!!!

Whocalls

Name: Cara Smith Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the proposal? Saw Display eNews Web Site Word of Mouth

Comment: The Jennifer & LeFever project is fantastic.
Andrews
It clearly works for the site - its elegant & strong.
I hope to see this soon. They did a great job.

Name: BRIAN BOLEN Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the proposal? Saw Display eNews Web Site Word of Mouth

Comment: EXCELLENT ENTRY FROM ALL TEAMS! IT WOULD
BE GREAT TO SEE ANY OF THESE INSTALLATIONS. IF
I HAD TO CHOOSE ONE I WOULD VOTE FOR ANDREWS + LAFEVRE
FOR THEIR CLEAN + EFFECTIVE COMPOSITION. VERY NICE

Name: _____ Zip code: _____

How did you hear about the proposal? Saw Display eNews Web Site Word of Mouth

Comment: _____

Public Comment Form – Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial

To be installed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center

For more information on the Memorial, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts

Name: Azyona Bailey Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the proposal? Saw Display eNews Web Site Word of Mouth

Comment: I like ~~it~~ it because it
is very creative.

Name: JESSICA TUZZIN Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the proposal? Saw Display eNews Web Site Word of Mouth

Comment: The entry by Jennifer Andrews of Google Fave
is by far the most meaningful of all because it
really identifies the path to freedom through education.
It frees your mind from the chains that society tries to place on you.

Name: ERICA M. Somers Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the proposal? Saw Display eNews Web Site Word of Mouth

Comment: New York exhibit is my favorite it details
what Mr. Houston's stood for the team of Jennifer
~~Andrews~~ ^{Andrews} did a great job I think the work
of same is self explanatory ☺

Name: Alexis Fullinse Zip code: 22302

How did you hear about the proposal? Saw Display eNews Web Site Word of Mouth

Comment: Display A - Love It!

(Christopher Erney)

Public Comment Form – Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial
To be installed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center

For more information on the Memorial, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts

(Andrews/LeFevre)
Name: Kerry Donley Zip code: 22304

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Display B - inspirational and
multi-dimensional. Portrait is honorable

(Emey)
Do you have any comments about the other proposals? Also like proposal A
as creative.

Name: Dominique Curtis Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

(Andrews/LeFevre)
Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Display B is my favorite proposal
because of the design

(Emey)
Do you have any comments about the other proposals? Proposal A is also a
good to

Name: Courtney M. Pastrey Zip code: _____

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Courtney M. Pastrey
He was my favorite author

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? _____

Public Comment Form – Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial

To be installed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center

For more information on the Memorial, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts

Name: Raymond Williams Jr Zip code: 22304

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Jennifer & Gregg. Because it would be here at the Charles Houston Rec. Center.

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? _____

Name: Bernardine Price Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Display (B)
More things to learn and experience.

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? _____

Name: Deborah Lowry Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? (B) dignified, solemn, educational

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? (A) is too frivolous

Public Comment Form – Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial

To be installed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center

For more information on the Memorial, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts

Name: Suellen Savukas Zip code: 22304

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Daub + Firmin

Because it gives good information about the history of Chas Houston, Black history + Parker Gray

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? I also like

Adams + Lefevre - nice sculpture.

Name: Steve Willis Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? "B" or "A" Both make a

really nice enhancement to the property.

Do you have any comments about the other proposals?

Name: Jayla Tolson Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? My favorite proposal

is "the fight" because it looks very unique.

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? That I also like
the "Main Entry".

(Andrew Lefevre & Emery)

PEOPLE (Emery)

Public Comment Form – Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial

To be installed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center

For more information on the Memorial, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts

Name: Shaboyla Farmer Zip code: 22304

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Display A by Erney
because it was beautiful and just attracting too
me.

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? Those were good to
but that was just the best to me.

Name: Allen Johns Zip code: 22305

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Dignified
Preston Jackson

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? _____

Name: Cheyenne J. Carter Zip code: 22303

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? The one of the outside
Buildings because I've never seen such a good replica

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? no

Public Comment Form – Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial
To be installed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center

For more information on the Memorial, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts

Name: LENWOOD HARRIS Zip code: 22301

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? DISPLAY (B) JENNIFER ANDREWS
& GREGG LEFEBRE ITS VERY INFORMATIVE AS WELL AS
UNIQUE EYE CATCHING AND GIVES AN ACCOUNT OF THE MAN.

