



## Call to Artists

# 53 Commissions for Permanent Two & Three Dimensional Artworks!

→APPLY ONLINE AT: <https://dcdgs.call2artists.com>

**Applications Due May 29, 2023**

### **Opportunity**

The Department of General Services (“Department” or “DGS”) is issuing this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to engage individual artists and artistic teams (Artist) to respond to this Call to Artists with professional qualifications in addition to a proposal of site-specific artistic capital improvements for the renovation and additions to the following properties in Washington, DC. The Artists shall develop a new original permanent work of art made specifically for each awarded commission.

1. Garfield Elementary School
2. Whitlock Elementary School
3. School Without Walls at Francis Stevens
4. Dorothy Height Elementary School
5. Stead Park Recreation Center
6. Joy Evans Therapeutic Recreation Center

### **Project Goals, Themes, & Budget**

This Call for Artists seeks works of art for the following spaces throughout the listed properties below. Please be very specific (referring to School or Recreation Center and Location number) as which piece(s) of art you are responding to. There is one online application where you can just check off the commissions for which you are applying.

## **About DGS and the Percent for Art program**

The Department of General Services (DGS) began its percent for art program in 2013 as a way to support our local creative economy and complement our award-winning architecture with diverse and inspiring permanent works of art. Since inception, DGS has commissioned nearly 400 works of art for nearly 20 properties – about 75 new works of art per year for the city. Our portfolio includes schools, shelters, parks and recreation and office buildings. Note: our sister agencies – the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities has a very robust public art program, as does DC Department of Public Works Mural Program, DC Libraries and DC Department of Transportation. In addition, in D.C., the GSA and Metro also have very robust public art programs. Thus, we are honored to do our part in a vibrant network of cultural resources in Washington, D.C. to support artists and elevate our built environment.

Our commissions range from large scale exterior sculptures, installations, suspended works of art, mixed media, paintings, illustrations, graphics, photography, furniture and even poetry. The program always reserves at least 50% of its commissions to DC artists or artists represented by DC galleries to ensure that our tax dollars are reinvested back into our local community. Even artists from outside of D.C. typically contribute to our local creative economy by working with local fabricators, printers, equipment rental outfits and installers – some of whom have even taken on emerging artists as assistants for installation and as mentees. All in all, we have a profound and deep gratitude for the artists, architects, construction teams and community who contribute to each commission.

The Department of General Services (DGS) has a mission to elevate the quality of life for the District with superior construction, first-rate maintenance and expert real estate management. By building and maintaining safe and green state-of-the-art facilities which foster economic growth and elevate educational environments, our trusted and skillful employees create modern and vibrant communities across all of the District of Columbia.

The Department of General Services (DGS), a relatively newly-established District agency, provides cost-effective, centralized facility management services. In October of 2011, the agency assumed the functions and responsibilities of the Department of Real Estate Services (DRES), Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization (OPEFM), Municipal Facilities: Non-Capital agency, and the capital construction and real property management functions of several other District agencies.

DGS improves the efficiencies of basic services, while removing redundancies, to provide the most cost-effective management and ensure the best value of the District's property acquisition, construction and maintenance resources.

## **Eligibility**

The competition is open to professional artists with a minimum of five years of site-specific and/or public art experience. Some categories are restricted to artists from Washington, D.C. or artists who are represented by a D.C. gallery. Artists should have demonstrated experience working with community representatives, youth, businesses and government entities. In addition, the selected artist shall actively engage and collaborate with local residents.

## **Selection Criteria & Process**

The selection panel, representing diverse interests and expertise, will review images submitted by artists and recommend (3) three to (5) five Finalists for each project for the first (1<sup>st</sup>) round. Each Finalist will be awarded a \$500 honorarium to create a site-specific design proposal that includes a rendering, an itemized budget, a project timeline, and a project narrative. For the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) round, the selection panel will review the design proposals, references will be checked and then (1) one finalist/team for the project will be recommended. Finalists will be notified by email. The artist's presentation of the site-specific proposal to the panel will be held virtually via "GoTo Meeting." Please note the Calendar and Timeline below.

Local finalists are welcome to attend the site visit (but DGS will share pictures to everyone via email)

The Public Art Evaluation Criteria used for Round 2 finalists will consider the artistic content, community engagement & impact, and capacity & sustainability

## **Artistic Content**

The applicant's work sample and support materials (brochures, articles, letters of support, etc.) demonstrate high standards of artistic excellence within the chosen discipline(s);  
Artist(s) and/or applicant's written concept exhibits high quality, innovation and creativity  
Applicant has experience with site specific public art projects and uses personnel with demonstrated arts expertise (such as arts administrator, professional artists) to plan and implement artistic content;  
The described project, goals and schedule of planned activities are feasible;  
The applicant demonstrates a commitment to hiring DC-based artists, where applicable, to deliver artistic content (such as arts administrators, professional artists); and  
Artist(s) and/or applicant demonstrate the ability to translate artistic discipline to project participants.  
The Artist's portfolio of work is feasible for this particular project.

## **Community Engagement and Impact**

Project provides shared learning opportunities in the District that facilitate a greater participation in the arts, relative to the artistic discipline  
Applicant demonstrates sensitivity to the cultural, ethnic and economic background of the participants and the residents of the District of Columbia  
Project addresses significant diversity of expression; Project addresses needs of the community;  
Project location(s) and presentation(s) are accessible to persons with disabilities; and  
Applicant has substantive experience working with community representatives, landscape architects, business and government entities

Notes:

2D: Two-dimensional. 2D pieces, typically wall-mounted, can be either bas relief, mixed media, painting, or printed. 2D pieces shall not protrude more than 4" from the wall surface and shall be kid-safe.

3D: Three-dimensional. Typically for exterior or interior-suspended. Works shall be child-friendly, meaning touchable (if in reach as opposed to suspended works for example), kid-safe and durable.

