



Commission of Fine Arts Presentation

July 20, 2023

TRUST FOR THE
NATIONAL MALL



Agenda

Beyond Granite

- Background
- Overview
- Long Term Vision

Beyond Granite: Pulling Together

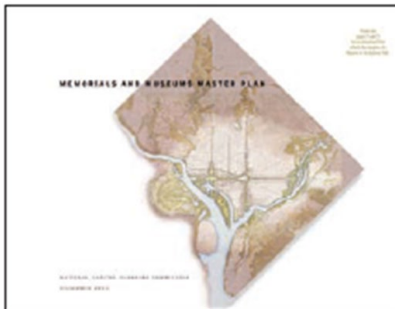
- Curatorial Inspiration & Approach
- Locations
- Artists & Installations
- Activities & Programs

How *Beyond Granite* came to the Trust

2001



Memorials and
Museums Master
Plan



Memorial Trends &
Practice

2016



Memorials for the
Future



Mellon Foundation
Monuments Project

2021



2023



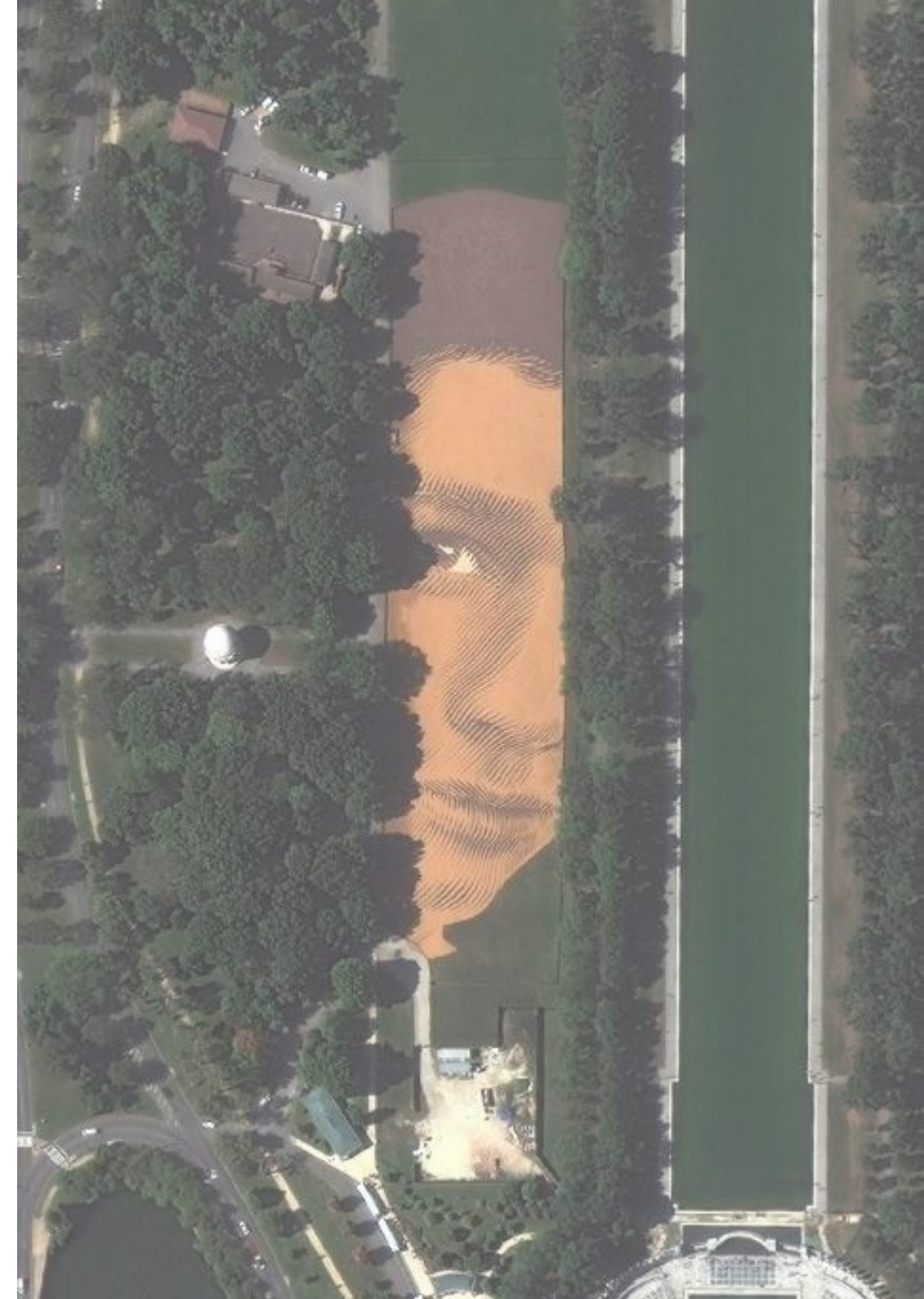
*Beyond
Granite: Pulling
Together*



What is *Beyond Granite*?

Beyond Granite is a new initiative that brings to the National Mall exhibitions, performances, and installations that are designed to help create a more inclusive, equitable, and representative commemorative landscape and provide a broader cross-section of American history and culture.

Beyond Granite's goal is to explore new types of storytelling that rely on temporary art forms to create powerful moments in time that will be remembered.



Out of Many One, Jorge Rodriguez-Gerada

Overarching Questions

What have we learned from the pilot of *Beyond Granite* that can:

- **inform NCPC's policies and practices** regarding future commemoration?
- **provide “proof of concept”** to create a long-term sustainable program at the Trust for the National Mall?

Who is involved?

Beyond Granite is a partnership among the Trust for the National Mall, the National Capital Planning Commission, and the National Park Service.

Beyond Granite is funded by the Mellon Foundation's Monuments Project.

The project's 2023 pilot exhibition, *Beyond Granite: Pulling Together*, is curated by Paul Farber and Salamishah Tillet for Monument Lab.

Justice & Sustainability Associates are supporting District-based engagement to help shape future iterations. Dr. Elizabeth Morton will produce a Key Findings Report based on research and evaluation work throughout the project.

Beyond Granite as a Curated Exhibition

Beyond Granite: Pulling Together is the pilot exhibition of the *Beyond Granite* initiative.

The exhibition is an experiment and one approach to adding stories on the National Mall, featuring one set of stories. The exhibition will feature special works of art, performances, and programs on the National Mall in late summer 2023.



Its central question:

What stories remain untold on the National Mall?