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? _____

Name: LENWOOD HARRIS Zip code: 22301

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

(Firmin/
Doub)

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? DISPLAY (D) ITS OK!
ALSO GOOD POINTS ON CHARLES HOUSTON THE MAN

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? _____

Name: Gloria Vestal Zip code: 22314

(Andrews/
Lefebvre)

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Ans B informative & the
location is the best.

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? D a stunning portrait!

Public Comment Form – Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial

To be installed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center

For more information on the Memorial, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts

Name: K. Bem Zip code: 22313
~~20727~~

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? _____

(Andrews/Lefevre)
Favorite Proposal is B - The artist from New York

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? My Favorite is

Name: Hazel Cameron Zip code: 20706

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Display B!

(Andrews/Lefevre)
The absolute best --

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? _____

Name: Adeleaka Gore Zip code: 20001

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Display B.

(Andrews/Lefevre)
this display was wonderful. I enjoyed the 3dimensional creation the most.

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? _____

Public Comment Form – Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial

To be installed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center

For more information on the Memorial, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts

Name: Katrina Moss Zip code: 22313

(Andrews/
Lefevre)

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Display B. Liked the 3 dimensional look. Eye catching

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? Second. I like Display A. Also very unique

(Erney)

Name: Sylvia T. Barrett Zip code: _____

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Questions: Why is there not an enclosed crosswalk from the center to the library?

What materials/construction wise, will be used to make the ^{historical?} walkway?

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? _____

Name: Mattie Lynn Haynes Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Firm in Dault

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? Historical Pathway

Is all going to be readable from an up north position. How will the walkway be maintained in bad weather. What kind of material will be used. Try Marble 60

THANK YOU!

Public Comment Form – Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial

To be installed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center

For more information on the Memorial, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts

22314 - City employee

Name: TRICIA BASSING Zip code: 20011 (home)

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Display B - Crisp, classy, educational, respectful, love the materials + image, powerful - looks great w/ lines of the building, captures what ^{stood for} Houston

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? I don't really like any of the other proposals

(Andrews/Lefevre)

Name: Loisa Collins Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Display B. While they are all very good, B is particularly aesthetic along with a cool message saying who Mr Houston was.

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? I like them but neither are as educational as B in my opinion.

(Andrews/Lefevre)

Name: Bruce Goodman Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Display B. Has the most clear message. Very interesting and aesthetic.

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? Message not as clear.

(Andrews/Lefevre)

Public Comment Form – Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial

To be installed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center

For more information on the Memorial, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts

Name: Tahsiyn Tibbs Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Display A. It's look
~~But~~ Better then the there one.

(Erney)

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? _____

Name: C.M. Johnson Clark Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Display B.-

(Andrews/
Lefevre)

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? _____

Name: Marjorie Williams Zip code: _____

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Display B
It is colorful and filled with information.

(Andrews/
Lefevre)

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? _____

Public Comment Form – Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial
To be installed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center

For more information on the Memorial, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts

Name: Mildred Shivers Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Display B
colorful.

(Andrews/
Lefevre)

Do you have any comments about the other proposals?

Name: Joyce Henderson Zip code: 22304

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? DISPLAY B, IT LOOKS PLEASING
TO THE EYE.

(Andrews/
Lefevre)

Do you have any comments about the other proposals?

Name: Belinda Pinckney Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Display B. Design is
intriguing and very creative.

(Andrews/
Lefevre)

Do you have any comments about the other proposals?

Public Comment Form – Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial
To be installed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center

For more information on the Memorial, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts

Name: Lucretia McClenney Zip code: 22315

(Andrews/
Lefevre)

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Display B
Met the artists and
was impressed w/ their research & efforts
Display B is very interactive

Do you have any comments about the other proposals?

Name: Brandi Collins Zip code: 22312

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Team of Robert Firmin and
Eugene Daub; It's a strong interpretation of
Mr. Houston and effectly connects his legacy with
the history of education in the local community

Do you have any comments about the other proposals?

N/A

Name: Kendra Gillespie Zip code: 22314

(Andrews/
Lefevre)

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Display B, Shows history,
allows community participation (donor bricks). Draws
outside interest to explore our history. Modern, sleek,

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? NONE COMPLETE!!

Public Comment Form – Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial

To be installed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center

For more information on the Memorial, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts

Name: Jasmine Carter Zip code: _____

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? THE PICTURE OF THE REC

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? IT'S VERY NEAT

Name: Robin Deshields Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Design B - Andrews + La Ferre

I also like design D - The Walk Paths

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? _____

Name: Stephanie Johnson Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? My favorite is Display B (Andrews + La Ferre)
It speaks volume, of history and education.
The display is very inspiring. C. H. Houston would be pleased.