There are two (2) selection processes:

Request for Qualifications (RFQ), whereby an Artist and/or Team submits images of prior work demonstrating a minimum of five years of site-specific public art experience.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 29, 2023**

**SEMI-FINALISTS ANNOUNCED: June 20, 2023**

The finalist for each location will be determined through an Art Selection Committee selection process. Due to the quantity of artwork being commissioned, the Selection Committee reserves the right to direct commission and/or select artists who applied for one commission location for any other location. This will be a commission for a new original permanent work of art made specifically for the site. A site visit will be conducted in concert with the architect and general contractor prior to the submittal of a site-specific design proposal and photos will be shared with out-of-town finalists, or finalists who are otherwise unable to attend the site visit.

**SITE SPECIFIC DESIGN PROPOSAL DEADLINE: August 23, 2023**

Site Specific Design Proposals shall include or consider the following:

- Fabricated from durable, low-maintenance material that can withstand the elements and requires minimal maintenance. This work will be permanently installed in a school or recreation center and must be able to withstand in an environment of very rigorous usage
- The work commissioned is for permanent installation and therefore should last for at least 50 years.
- Incorporate context of the local community, with sensitivity to the history, traditions and iconography that uplift the pride of the community.
- Adhere to requisite ADA and safety regulations.
- Engaging and enjoyable to individuals of all ages and backgrounds.
- DGS will prepare the site for installation, which may include blocking walls for reinforcement, concrete pads for exterior works and lighting. HOWEVER, the artist shall provide all installation, including fabrication, delivery, lifts, cabling, bolting, and other similar items. The artist shall work with DGS to confirm installation arrangements.
- We do have a list of local museum installers, rental companies and printers that can be of assistance if needed.
- Since the permanent installations will be located in very active environments (schools, shelters, recreation centers, etc.), it is crucial that your proposal consists of materials and/or coatings that are durable. For instance, for paintings and other flat surfaces, we require two (2) coats of UV/graffiti protection. For paintings, we typically have them pasted onto the surface with a simple wood frame built around it – so that if the work needs to be removed in the future, it can be saved and carefully removed from the original location. If the artwork is installed at human height level, your work should be able to withstand touching and be extremely durable and easily cleaned. These details can be fleshed out in final design but should be accounted for in your budget.
- **Three (3) References from recent projects**

**Capacity and Sustainability**

The applicant is sufficiently stable, in terms of arts expertise, organizational capacity, and financial status to implement the proposed project;  
 The applicant demonstrates the internal capacity to administer the project and has appropriate financial monitoring systems in place to track expenditures  
 The applicant’s budget information is detailed, accurate, feasible, and directly related to the project. All items are eligible expenses;  
 The applicant has experience in producing similar public art projects; The work of art is designed to last for at least 50 years; and  
 The design proposal and the selection committee’s recommendations will be forwarded to the DGS for review and final approval. The artist whose design is approved will then enter into an agreement with DGS for final design, fabrication and installation of the artwork.

The final selection is conditioned upon a positive reference check.

**Project Timeline**

Public Art Timeline		
Activity	Start Date	End Date
Call-2-Artists/ RFQ Advertised on DGS's Website		Friday, May 5, 2023
RFQ Application Deadline for Artists		Monday, May 29, 2023
Semifinalists Notified and Announced	Tuesday, June 13, 2023	to Tuesday, June 20, 2023
Site Review & Share Photos With Out-of-Town Artists	Wednesday, June 21, 2023	to Wednesday, July 12, 2023
Site Specific Proposal Deadline		Wednesday, August 23, 2023
Consensus Meeting w' Panel to Confirm Winning Artists	Friday, September 29, 2023	to Friday, October 13, 2023
Announcement and Winning Artists Notified	Friday, October 13, 2023	to Friday, October 20, 2023
Artist's Jobsite Review, or Photos Shared, Survey	Monday, October 23, 2023	to Monday, November 6, 2023
Final Design Mtg, Contracts Issued, Process 1st Payment	Tuesday, November 7, 2023	to Tuesday, November 28, 2023
Fabrication, Delivery and Installation	Wednesday, November 29, 2023	to Friday, June 28, 2024
Installation Deadline		Friday, June 28, 2024

## RFQ SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

### 1. Round One – Complete the On-line Form Located at:

<https://dgs.dc.gov/page/dgs-solicitations> - then choose which commission(s) for which you wish to apply. There is one on-line application this year, on which you can apply to all properties at the same time. However, you will need to download each Call to Artists to access the pdf that has art package with the floor plans and elevations for each project.

### 2. Round Two – Submit the Design Proposal(s)

TO SUBMIT PRESENTATION(S) FOR ROUND 2:

-PRIOR TO THE VIRTUAL SITE-SPECIFIC PROPOSAL PRESENTATION, ARTISTS SHALL SUBMIT THE DESIGN PROPOSAL(S) AND ANY DIGITAL MODEL THAT THE ARTIST MAY HAVE. DGS WILL UPLOAD THE PRESENTATION AND WILL FACILITATE THE PRESENTATION OF YOUR PROPOSAL WHEN IT IS YOUR TURN TO REVIEW BASED ON A TIME SLOT THAT DGS PROVIDES. THE PRESENTATION SCHEDULE WILL TYPICALLY ALLOW EACH ARTIST TEN (10) MINUTES EACH FOR PROPOSAL PRESENTATION (5 MINUTES FOR DESIGN AND 5 MINUTES FOR Q & A).

-THE PRESENTATION WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY VIA GOTO MEETING, INCLUDING ANY DIGITAL MODEL THAT THE ARTIST MAY HAVE.

### 1. QUESTIONS – E-mail to [sandy.bellamy@dc.gov](mailto:sandy.bellamy@dc.gov). Do NOT leave questions on voice mail. Questions and answers will be shared with all participants.

# Stead Park Architectural Art Package



1625 P St NW, Washington, DC 20036

VMDO Architects, 200 E Market St, Charlottesville, VA 22902, 11/02/22

# Background of Stead Park

The Stead Park Community Recreation Center project has two main components - the renovation of and addition to the existing historic building and the renovation of the playgrounds to the east and to the south of the building. The existing historic building is a carriage house / stables that was built in 1888 by Henry Hurt whose house once stood in the open space between the carriage house and the P Street sidewalk. The building became a recreation center around 1950 and shortly thereafter was re-named after Mary Force Stead in whose name her husband Robert Stead had established a trust that was intended to perpetually benefit the children of the District of Columbia.

