

PARTICIPATE

This project allows you to touch and light candle wicks. Please follow these instructions anytime you are around this artwork so that everyone can enjoy it until September! **Feel free to color in this sheet as you learn how to interact with this art project.**

LEARN

This sculpture, *40 ACRES: Camp Barker* by Sandy Williams IV, is named after the place it stands. Camp Barker is a former contraband camp, which was right where Garrison Elementary now stands. It served as a refuge for escaped slaves during the Civil War. It provided a safe haven and an opportunity for freedom for those seeking to escape slavery.



Why do you think it's important to memorialize a place like Camp Barker?

LIGHT

With a trusted adult, you can light one of the sculpture's wicks. It burns like a candle!

While your wick is lit, take a moment to reflect on the history of Washington, DC and all the people who lived at Camp Barker.



EXTINGUISH

When you're ready, please blow out your wick within 1-2 minutes. This way everyone can enjoy the sculpture's light for a little while.



Guide to *40 ACRES: Camp Barker* by Sandy Williams IV A Public Art Project at Garrison Elementary



PRESENTED BY CULTURALDC

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CulturalDC supports innovative artists across all disciplines and makes their work accessible to diverse audiences. We provide unconventional space for relevant and challenging work that is essential to nurturing vibrant urban communities.

WE MAKE SPACE FOR ART

ABOUT *40 ACRES: CAMP BARKER*

40 ACRES: Camp Barker is the third public installation of Sandy Williams IV's *40 ACRES Archive: The Wax Monument series*. In this series, Williams creates wax replicas in the image of popular public monuments and cultural symbols such as Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, J. E. B. Stuart, and Thomas Jefferson.

40 ACRES references the action after the Civil War, where the Federal Government promised newly freed slaves "Forty acres and a mule", which was never fulfilled.

TOOLS FOR LOOKING

SLOW DOWN

Take a deep breath. When looking at art, in a museum or in public, we want to be calm so we can really focus when looking at the artworks.

BE AN INVESTIGATOR

- Walk around (if in person) or look at all the photos available of the artwork. Try to gather as much information you can by just looking.
- Take a good look at the artwork from every point of view.
- Notice the scale, texture, color, and shape of the artwork.
- Look at the artwork close up and far away, you will notice details of the artwork and it's surroundings.

READ ABOUT THE ARTWORK

(on next page and on the signs around the sculpture) →

CONSIDER

When looking at the sculpture, ask yourself:

- How does the artwork make me feel?
- Does it spark anything in my imagination or make me think of anything I've learned before?
 - What is the artist trying to communicate?
- Who is pictured and what time period are they from?
 - What do you find surprising about this work?

TOOLS FOR TALKING

ASK QUESTIONS

- What do you see?
- What are the textures and shapes that make the sculpture? What does it look like?
 - What materials do you think were used to make this artwork? What are the physical qualities of this material?
 - What do you think the artwork means? Does it matter where it is placed and what is shown? Why?
 - What does this artwork make you think of?

DISCUSS

Pair up and discuss the artwork before sharing with the entire group. Everyone has different opinions and viewpoints, if someone else's response makes you want to respond, allow others to speak and raise your hand before speaking respectfully, asking questions.

ABOUT CAMP BARKER

Camp Barker, a former federally funded contraband camp, was located where Garrison Elementary now stands. It served as a refuge for escaped and freed slaves during the Civil War. Contraband camps played an important role in the transition to freedom during the Civil War. While camp conditions were often undesirable, the camp was a symbol of hope and resilience, where individuals could rebuild their lives and find a sense of community. The camps provided a safe haven and an opportunity for freedom for those seeking to escape slavery.



MODEL OF CAMP BARKER

Contraband Camps were established to provide shelter and support for escaped slaves who sought refuge behind Union lines. These camps offered education, medical care, and employment opportunities to the newly freed individuals. They became centers of empowerment, where people could reclaim their identities and envision a brighter future.

Oral histories collected by President Abraham Lincoln's biographer, John E. Washington, record that President Lincoln frequently encountered Camp Barker during his presidency. He would often stop by the camp to visit with the refugees during his daily Summer commute from his home adjacent to the Soldier's Home Northeast DC, now known as "Lincoln's Cottage."

ABOUT SANDY WILLIAMS IV

Sandy Williams IV is an artist and educator who makes people consider grief and community memory. This artist uses time itself, through research and ideas, as a way to communicate about the hidden history of common spaces. Sandy works with communities to highlight important places and times that everyone should know about, especially ones about people often forgotten about in history books. Sandy creates artwork that challenges common ideas. By creating sculptures and artworks, sometimes in the shape of monuments, pieces of important land, and other recognizable shapes to show people new ideas of time, memory, and agency (the sense of control that you feel in your life). Sandy's artwork is meant to make you take a deep look at the effects of historical and modern oppression. Sandy's work invites the viewer (you) to become a part of the artwork by participating in the reclaiming of public spaces and personal freedom.

