



MEDIA RELEASE

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Design Competition Launched for a New Temporary Commemorative Installation in Nation's Capital

Washington, DC – The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the General Services Administration (GSA) announce the Beyond Granite Design Competition for a new temporary outdoor commemorative installation in Washington, DC. The design competition and resulting installation are intended to enhance a prominent but underutilized public space in the city's monumental core while fostering public dialogue regarding the nature of commemoration in the nation's capital.

"The commemoration of our country's historic leaders, events and ideas is an issue of national and long-standing significance," noted NCPC Executive Director Marcel Acosta. "As one of the agencies involved with reviewing proposals for new memorials in the nation's capital, NCPC is excited to be exploring a new and innovative form of commemoration that has the potential to enrich Washington's cultural landscape, while relieving pressure on the National Mall to accommodate new permanent memorials."

NCPC and GSA invite artists and/or design professionals, working as individuals or teams, to propose ideas for an innovative temporary commemorative work that embodies the competition's commemorative theme—the founding principles and positive impact of Earth Day, the world's largest civic observance. The proposed site for the temporary installation is the Ariel Rios Hemicycle, a grassy semi-circle along the west side of 12th Street, NW between Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues in the heart of Washington's Federal Triangle. The site is near the headquarters of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Mina Wright, Director of Planning & Design Quality for the National Capital Region at GSA, added "Well designed public spaces are at the heart of any place where people like to be – be it for work or leisure. We believe this competition has extraordinary potential for demonstrating creative and cost-effective ways to activate and beautify federal public spaces."

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The winner of the competition—to be selected in summer 2012—may be contracted to design, fabricate, and install their proposed installation. The resulting public display at the Hemicycle would be in place for a period of approximately one year beginning in late spring 2013. Concurrent with this competition, GSA will make permanent site enhancements, including new seating and landscape improvements.

The competition is being conducted in two stages, with artist/designer team submissions for the first stage of the competition due March 1. Full details about the competition are available at www.ncpc.gov/beyondgranite.

The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's central planning agency in the District of Columbia and surrounding counties of Maryland and Virginia. The Commission provides overall guidance for federal land and buildings in the region. It also reviews the design of federal projects and memorials, oversees long-range planning for future development, and monitors capital investment by federal agencies.

As the federal government's workplace solutions provider, the U.S. General Services Administration works to foster an effective, sustainable and transparent government for the American people. GSA's expertise in government workplace solutions include:

- *Effective management of government assets including more than 9,600 government-owned or leased buildings and 250,000 vehicles in the federal fleet, and preservation of historic federal properties;*
- *Leveraging the government's buying power through responsible acquisition of products and services making up approximately 14 percent of the government's total procurement dollars;*
- *Providing innovative technology solutions to enhance government efficiency and increase citizen engagement; and,*
- *Promoting responsible use of federal resources through development of governmentwide policies ranging from federal travel to property and management practices.*

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