In 1990 an architecturally undistinguished service wing was added to the rear providing more program space mainly on the second floor. In 2008, when the playground was renovated, the area between the building and P street was changed in several ways which resulted in the building, which sits about 100 feet back from the sidewalk, becoming almost fully obscured from the street.

The current design proposes to make the historic carriage house the visual and physical center of the Stead Park Recreation Center complex. In order to respect the diminutive size of the existing historic building the proposed addition consist of two parts more or less equal in floor size, a lower two-story addition directly behind the carriage house and taller story addition to the west directly behind the basketball court. The project is made up of the following components.

## CARRIAGE HOUSE, FRONT COURTYARD STREET ENTRANCE

- Restore the carriageway opening in the center of the building and have this serve as the new entrance to the expanded recreation facility.
- The interior of the entryway would have a Wall of History on the west side that could contain a display cabinet with archaeological artifacts from the site, photos and documents about various subjects such as the Stead and Hurt families, the earlier days of DPR and this recreation center and the Dupont Circle neighborhood, etc.
- The original masonry openings on the south façade would be restored to recreate the original historic façade.
- The area between the building and the street would be designed as a formal, axial, open space with two rows of trees framing the view of the building and with stairs at the south side leading directly to the street.

## ADDITION – EAST SIDE

-The east half of the addition, directly in back of the historic carriage house, is two stories. The main entrance (old carriageway) to the building leads directly into this room is designed as a large assembly area on the first floor with a mezzanine above on three sides and looks out to the playing field to the north through a 20 ft wide, two-story opening directly opposite the carriageway entrance. Thus immediately on entering, one can see all the way through the building to the playing field, fifty feet away.

-This assembly area is intended to be used intermittently for community meetings or larger program events and on regular basis as an indoor playground, when it is raining or cold outside. At about 2,000 net SF in size the room can accommodate seated assembly of 250 persons seated in chairs for a lecture, ANC meeting or a concert, 150 people at tables and chairs (bridge) or 400 people at a barn dance.

- The demonstration kitchen is located on the west side of the entranceway with access both to the first floor assembly space and the exterior front courtyard

- The carriage house retains a bathroom on the first floor that could be accessible when the building is closed and retains the west stair to the second floor. The remainder of the spaces on the first and second are administrative office spaces with a meeting room in the central space above the main entrance.

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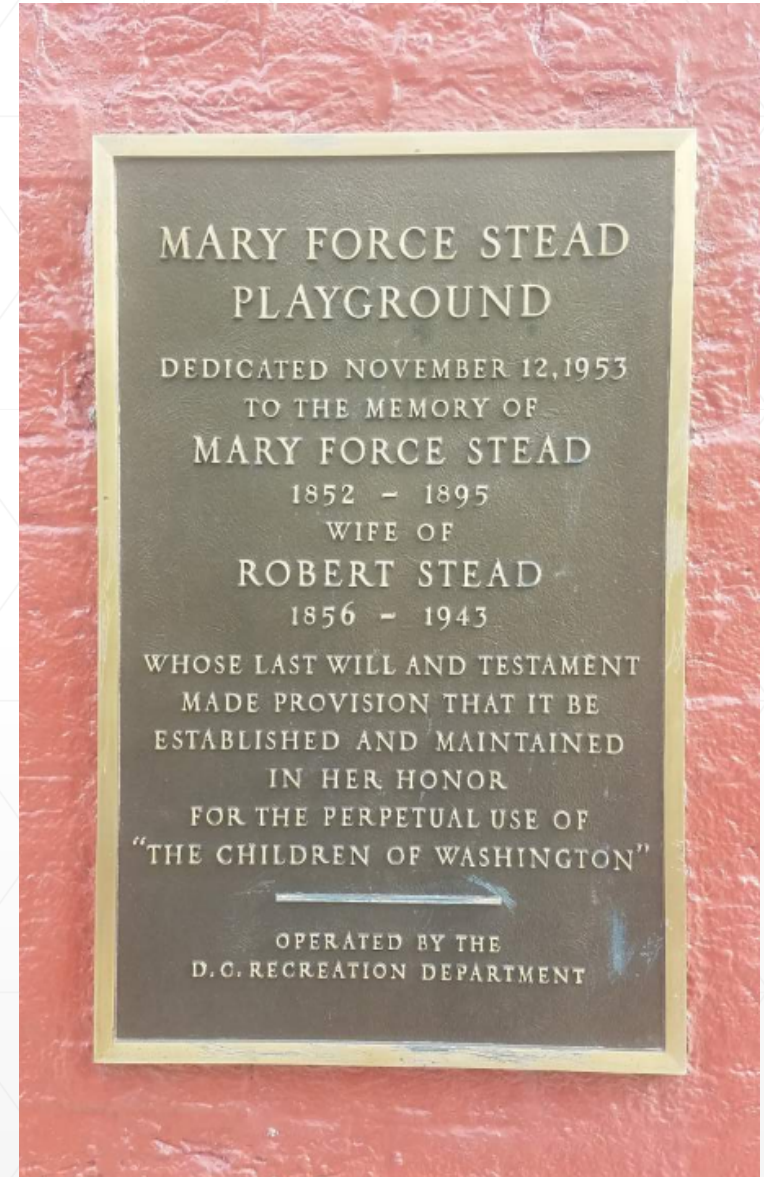


# Background of Community

- Since its opening, Stead Park has been an explicitly unsegregated recreational facility.
- Public events such as the Summer Movie Mania, an outdoor screening sponsored by the city's government, are held at Stead Park.