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? all the displayed are very creative, B is my favorite.

Public Comment Form – Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial
To be installed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center

For more information on the Memorial, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts

Name: Lou Williams Zip code: 22302

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? visiting/meeting
Andrews + LeFevre

Do you have any comments about the other proposals?

Name: Sheryl Gorsuch Zip code: 22301

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Andrews + LeFevre

Love everything about it - inspirational, perspective,
visual, view across the street draws you in
educational focus, tasteful, respectful, interesting

Do you have any comments about the other proposals?

Others are okay, but don't match impact of above.
Firmia has some good aspects, but big head is out of
proportion, and not emblematic of the man himself.

Name: K. LEWIS Zip code: _____

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Christopher Erney's I enjoy
the vision is the idea of choices

Do you have any comments about the other proposals?

Public Comment Form – Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial

To be installed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center

For more information on the Memorial, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts

Name: Jimmy Noritake Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

(Andrews/
LeFevre)

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? B - it is artistically and substantively suited to this place, to the important work Mr. Houston did. Really hit the nail on the head.

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? _____

Name: Kendra Jacobs Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

(Firman/
Daw)

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Display D - Educational, simple but creative. I worry that the others could be easily damaged. I like the incorporation of the Black History Museum

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? _____

Name: Steven Bland Zip code: _____

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? The City is under huge financial pressures - go minimize - go simple, go cheap

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? _____

Public Comment Form – Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial
To be installed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center

For more information on the Memorial, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts

Name: Johnnie C. Sanders Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Display "B" - It clearly speaks to Mr Charles Houston, Esq. and links to Education.

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? _____

Name: Sharon Annear Zip code: 22304

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Jennifer Andrews & Greg LeFevre "Display B" Presents C. Houston the man & his story well + Art tie in with the Building well.

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? _____

Name: James Moore Zip code: 22306

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Display "B" - It ~~has~~ has alot of depth to it and it grabs attention

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? _____

Public Comment Form – Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial

To be installed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center

For more information on the Memorial, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts

Name: Penny Frazier Zip code: 22193

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

(Andrews/
Leferre)

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? (B) is my favorite, because I once attended Charles Houston school. It would be incredible to have a memorial of Charles Hamilton Houston in front of the recreation center and a walk of history plaques
Do you have any comments about the other proposals?

Name: Marlo Ford Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

(Andrews/
Leferre)

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? (B) I believe it captures his life, works, and his dedication to equality. His words are inspirational and relevant to the challenges the world face today.
Do you have any comments about the other proposals?

Name: Brandi Galloway Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

(Erney)

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? A
Do you have any comments about the other proposals?

Public Comment Form – Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial
To be installed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center

For more information on the Memorial, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts

Name: Tom Kerns Zip code: 22304

(Andrews/
LeFevre)

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? B

ELEGANT, TIMELESS

Do you have any comments about the other proposals?

Name: Christine Kelly Zip code: 22307

(Andrews/
LeFevre)

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? B - wonderful use of

space - nice design (they all are.... but B is my favorite)

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? also love 'D' as a

stand alone sculpture/display/historical marker.

Good work everyone!

Name: Michael J. Slavin Zip code: 22302

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Preston Jackson's. Nice combination
of modern and traditional styles.

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? Please, please don't go with
the wire guys. Please!

Public Comment Form – Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial

To be installed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center

For more information on the Memorial, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts

Name: Ellen Hamilton Zip code: 22301

How did you hear about the proposal? Saw Display eNews Web Site Word of Mouth

Comment: I like a combination of the Preston Jackson sculpture and the Andrews/LeFevre environmental aspects. The Jackson sculpture is the strongest, I feel, will be great from all angles, invite interaction with kids. Added plaques and lettering along the wall would make the space even more

Name: interesting and informative and carry the Zip code:

How did you hear about the proposal? Saw Display eNews Web Site Word of Mouth

Comment: Viewer along. I also like the Firmin/Daub piece quite a lot.