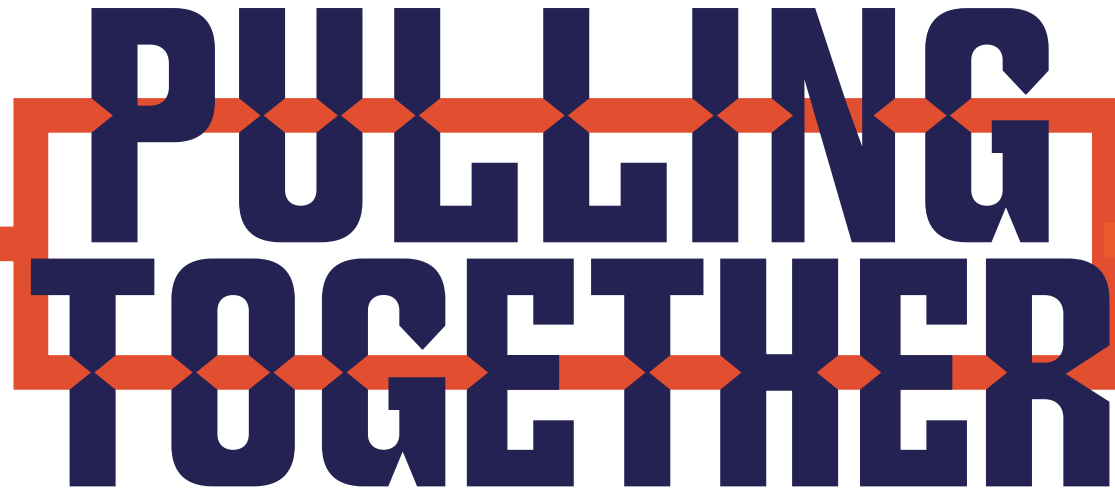
Long-Term Vision

Pulling Together, as a pilot, illustrates one approach and one set of underrepresented themes. This sets the stage for an ongoing program to elevate untold stories and the possibilities are limitless – including the nation’s historic achievements in science, technology, the arts, and exploration.

What we learn from *Pulling Together* can help inform how *Beyond Granite* evolves as a lasting program, sharing more American stories.



Photo: Evy Mages

The text 'PULLING TOGETHER' is rendered in a large, bold, dark blue, sans-serif font. The letters are interconnected by a thick orange line that forms a continuous path through the center of the text, creating a visual effect of being pulled together. A horizontal orange line extends from the left and right sides of the graphic, meeting the vertical bars of the 'P' and 'R' respectively.

**PULLING
TOGETHER**

Exhibition Dates
Aug 18 – Sept 18, 2023

Co-Curators for Monument Lab



Paul Farber

Director and Co-founder,
Monument Lab



Salamishah Tillet

Pulitzer Prize Winner and the
Henry Rutgers Professor
Africana Studies at Rutgers



A nonprofit public art and history studio
based in Philadelphia.

Role: Curate exhibition, liaise with artists
and fabricators, develop programming and
interpretation materials, and coordinate
video and photographic documentation.

Curatorial Advisory Board

**based in or strong connection to the District



Toni Griffin**

Founder, urban american city;
Professor in Practice of Urban
Planning, Harvard Graduate
School of Design



Jason Schupbach**

Dean of the Antoinette
Westphal College of Media Arts
and Design, Drexel University



Kevin Gover**

Under Secretary for Museums
and Culture, Smithsonian
Institution



Laura Brower Hagood**

Executive Director,
DC History Center



Laura Huerta Migus**

Deputy Director, Office of Museum
Services, Institute of Library and
Museum Services



Martha S. Jones

The Society of Black Alumni Pres-
idential Professor, Professor of
History and a Professor at the SNF
Agora Institute, The Johns Hopkins
University



Bryan Lee**

Founder/Director,
Colloqate Design



Monica Rhodes**

Harvard LOEB Fellow



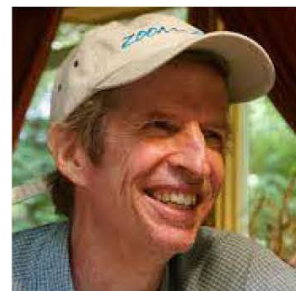
Amber Wiley**

Matt and Erika Nord, Director,
Center for the Preservation of
Civil Rights Sites, Presidential
Associate Professor in Historic
Preservation, University of
Pennsylvania Stuart Weitzman
School of Design.



Katrina Phillips

Associate Professor of History,
Macalester College



Kirk Savage

William S. Dietrich II Professor of
History of Art and Architecture,
University of Pittsburgh



Maria del Carmen Montoya**

Assistant Professor Sculpture and Spatial
Practices, Corcoran School of Art and Design

Selection Process for Artists and Themes

Engage

The Trust for the National Mall invited Monument Lab to curate the pilot exhibition for the *Beyond Granite* initiative.

Research

Monument Lab gathered curatorial research on the history of the National Mall. Under the guidance of co-curators Paul Farber and Salamishah Tillet, a title and theme were selected for the pilot exhibition.

Curate

Six artists were invited to participate in the pilot exhibition and create proposals for projects that respond to “What stories remain untold on the National Mall?” Each invited artist was selected by a curatorial process for their varied approaches to monuments, commemoration, and public memory.