- Used as a practice field by the Washington Renegades RFC, the first rugby union club in the United States to recruit gay men and men of color.
- Proud heritage as a welcoming place for the LGBTQ + Community



# Finishes and Color Palette

## FINISHES



PT-1

TRIM ON EXISTING BUILDING  
(HISTORIC FEATURES IN CENTER BAY  
AND CORNICE)  
PRIMARY INTERIOR COLOR

PT-2

CURTAIN WALL FRAME AND  
SPANDREL FRAME FOR NEW  
HISTORIC WINDOWS.

PT-3

METAL PANEL

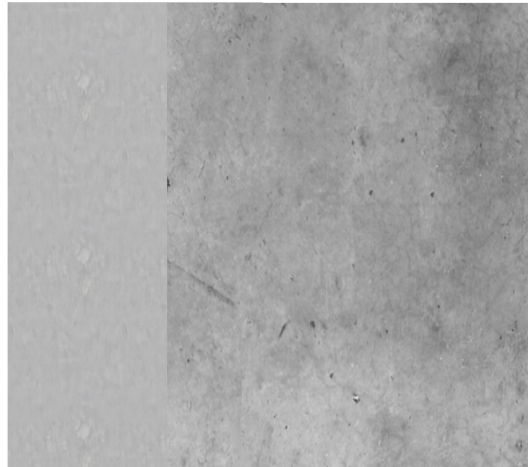
PT-4

STEEL



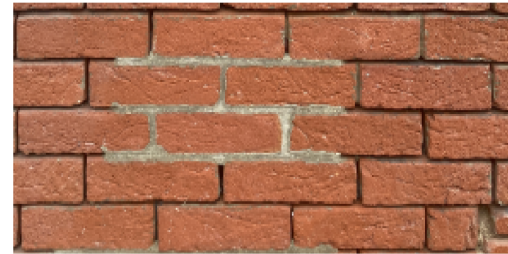
WD-1

RULON CEILING - ASH FINISH



FLOOR-1

POLISHED CONCRETE (FINAL SHADE TBD)



EXISTING BRICK

NEW MORTAR TBD



ROOFING

PAC-CLAD STANDING SEAM  
GRANITE



ROOFING - ALT

PAC-CLAD STANDING SEAM  
MUSKET GRAY



PLAY SURFACE  
SURFACE AMERICA PIP  
EGGSHELL  
#F7E8B4

PLAY SURFACE  
SURFACE AMERICA PIP  
GOLD  
#DE9920

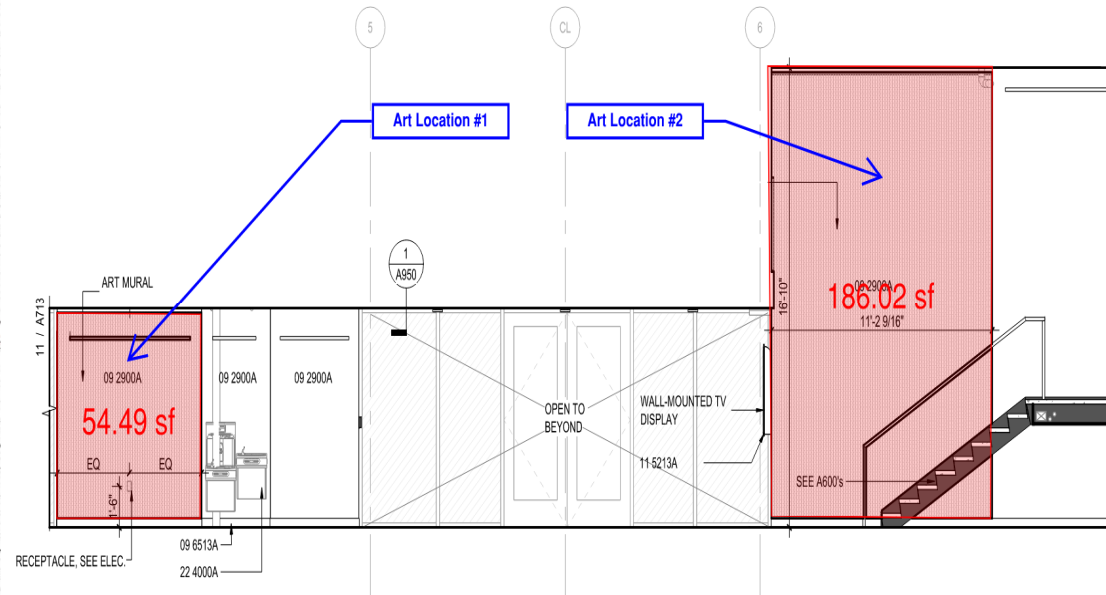
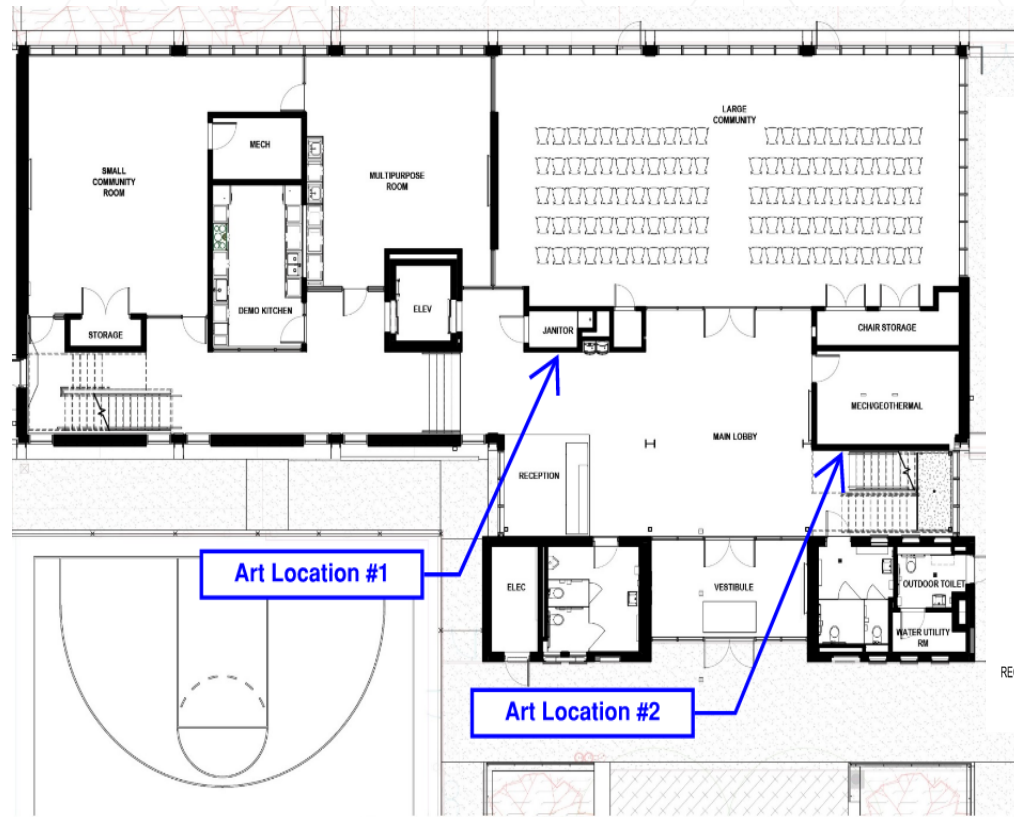


