

Washington As Commemoration Information Presentation

A Joint Study by the
National Capital Planning Commission & the National Park Service

October 7, 2010

Key Goals

To provide foundational research about the subjects and themes currently represented in Washington's commemorative landscape.



Mary McLeod Bethune



General
Winfield Hancock



U.S. Navy Memorial

Key Goals

To inform various decision-making points in the commemorative works process.

- NCMAC – provides views to Congress on legislation that proposes new commemorations
- DOI / GSA; NCPC / CFA – approves new sites

“To the maximum extent possible, a commemorative work shall be located in surroundings that are relevant to the subject of the work.” - Commemorative Works Act



Key Tasks of the Study

- A. Develop a catalogue of the subjects of existing memorials (Feb. 2010).
- B. Identify major themes and subthemes currently represented in the commemorative landscape (Feb. 2010).
- C. Explore how other capital cities address issues related to subject matter through case study research (Oct. 2010).**
- D. Research Washington practices and consider next steps (Spring 2011).

Case Studies

How do other capital cities address issues related to subject matter and themes?

Does Washington face similar or unique challenges in establishing new commemorations?

How does Washington's process compare to other cities?

Capital Cities

International Capitals

Berlin, Germany

Canberra, Australia

London/Westminster, England

Ottawa, Canada

State Capitals

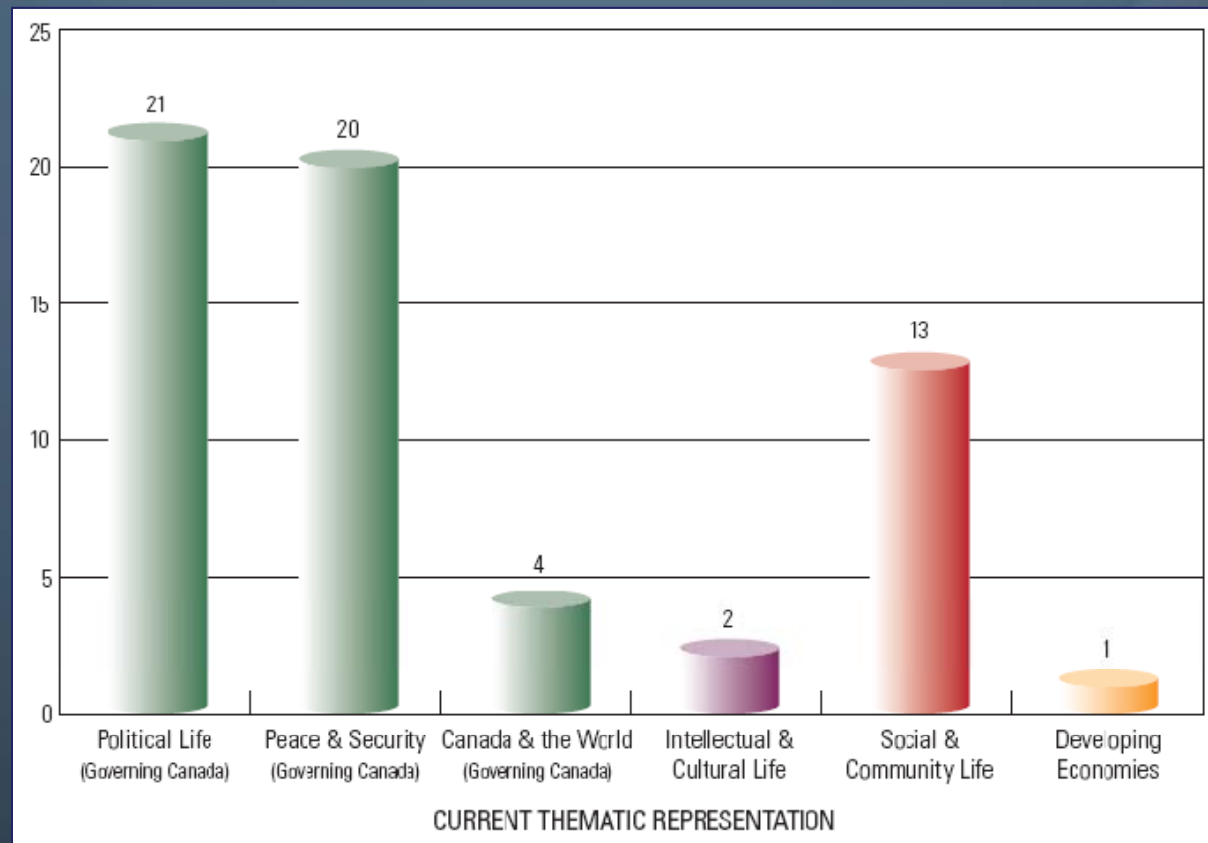
Boston, Massachusetts

Salt Lake City, Utah

St. Paul, Minnesota

Key Findings

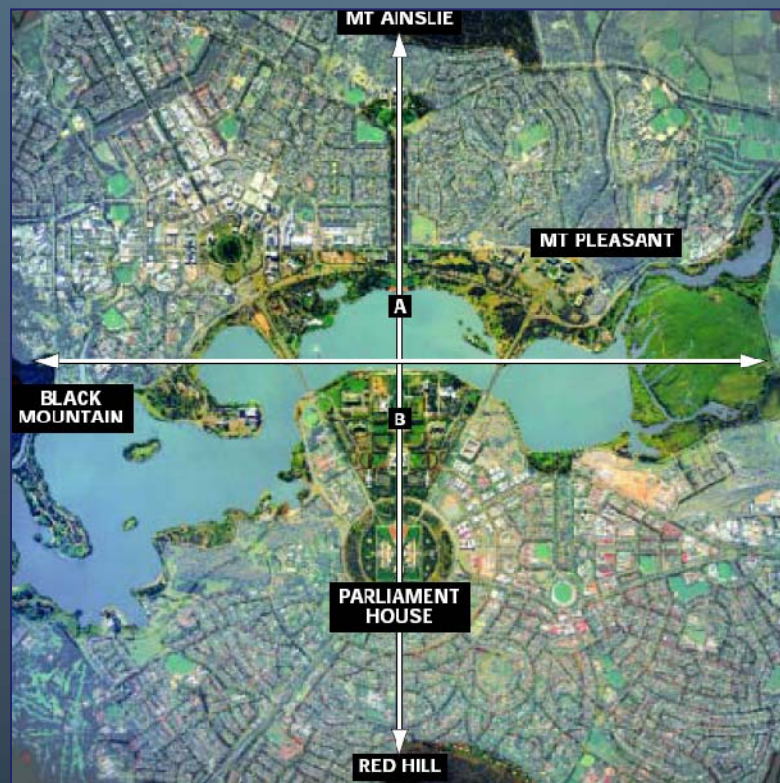
- Two cities have catalogued existing works based on subject matter or theme (Ottawa, Canberra)



from *Canada's Capital Commemoration Strategic Plan* (NCC)

Key Findings

- Three cities try to locate new works near related institutions or commemorations with similar subject matter (Ottawa, Canberra, St. Paul)



from *Guidelines for Commemorative Works in the National Capital (NCA)*

Key Findings

- Two cities require a historical connection between the subject and site (Berlin, London / Westminster)



