



Delegated Action of the Executive Director

PROJECT Murals at 23rd Street and Virginia Avenue, NW Overpass 23rd Street and Virginia Avenue, NW Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 8094
SUBMITTED BY District Department of Transportation	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 23.20(38.00)44971
	ACTION TAKEN Approve preliminary and final site development plans
	REVIEW AUTHORITY Advisory Per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1)

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) on behalf of CulturalDC has submitted preliminary and final site development plans for the installation of a pair of murals in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood in northwest Washington, DC. The murals will be installed on the guardrails located on either side of 23rd Street between the north and south lanes of the Virginia Avenue overpass. The murals will be installed indefinitely and maintained by Abdo Development and the artist as needed.

Designed by local artist John David Deardourff, the design concept consists of presenting imagery connected to the place and history of the area in a bold, fun, and colorful way. The artwork consists of jazzy, energetic shapes inspired by comic books. The murals include abstract images of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln because of their instant facial recognition at large scale and the proximity to the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial.

The existing curvilinear guardrail located to the west of 23rd Street will include an image of George Washington. The west mural is approximately five feet in height by 46 feet in length. The orthogonal guardrail, located to the east of 23rd Street, will include an image of Abraham Lincoln. The east mural is approximately 4.5 feet in height by 35 feet in length. The murals materials include exterior paint, spray paint, and high bonding exterior sealer.

Pursuant to the National Capital Planning Act, NCPC's review authority over district projects outside the central area is advisory, and therefore, in carrying out its review of the project NCPC does not have an independent NEPA or Section 106 obligation.

NCPC staff coordinated the project with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO). The proposed murals are located within the George Washington University /Old West End Historic District. The DC SHPO has informally determined that the project would not result in adverse effects to historic properties. However, the DCSHPO will provide a formal response as part of the permitting process, once DDOT submits the project for their review.

NCPC finds that the murals would not diminish the significant view of the Washington Monument along Virginia Avenue because they will be installed on the existing guardrails, which are approximately five feet in height, thus not changing the dimensions of the existing structure. In addition, the murals will be reversible as the guardrails can be painted over without damaging the concrete guardrails. If removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic context would be unimpaired. Lastly, the murals would not be placed on historic property.



Figure 1 Proposed George Washington mural, looking west at Virginia Avenue and 23rd Street NW

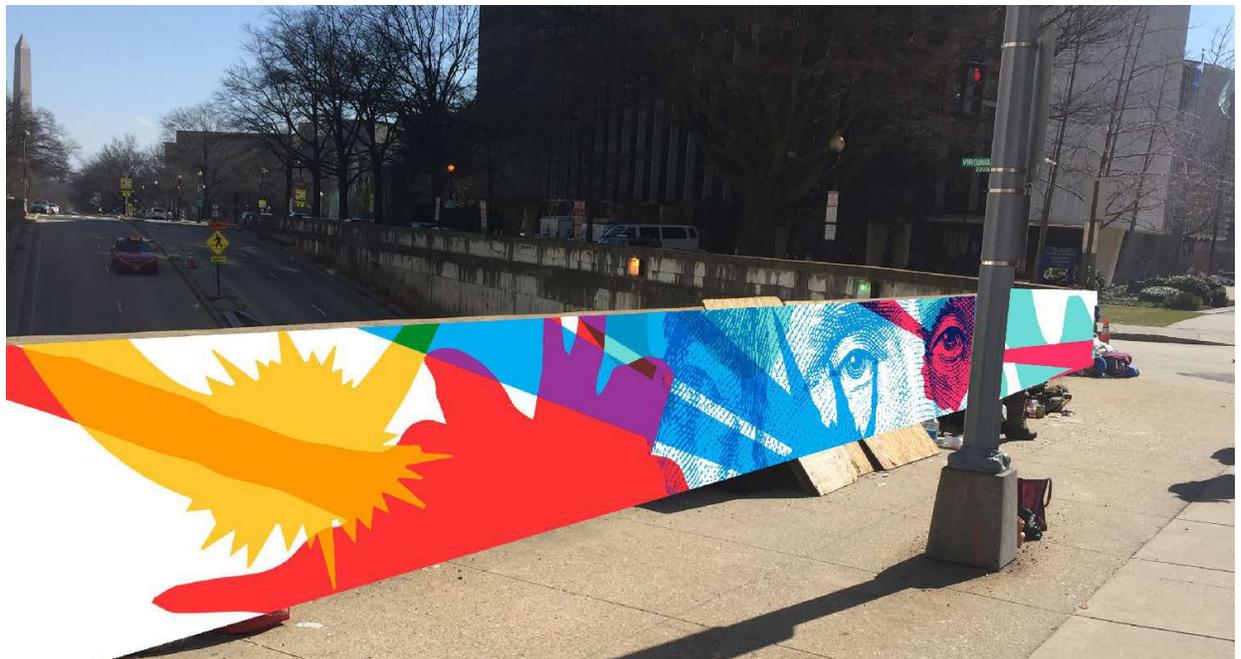


Figure 2 Proposed Abraham Lincoln mural, looking east along Virginia Avenue toward the Washington Monument

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Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1), I approve the preliminary and final site development plans for the Murals at 23rd Street and the Virginia Avenue, NW overpass.

// Original Signed //

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Marcel Acosta Executive Director	July 2, 2019 Date