PLAY EQUIPMENT  
LANDSCAPE STRUCTURES, INC.  
LAGOON  
PRIMARY VERTICAL/METAL ELEMENTS  
#007182

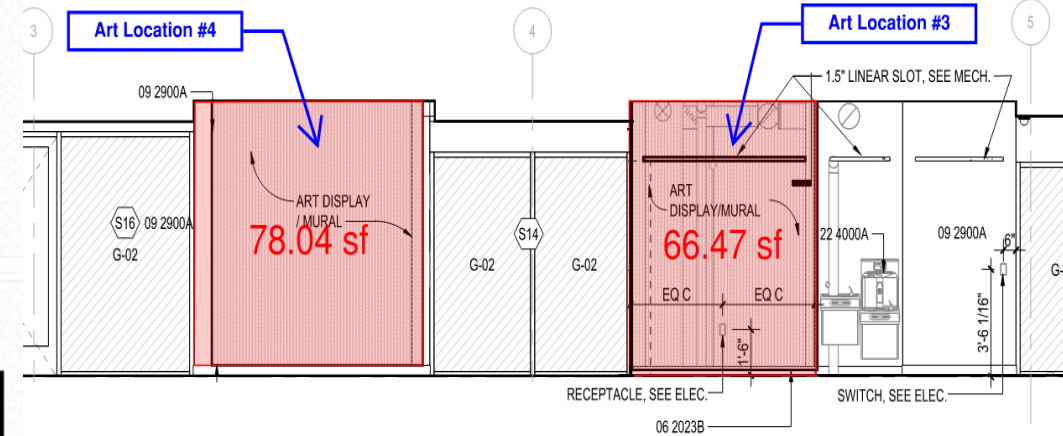
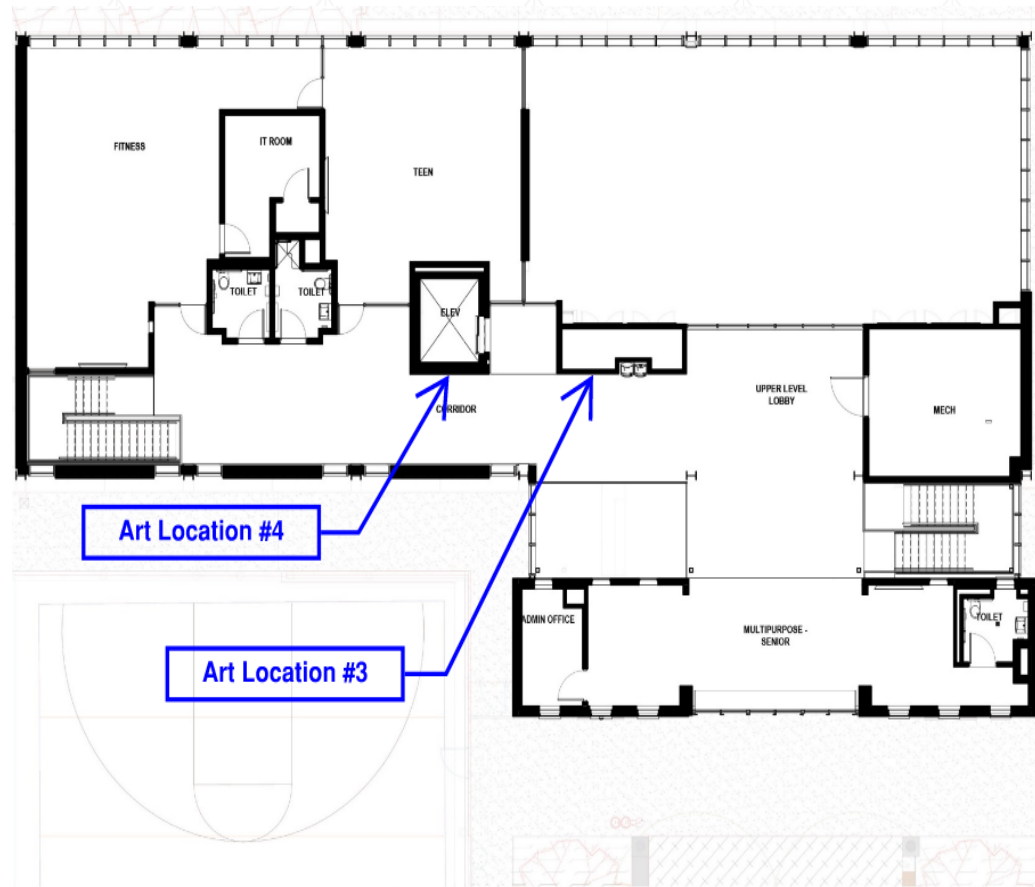
PLAY EQUIPMENT  
LANDSCAPE STRUCTURES, INC.  
LIMON  
ACCENTS  
#ABC13F