Stumble Stones



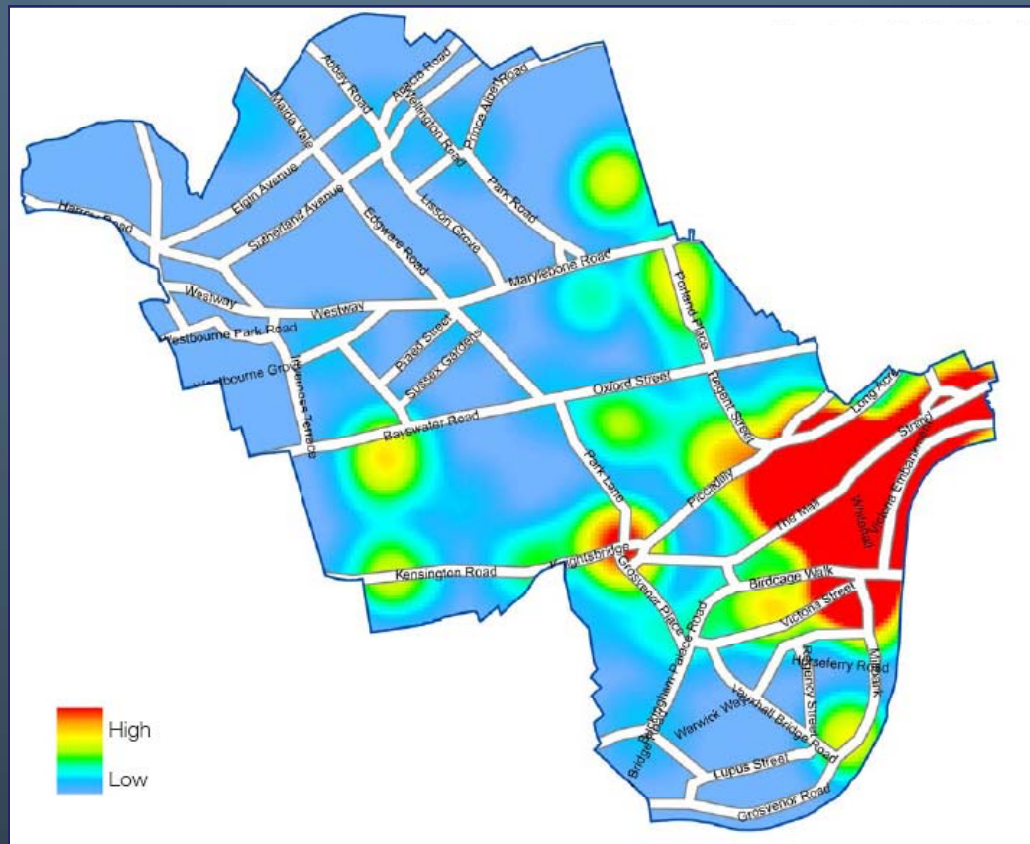
Bebelplatz Memorial



Monument to the Murdered Jews of Europe

Key Findings

- Two cities have placed moratoria on new works in the most prominent locations (London / Westminster, Boston)



from *Statues and Monuments in Westminster* (City of Westminster)

Key Findings

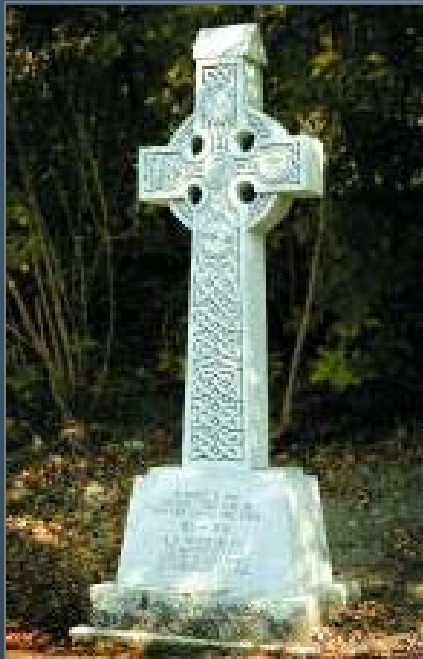
- Two cities have placed moratoria on new works in the most prominent locations (London / Westminster, Boston)



Downtown Boston

Key Findings

- Three cities have formal or informal policies to encourage new works in other areas (Ottawa, Canberra, St. Paul)



Rideau Canal
Workers Memorial

Order Three

- intimate sites, smaller-scale commemorations
- located along edges of pathways, in open spaces or small niches
- potential to include linear series of thematically-related commemorations
- “excellent opportunities to create suitable ambiance for quiet reflection and impart an element of discovery”

Key Findings

- Nearly all of the cities cited increasing pressure to commemorate a person or event immediately



9/11 Memorial, Boston Public Garden



Street renaming, Salt Lake City

Key Findings

- All of the national capitals noted challenges accepting gifts from other nations or establishing memorials to leaders of other nations



Gandhi Memorial, Canberra



Gandhi Memorial, DC

Key Findings

- Three cities have specific restrictions against the duplication of subject matter (Ottawa, Canberra, St. Paul)



South Boston Vietnam Memorial



Dorchester Vietnam Veterans Memorial

BEYOND GRANITE

Global Approaches to Art, Placemaking, and National Commemoration

NCPC 2010 Speaker Series Event



Presented by
the National Capital Planning Commission,
the Smithsonian American Art Museum,
the British Council, and
the Trust for the National Mall

BEYOND GRANITE

GLOBAL APPROACHES
TO ART, PLACEMAKING,
AND NATIONAL COMMEMORATION

Wednesday, December 8, 2010
Smithsonian American Art Museum



Fourth Plinth, London



“Veterans’ Flame” by Krzysztof Wodiczko



“Tribute in Light” by Julian LaVerdiere and collaborators