Name: Bill Campbell Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the proposal? Saw Display eNews Web Site Word of Mouth

Comment: Love the work of Chris Enye - He seems to incorporate several elements with the art pieces - his for time - link to the AA Museum - Dads, Firmin #2

Name: Lauryn Mallard Zip code:

How did you hear about the proposal? Saw Display eNews Web Site Word of Mouth

Comment: I like the entire thing especially the model of the rec they did to celebrate him. These exhibits are really grand.
A Lauryn Mallard

Public Comment Form – Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial
To be installed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center

For more information on the Memorial, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts

Name: D. W. Witten Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Display B

Visual impact at distance would be impressive. Words are inspiring. Visually pleasing 360° view.

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? _____

Name: _____ Zip code: _____

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? _____

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? _____

Name: _____ Zip code: _____

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? _____

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? _____

THANK YOU!

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(Andrews/LeFevre)

Public Comment Form – Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial

To be installed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center

For more information on the Memorial, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts

Name: _____ Zip code: 20774

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? _____

①st J Andrews St. Le Reve - historical representative (thrust) ^{simple} elegant.
②nd Preston Jackson - presence. ^{historical significance - easy to read.}

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? _____

Name: _____ Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? Team of Robert Pennon & Eugene Dade

incorporates both sides of the street in general museum
artistic and not "fancy" a grand vision!

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? Preston Jackson my 2nd

choice - my 1st choice, I feel is very elegant and
precise

Name: _____ Zip code: 22314

How did you hear about the project? Saw Display eNews Web Site Friend Newspaper

Which is your favorite proposal? Why? _____

Do you have any comments about the other proposals? _____

Alisa Carrel

From: Cheryl Anne Colton
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 11:01 AM
To: Pat Miller; Alisa Carrel
Subject: FW: Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial

Fyi...

Warmest regards,
Cheryl Anne Colton, CPRP
Regional Program Director
Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Office of the Arts/Durant Arts Center

703.746.5565 direct 571.238.2443 cell

From: pattimarcocoe@gmail.com [mailto:pattimarcocoe@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Patti Marcocoe
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 11:00 AM
To: Cheryl Anne Colton
Subject: Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial

City of Alexandria Arts Staff;

I would like to cast my vote for Christopher Erney's art for the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial. It is fitting for a local artist to be awarded this most important honor. His dedication and passion to the project is heartfelt and deserving.

Respectfully,

Patti Marcocoe

Alisa Carrel

From: Cheryl Anne Colton
Sent: Sunday, April 17, 2011 8:46 AM
To: Alisa Carrel
Subject: Fw: "Charles Houston Memorial"

Connected by DROID on Verizon Wireless

-----Original message-----

From: Wendy Thompson <wendyt341@yahoo.com>
To: Cheryl Anne Colton <CherylAnne.Colton@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Sun, Apr 17, 2011 01:05:28 GMT+00:00
Subject: "Charles Houston Memorial"

To Whom It May Concer:

I have seen Chris Erney's sculpture proposal model for the Charles Houston Memorial, and I would like to express my opinion that I believe Chris's sculpture to be the one I would like to see in Alexandria.

Thanks,
Wendy Thompson

Alisa Carrel

From: Cheryl Anne Colton
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 4:59 PM
To: Alisa Carrel
Subject: Fw: Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial

Connected by DROID on Verizon Wireless

-----Original message-----

From: "jacksonvl@aol.com" <jacksonvl@aol.com>
To: Cheryl Anne Colton <CherylAnne.Colton@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Fri, Apr 15, 2011 16:15:25 GMT+00:00
Subject: Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial

My vote is for the display B with the bronze wall.

This references the Andrews/LeFevre Proposal.

Alisa Carrel

From: Cheryl Anne Colton
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2011 8:19 AM
To: Pat Miller, Alisa Carrel
Subject: FW: Charles Houston Memorial

Warmest regards,
Cheryl Anne Colton, CPRP
Regional Program Director
Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Office of the Arts/Durant Arts Center

703.746.5565 direct 571.238.2443 cell

From: Theresa Caldwell [mailto:theresa400@verizon.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2011 11:20 PM
To: Cheryl Anne Colton
Subject: Charles Houston Memorial

To Whom It May Concern:

I just saw Chris Erney's proposal for the Houston Memorial. I love it! I vote for his proposal.

His proposed piece is creatively contemporary, the idea behind it captures Houston's spirit, and his concept is beautiful -- tying in the Black History Museum, fundraising through the brick-buying idea, and a mentorship program that encourages young men to explore the arts. Plus, it is an amazing sign of progress that a white, male, Virginia native developed such an impressive proposal.

I live in the Fairfax County part of Alexandria, but I spend lots of time and money in the city. I've visited the museum and center, and commend you on the plan to erect a fitting memorial.