PLAY EQUIPMENT  
LANDSCAPE STRUCTURES, INC.  
YELLOW  
OCCASIONAL POCS  
#F48E28

# Art Locations – Park Level



# Art Locations – Mezzanine Level



# Park Level Renderings



PARK LEVEL FLOOR PLAN



VIEW 10 - ENTRY LOBBY

# Mezzanine Level Renderings



VIEW 14 - UPPER LEVEL LOBBY

# Art Location #1

**Potential Commission:** \$20,000

**Description:**

Visual 2D/3D art on the Park-level Lobby wall. Shall not protrude more than 4" from the wall surface to meet ADA

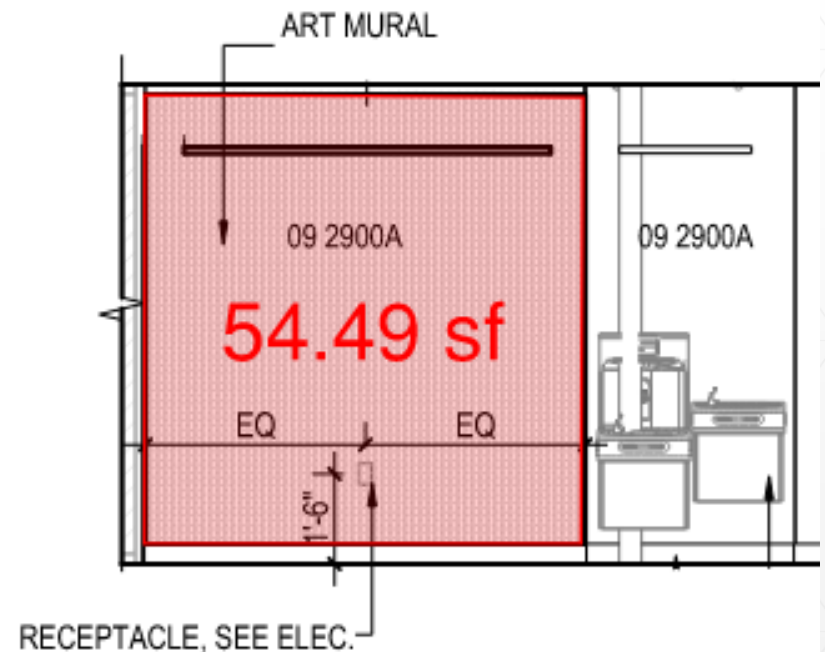
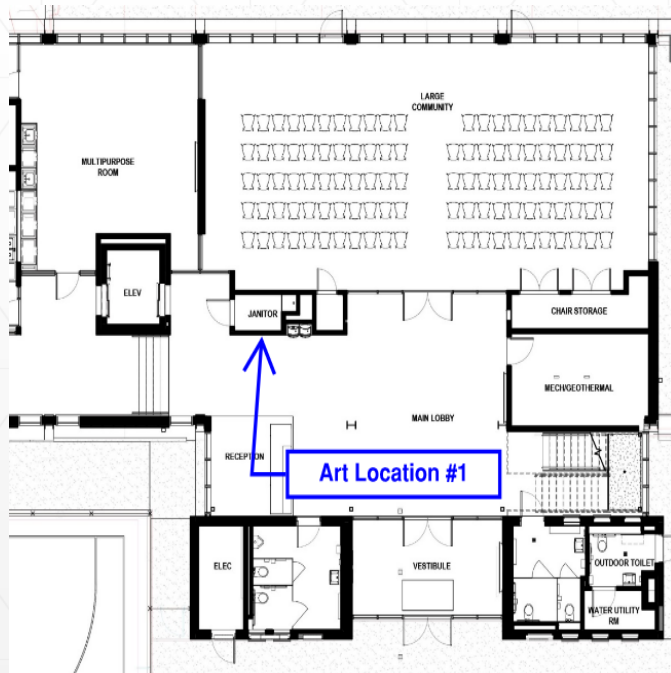
**Dimensions:** 6' – 8"h x 6' – 5"w

**Theme:**

Rocks. Geology is awesome, and this could pair well with language of "Stead Park Rocks" or something fun like that. It could also be really locally-focused about "the earth beneath our feet" or something that references very DC-specific geological formations, such as the Piedmont Outcropping (that creates Great Falls and most of NW DC), the Coastal Plain, the Calvert formation, etc.

