Placemaking with Commemoration

Angela Dupont
Commemorative Works Act (1986)

Commemorative works:

• Permanently perpetuate the memory of an individual, group, event or other significant element of American history, with a 25 year waiting period.

• Authorized by Congress by separate law.

• Reflect a consensus of the lasting national significance of the subjects.

• Designated a “Reserve” area within the core of the National Mall where the siting of new commemorative works is prohibited.

• Usually privately financed and located on public National Park Service or other federal land.
Memorials Plans and Policies
Issues and Challenges
Issues and Challenges

Primary themes represented by existing commemorative works on federal land within the District of Columbia

- American Military: 51%
- America and the World: 22%
- American Statesmanship: 20%
- Arts and Sciences: 13%
- American Society and Culture: 13%
- Founding of the Nation: 10%
- D.C. History: 4%
- Other: 2%

Note: On GSA and NPS property only; some works fall under more than one theme.
New Ideas for Commemoration

National Mall - AIDS Quilt (1987)

Memorials for the Future

https://future.ncpc.gov/
Memorials for the Future
Memorials for the Future

- Allow for changing narratives.
- Use local settings for national issues.
- Create memorials with the public as well as for the public.
- Engage the present and future as much as the past.
The IM(MIGRANT): Honoring the Journey

Image credits: Sahar Coston-Hardy, Janelle L. Johnson, Michelle Lin-Luse, Radhika Mohan
VOICEOVER

Image credits: Troy Hillman, Amy Catania Kulper, Anca Trandafirescu, Yurong Wu
American Wild: A Memorial

Image credits: Shelby Doyle, Justine Holzman, Forbes Lipschitz, Halina Steiner
Monument Lab – Temporary Monuments

What is an appropriate monument for the current city of Philadelphia?

- If They Should Ask
- On the Threshold (Salvaged Stoops, Philadelphia)
- The Built/Unbuilt Square
Monument Lab – Public Engagement

Each point represents a proposed monument to answer the question “What is an appropriate monument for the current city of Philadelphia?”

Monument Types With More Than 10 Proposed Monuments

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- Conceptual: 132
- Digital Project: 19
- Interactive: 64
- Garden: 15
- Park: 27
- Song/Sound: 15
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