



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

June 25, 2021

Ms. Heran Sereke-Brhan
Executive Director
DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
200 I Street SE, Suite 1400
Washington, DC 20003
heran.sereke-brhan2@dc.gov

RE: Public Art Building Communities (PABC) Grant Application for the Installation of Duke Ellington Artwork in Duke Ellington Park at the Intersection of New Hampshire Avenue, M Street, and 21st Street NW

Dear Ms. Sereke-Brhan,

At its regular meeting on June 16, 2021, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“**ANC 2A**” or “**Commission**”) considered the above-referenced matter. With eight of eight commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted unanimously (**8-0-0**), after a motion made by Commissioner Causey and seconded by Commissioner Omictin, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Edward "Duke" Ellington's birth in the West End neighborhood of Washington, DC has been established by his official District of Columbia birth certificate, which shows that he was delivered by a midwife on April 29, 1899 at a house at 2129 Ward Place NW, which is adjacent to Duke Ellington Park at 1205 New Hampshire Avenue NW, located in the boundaries of ANC 2A in the West End neighborhood,

WHEREAS, on February 17, 2010, ANC 2A unanimously approved a resolution to the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) requesting the renaming of the unnamed triangular park at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue, M Street, and 21st Street NW – which is the nearest public park to Duke Ellington’s birthplace on Ward Place NW – as “Duke Ellington Park” to honor his achievements as a major figure in American music – as a composer, instrumentalist and band leader,

WHEREAS, in an effort to preserve the African American history of the neighborhood and its prominent residents, ANC 2A successfully lobbied DPR to rename the park as “Duke Ellington Park,” which the DC Council designated as Duke Ellington Park: Section 2 of D.C. Law 18-244 pursuant to section 401 of the Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D. C. Official Code § 9-204.01)
<https://code.dccouncil.us/dc/council/code/titles/9/chapters/2/subchapters/IV/>,



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WHEREAS, ANC 2A and the residents of both the West End and Foggy Bottom neighborhoods have continued to recognize and honor Duke Ellington with annual birthday concerts in “Duke Ellington Park” in his honor,

WHEREAS, ANC 2A now seeks to erect a prominent art memorial to Duke Ellington in Duke Ellington Park to educate the community and visitors to the important African American history in this neighborhood, which would be situated in the park at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and M Street NW with an expansive sightline down M Street NW,

WHEREAS, ANC 2A successfully secured Planned Unit Development (PUD) community amenity funds totaling \$30,000 from Boston Properties to support creation of this appropriate art memorial to Duke Ellington but needs additional funds for the memorial, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2A is a creation of DC legislation with a quasi-governmental role and is thus prohibited from applying for a Public Art Building Communities (PABC) grant from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCA) and thus sought the support of the Foggy Bottom Association (FBA) for this grant application, which FBA has enthusiastically supported.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A supports FBA’s DCCA PABC application for funding to create a fitting artwork memorial to recognize and honor West End native Duke Ellington in Duke Ellington Park., located at 1205 New Hampshire Avenue NW at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue, M Street, and 21st Street NW, and asks that DCCA fully fund FBA’s application.

Commissioner Jeri Epstein (2A06@anc.dc.gov) is the Commission’s representative in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Jeri Epstein
Chairperson