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## Plan & Elevation



# Art Location #1 - Inspiration



Kristen Pobatschnig



Stanley Agbontaen



Valerie Theberge



Martha Jackson Jarvis



Ben Butler



# Art Location #2

**Potential Commission:** \$15,000

**Description:**

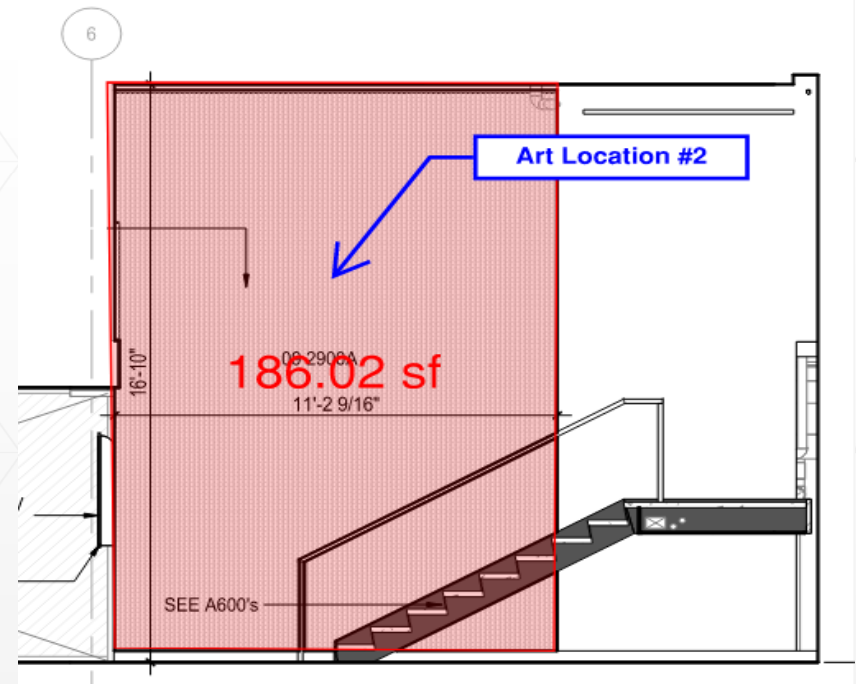
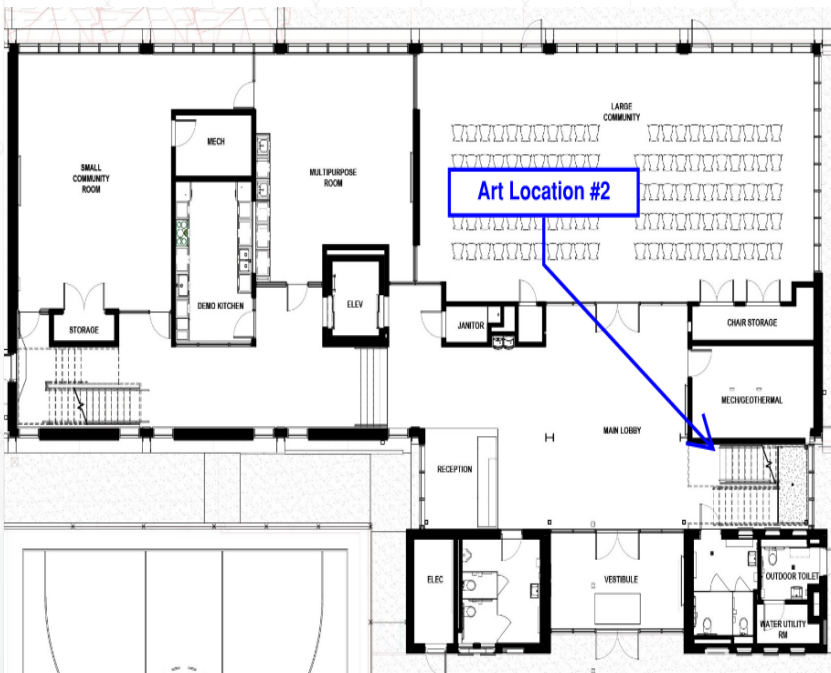
Double-height 2D mural at the West Stair, Stair #2.

**Dimensions:** 14' – 8”h x 10’w

**Theme:**

Wonder. Use the quote from the plaque about Mary Force Stead's vision for the park to be "for the perpetual use of the children of Washington." This could be really kid-centric about imagination, space, the ocean, climate change, science, anything that inspires wonder.

## Plan & Elevation



## Art Location #2 - Inspiration



Jay Coleman



Sandra Francis



Ayuna Kanatkalieva



Artist Unknown

# Art Location #3

**Potential Commission:** \$7,500

**Description:**

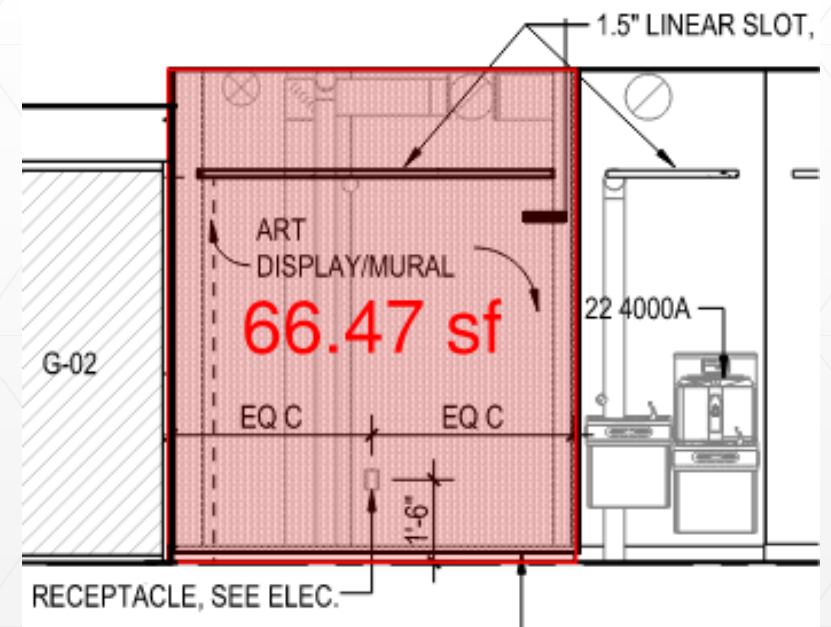
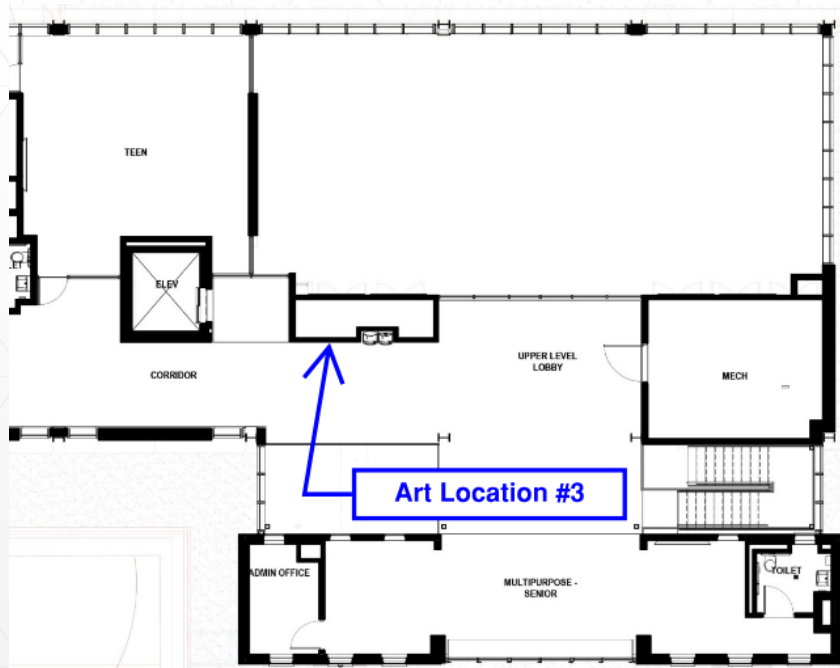
2D mural on the Mezzanine-level Lobby wall.