Theresa Caldwell

'Almost anything that happens to us may be woven into the purposes of God.'
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Alisa Carrel

From: Cheryl Anne Colton
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2011 8:03 AM
To: Alisa Carrel; Pat Miller
Subject: FW: Charles Houston Memorial Project

-----Original Message-----

From: Pam Tiemeyer [mailto:pam.tiemeyer@acps.k12.va.us]
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2011 7:35 AM
To: Cheryl Anne Colton; Cheryl Anne Colton
Subject: Charles Houston Memorial Project

I would like to reccommend Christopher Erneys's project. He is a local artist. His project is upbeat and fun which best represents Charles Houston's persona. Christopher Erney has included children participation in his project which will offer kids the opportunity to learn while acquiring skills in the process. He will be working with inner city Afro-American children ... a wonderful experience for all.

Pamela Tiemeyer
Alexandria, VA

Alisa Carrel

From: Cheryl Anne Colton
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 1:39 PM
To: Alisa Carrel; Pat Miller
Subject: FW: Charles Houston Proposal

From: Amy Calce [mailto:amycalce@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 1:34 PM
To: Cheryl Anne Colton
Subject: Charles Houston Proposal

I very much like Christopher Erney's proposal - it is true to the ideals for which Houston stood for and is an elegant and beautiful memorial.

Thanks!
Amy Calce

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 20, 2011

To: Alexandria Commission for the Arts Members
Public Art Committee Members

From: Pat Miller, Chair, Alexandria Commission for the Arts & Co-Chair, Public Art Committee

Re: Selection Panel and Stakeholder Advisory Group Report: Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial

On May 23, the Public Art Committee and the Alexandria Commission for the Arts will hold a special meeting for the purpose of endorsing the recommendation of the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial's Selection Panel and Stakeholder Advisory Group. On May 19, 2011, these groups voted unanimously to recommend that the City award the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial commission to:

Team of Jennifer Andrews and Gregg LeFevre, New York, NY

Congratulations to Ms. Andrews and Mr. LeFevre, as well as the other artists, for their wonderful proposals: Christopher Erney, Alexandria, VA; Team of Robert Firmin & Eugene Daub, Kensington California; and Preston Jackson, Dunlap, IL.

The Selection Panel and Stakeholder Advisory Group members have devoted an enormous amount of time and energy to this project and I thank them for their contributions.

Selection Panel

Mary Cook, Torpedo Factory Artist Association
David Hamilton, Howard University and Public Art Consultant
Matthew Harwood, Public Art Committee
Randy Schessele, Del Ray Artisans
David Smedley, Professional Sculptor
Beth Temple, Alexandria Arts Forum

Stakeholder Advisory Group

Rebecca Adams, Public Art Committee
Lavern Chatman, Northern Virginia Urban League and Project Chairperson
William Cromley, Park and Recreation Commission
Eric Gray, Charles Houston Recreation Center Parent Advisory Board
Ramona Hatten, Citizen at Large
James Henson, Departmental Progressive Club
Charles Hamilton Houston III, Relative
Lovell Lee, Parker Gray Alumni Association
Roscoe Lewis, TC Williams High School Student
Jennifer Lightfoot, NAACP
Kathleen Pepper, Historic Alexandria Resources Commission
Ethel Underwood, Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage

CC: Matthew Harwood, Co-Chair, Public Art Committee
Alisa Carrel, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA)/ Office of the Arts
Cheryl Anne Colton, Regional Program Director, RPCA/Office of the Arts
Encl: Public Comments

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 24, 2011

To: File

From: Pat Miller, Chair, Alexandria Commission for the Arts & Co-Chair, Public Art Committee

Re: Report on Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial Artist Recommendation

The Public Art Committee and the Alexandria Commission for the Arts held a special meeting on May 23, 2011 to consider the endorsement of the recommendation of the Selection Panel and Stakeholder Advisory Group that the City of Alexandria award the artist commission for the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial to the team of Jennifer Andrews and Gregg LeFevre, New York, New York.

The Public Art Committee voted unanimously to endorse the recommendation. The Alexandria Commission for the Arts voted unanimously to endorse the recommendation. This recommendation will be presented to City Council at an upcoming council meeting.

CC: Matthew Harwood, Co-Chair, Public Art Committee
Alisa Carrel, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA)/ Office of the Arts
Cheryl Anne Colton, Regional Program Director, RPCA/Office of the Arts