Guide

Trust for the National Mall, the National Park Service, the National Capital Planning Commission, and Monument Lab worked with a 12-person Curatorial Advisory Board to review the artists’ fully developed proposals.

Inspiration – *Beyond Granite: Pulling Together*

designed by Monument Lab; curated by Paul Farber and Salamishah Tillet



Inspired by **Marian Anderson's** 1939 Easter Sunday performance on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, which remains monumental in public memory.

At the time, educator and civil rights activist **Mary McLeod Bethune** remarked that the performance,

“told a story of hope for tomorrow—a story of triumph—a story of ***pulling together***, a story of splendor and real democracy.”

Artwork + Welcome Station Locations

Pulling Together Sites Aug 18–Sept 18, 2023

- 1 vanessa german, *Of Thee We Sing*
- 2 Tiffany Chung, *For the Living*
- 3 Wendy Red Star, *The Soil You See...*
- 4 Derrick Adams, *America's Playground: DC*
- 5 Ashon T. Crawley, *HOMEGOING*
- 6 Paul Ramírez Jonas, *Let Freedom Ring*

● Welcome Stations



Welcome Stations: *daily, 12-7 pm*

- 4 total, near art installations.
- Places to greet and engage visitors.
- Hubs for conversation, wayfinding, programming, and hospitality/rest; meeting points.
- Free exhibition-focused activities, takeaways, and regular tours of the artworks.



Conceptual Rendering of the Welcome Stations.

vanessa german

she/her

Born in Milwaukee, WI

Based in Asheville, NC

vanessa german is a black queer artist making sculpture, communal ritual, love joints, immersive installation, and performance that takes up space in the healing realms of intimacy, tenderness, social healing and human wholeness as original and enduring human technologies.

Exhibition Theme: COLLECTIVITY



Photo by AJ Mitchell

Of Thee We Sing, **vanessa german**

Lincoln Memorial Plaza – Southeast plaza
COLLECTIVITY



An innovative statue of Marian Anderson and her powerful 1939 Lincoln Memorial concert in segregated DC, held up by a sea of hands.

Tiffany Chung

she/her

Born in Đà Nẵng, Vietnam

Based in Houston, TX

Tiffany Chung is globally noted for her cartographic drawings and embroideries, paintings, sculptures, photographs, and videos that examine conflict, geopolitical partitioning, spatial transformation, environmental crisis, and forced migration in relation to history and cultural memory.

Exhibition Theme: DIASPORA



Photo by AJ Mitchell

Tiffany Chung *previous work*



finding one's shadow in ruins and rubble, 2014, MoMA



The Vietnam Exodus History Learning Project: the exodus, the camps and the half-lived lives, 2017, watercolor on paper

Wendy Red Star

she/her

Apsáalooke

Born in Billings, MT

Based in Portland, OR

Wendy Red Star is an avid researcher of archives and historical narratives, and seeks to incorporate and recast her research, offering new and unexpected perspectives in work that is at once inquisitive, witty and unsettling. Red Star was raised on the Apsáalooke (Crow) reservation in Montana. Her work is informed by her cultural heritage and engagement with many forms of creative expression.

Exhibition Theme: LEGACY



Wendy Red Star *previous work*



The Last Thanks, 2006, archival pigment print, 24"x36"



The Four Seasons Series (Spring), 2006, archival pigment print 35.5" x 37"

Derrick Adams

he/him

Born in Baltimore, MD

Based in Brooklyn, NY

Derrick Adams is an artist whose work spans painting, collage, sculpture, performance, video, sound, and the public realm. Adams probes how identity and personal narrative intersect with American iconography, art history, urban culture, and the Black experience.