**Dimensions:** 8' – 11”h x 7' – 4”w

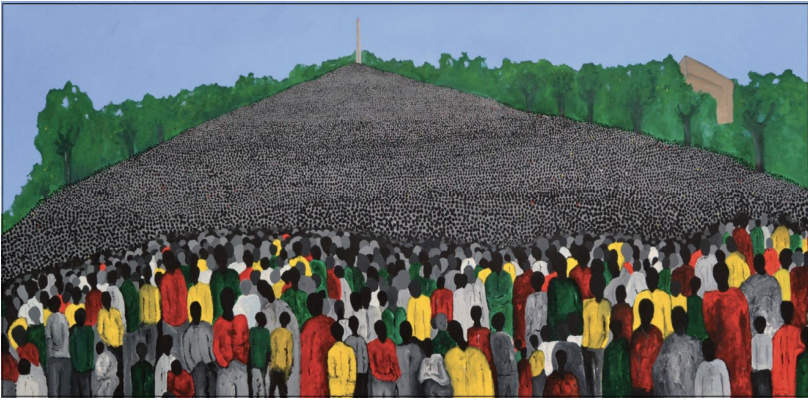
**Theme:**

Equality. Theme could frame different aspects of the multiracial, multiethnic background of DC, as well as frame the importance of this historic Gayborhood and the park's history as an integrated space. This could also offer an egalitarian idea of how the park is a space for all (different) kinds of people into the future. Could be kid-focused, as a learning tool.

## Plan & Elevation



# Art Location #3 - Inspiration



Tim Davis



Artist Unknown



Laurel Latto



Artist Unknown



Jack Pabis

# Art Location #4

**Potential Commission:** \$7,500

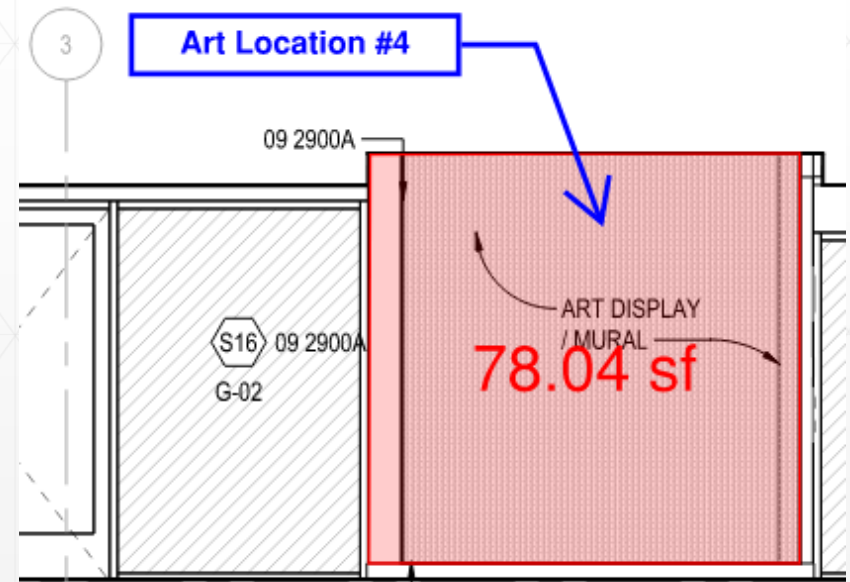
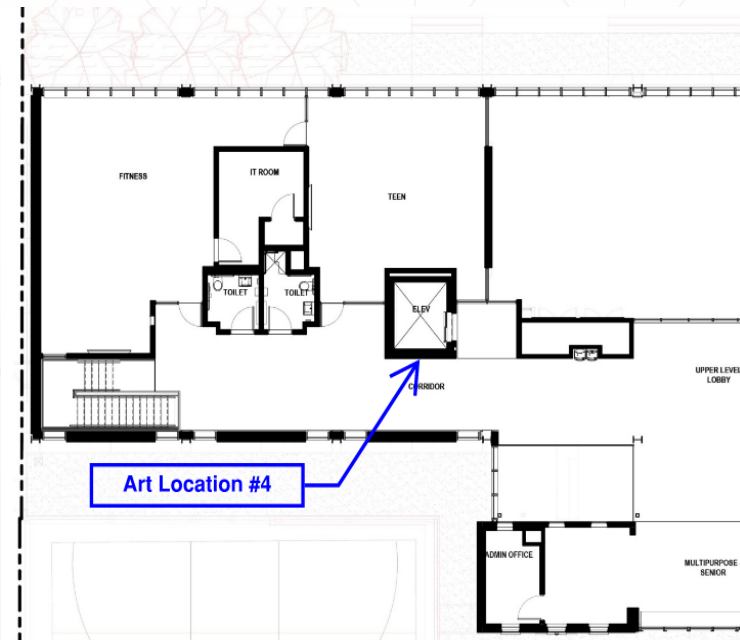
**Description:** 2D mural at the Mezzanine-level Corridor

**Dimensions:** 7' – 10" x 8' – 3"w

**Theme:**

Reaching. This could be aspirational (like "reach for a goal") or more concrete and physical. Words that come to mind are sky, heaven, up, goal, stars, stretch, destination, etc.

## Plan & Elevation



# Art Location #4 - Inspiration



Wesley Clark



Tim Packer



Sandra Francis



Christopher Long