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# Eternal Flame Monument Art Proposal

## Office of Cultural Affairs, Atlanta, GA

February 28th, 2020

- *Eternal Flame Monument for Murdered and Missing Children*
- Goals and Objectives



- Tribute to the victims and their families
- A testament that these lives matter
- Healing
- Comforting
- Closure
- Gathering Place
- Meditative
- Timeless
- Elegant & Quiet



- *Eternal Flame Monument for Murdered and Missing Children*
- Concept Narrative

Thank you for the opportunity to prepare a comprehensive proposal for this very important and solemn project. I am honored to be selected as a finalist and to have the chance to become the vehicle of creativity, as well as that of a collaborator and storyteller. The story of the parents and community of Atlanta is of unimaginable pain and grief, and it is so important that the stories of those 30 young lives, cut short much too soon, are told in a thoughtful and sensitive manner.

In spite of this quick turnaround for an art proposal, I have spent many hours thinking, meditating, researching, and reading about how to tell this story in a way that will inspire, support, heal, give comfort, and embrace the community and especially the families of the victims. The goal of this project is to create a space that expresses love, remembrance, and honor. Every one of the victims' lives mattered, and my memorial proposal is a testament to this community's commitment to never forget this tragedy, and to never forget these souls.

In developing my proposal, I considered factors such as view corridors, the grade change, the adjacent buildings, trees, and walkways while being sure to incorporate the key elements of this project: space for thirty names, an eternal flame, seating, areas for narratives, and/or the poetry of Pearl Cleage. I also took into consideration making sure the sculpture was accessible to everyone, regardless of age or disabilities. I propose a space that not only includes an eternal flame with each victim's name displayed, but also takes a holistic approach by which we incorporate a memorial garden: a contemplative space that is quiet, respectful, solemn, elegant, and powerful. The bench facing the sculpture will serve as a place to sit, pray, and/or meditate.

My proposal embraces the existing grade change in a long, curved, and tapered surface of Corten steel, measuring 52'8" long, and which begins at 2'10", ends at 8'7", and is 1/4" thick. The Corten steel will be fastened to a support structure on the backside of the installation, facing the building. On the corner of the highest side, the flame will sit on a ledge 5'H. This long surface of steel will act as the canvas upon which each of the thirty stainless steel names will be placed. Under each name, there will be a Corten steel shelf that will add visual texture, as well as a space for someone to place a personal touchtone, such as a candle, flower, or teddy bear. The taller end of the tapered steel will be the home of the eternal flame.

Another curved wall of Corten steel, measuring 2'6" tall (1'1" above the bench) and 41'6"L, embraces the visitor in a metaphorical hug with a long concrete bench following its curve. On the lower side of the plaza, where the grade change levels out, will be a paved surface that connects to the sidewalk. The opposite end of the space, where the grade is higher, there will be a series of steps for additional seating. The center of the plaza is where there will be space for engraving of either the poem or a narrative of the history and purpose of the memorial. This memorial garden is intimate enough for a single individual to experience in a meaningful way but large enough to facilitate gatherings.

- *Eternal Flame Monument for Murdered and Missing Children*
- Concept Rendering



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*THANK YOU!*