Exhibition Theme: PLAY



Photo by AJ Mitchell

Derrick Adams *previous work*



Funtime Unicorns, installed at Rockefeller Center, 2022



Style Variation Grid 2, 2018

Ashon T. Crawley

he/him

Born in East Orange, NJ

Based in Charlottesville, VA

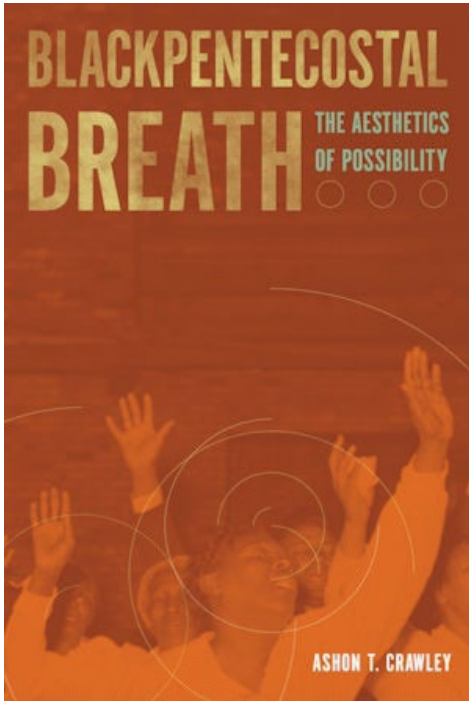
Ashon Crawley is a writer, artist and teacher, exploring the intersection of performance, blackness, queerness and spirituality. He moves in and out of multiple genres in order to sound out a critique of the normative world—to sound out the possibility for alternatives, for otherwise.

Exhibition Theme: MEMORY



Photo by AJ Mitchell

Ashon T. Crawley *previous work*



Black Pentecostal Breath (book), 2019 and *Hammond Organ Research Project*



thy word i have hidden in my heart (number 6), 2020, mixed media on canvas

Paul Ramírez Jonas

he/him

Born in Pomona, CA

Based in Ithaca, NY

Paul Ramírez Jonas is a practicing artist and educator with particular focus on interdisciplinary and socially-engaged art, print media, public art, and sculpture.

Exhibition Theme: PARTICIPATION



Photo by AJ Mitchell

Let Freedom Ring, Paul Ramírez Jonas

12th Street, North gravel panel

PARTICIPATION

27



An interactive bell tower where passersby can play a monumental bell and share their story of freedom.

Post-Exhibition Artworks Plan

vanessa german, *Of Thee We Sing* – Frick Collection in Pittsburgh, PA

Paul Ramírez Jonas, *Let Freedom Ring* – storage at the foundry

Derrick Adams, *America's Playground: DC* – storage

Wendy Red Star, *The Soil You See...* – Tippet Rise Art Center in Stillwater County, Montana

Tiffany Chung, *For the Living* – fully dismantled; donate materials in good condition

Ashon T. Crawley, *HOMEGOING* – stage platforms returned to vendor; donate materials in good condition

Exhibition Newspaper

A tool for context, invitation, and clarity around the exhibition.

- Opportunity to collaborate with writers, artists, archivists, and designers in ways that animate public inquiry and experience.
- Includes map and education activity insert for young people.
- Free at the Welcome Centers and selected partner sites throughout the DC area; available online.



Events & Programs (proposed)

all are free and open to the public; subject to change

Saturday, 8/19 - Opening Weekend

Activities on the National Mall

vanessa german, *Of Thee We Sing*

- “Blue Walk” ritual and opera performance, culminating at the Lincoln Memorial

Paul Ramírez Jonas, *Let Freedom Ring*

- Bell Giveaway and Song Re-Writing Workshop

Derrick Adams, *America's Playground: DC*

- Youth and Intergenerational Play Day Activation

Friday, 8/25 – US Institute of Peace

Convening – day long with panels; includes roundtable program with **Wendy Red Star**

Saturday, 9/9 – on the National Mall

Tiffany Chung, *For the Living*

- Public Conversation and Mapping Workshop

Ashon T. Crawley, *HOMEGOING*

- Evening Musical Performance

PULLING TOGETHER

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