

# The 5/14 Memorial

*Honoring Lives Lost and Lives Impacted during the Racially Motivated Mass Shooting in Buffalo*

## Request for Submissions, Part 1 Initial Call for Design Concepts



## 5/14 Memorial Commission Buffalo, New York

Issued: October 2, 2023

Submissions Due: December 1, 2023, 4:00 PM

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## 1. INVITATION TO SUBMIT DESIGN CONCEPTS

The 5/14 Memorial Commission (“Commission”) hereby invites designers (e.g., architects, landscape architects, artists, engineers, etc.) and/or teams of such individuals, to submit concept designs and associated project narratives for a permanent memorial to commemorate the lives lost and lives impacted as a result of the racially motivated attack of May 14, 2022 in Buffalo, New York (hereinafter referred to as the “Memorial” or the “Project”).

Key dates and information related to this solicitation includes the following:

**Request for Submissions**

**Issuance Date:** October 3, 2023

**Submission Due Date:** No Later than **December 1, 2023, 4:00 PM.**

**Electronic Submissions:** **Electronic submissions are preferred.** A link to an upload webpage will be provided on the Project website listed below beginning on **November 1, 2023.** Respondents will be required to first register on this webpage and fill out an online information form prior to uploading a submission.

**Hardcopy Submissions:** If Respondents lack the ability to submit via the Project website, hardcopy submissions will be accepted, but must be accompanied by an electronic version of the submission in Adobe Acrobat® (.pdf) format on a jump drive. These should be mailed to:

**5/14 Memorial Concept Design  
City Hall 201  
65 Niagara Square  
Buffalo, NY 14202**

Email Address  
for Questions:

[514memorial@buffalony.gov](mailto:514memorial@buffalony.gov)

Project Website:

[www.514memorial.com](http://www.514memorial.com)

This Request for Submissions is part of a two-part process to identify a team and design for the Memorial, which will include:

- A **Part 1** open solicitation for submissions to identify broad concepts and potential lead designers for the Memorial; and
- A **Part 2** submission that would be limited to a short-list of individuals or teams that provided a Part 1 submissions, which would include a more refined design that responds to actual site conditions, and a professional cost estimate.

It is the intention of Commission that the selected artist, designer and/or team would be engaged in the subsequent phases of planning for the Memorial.

Such subsequent phases of development are dependent upon funding availability and successful negotiations of the required agreements between all parties. The Commission, the City of Buffalo, the State of New York, and/or any funder of the Memorial are not obligated to proceed to subsequent phases of development that may be described in this Request for Submissions.

## 2. ELIGIBILITY

To realize the broadest outreach potential, Part 1 is open to professional, emerging professional, and even non-professional individuals and teams to submit design concepts. Participation in Part 2 and subsequent phases of Memorial development will require Respondents to include assistance of relevant professional disciplines.

Given the nature of the Memorial, submissions by African American individuals and/or African American-owned firms are highly encouraged.

Respondents are advised if their proposals are ultimately selected for funding and implementation/development, they will be required to partner with professional (and preferably Buffalo based) design firms licensed to practice in the State of New York to prepare and file all necessary final design and construction documents for the Memorial.

## 3. HISTORY AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### 3.1 Events of May 14, 2022 (“5/14”)

Last year on May 14, 2022, the unthinkable happened.

An 18-year-old, self-identified white supremacist drove from Conklin, New York to Buffalo – a drive that took over three hours. As previously planned, he arrived in the eastern portion of the city, an area that is heavily populated by African American residents. Driven by hate, he parked at the Tops Friendly Market at 1275 Jefferson Avenue and pulled out a firearm to kill as many black people as possible.

May 14<sup>th</sup> was a Saturday, and around 2 pm, when this racially motivated mass shooting occurred, many people were grocery shopping for the week or planning a meal with their families.

The gunman shot 13 people – killing ten and injuring three. Of those, 11 people were African Americans.

The names of the ten lost are:

- The late **Andre Mackneil** of Auburn. He was 53.
- The late **Roberta A. Drury** of Buffalo. She was 32.
- The late **Margus D. Morrison** of Buffalo. He was 52.
- The late **Aaron Salter** of Lockport. He was 55.
- The late **Geraldine Talley** of Buffalo. She was 62.
- The late **Celestine Chaney** of Buffalo. She was 65.
- The late **Heyward Patterson** of Buffalo. He was 67.

- The late **Katherine Massey** of Buffalo. She was 72.
- The late **Pearl Young** of Buffalo. She was 77.
- The late **Ruth Whitfield** of Buffalo. She was 86.

The injured survivors are:

- **Zaire Goodman** of Buffalo
- **Jennifer Warrington** of Tonawanda
- **Christopher Braden** of Lackawanna

Please refer to the Appendix for tributes from media accounts for those lost.

There were also numerous individuals that were in the market during the racially motivated mass shooting that escaped without physical injuries, but like other survivors, continue to cope emotionally with the aftermath.

On February 15, 2023, the gunman was sentenced by the State of New York to life in prison, while the survivors and families of those he hurt will endure a lifetime of mourning and loss.

## **3.2 5/14 MEMORIAL COMMISSION**

### **3.2.1 Establishment and Mission**

As the City of Buffalo and greater western New York region continue to pick up the pieces left behind by this horrific event, Mayor Byron W. Brown worked with Governor Kathy Hochul to create the 5/14 Memorial Commission. The purpose of this Commission is to plan and construct a Memorial that reflects the wishes of the families, survivors, and the community.

The Commission's established mission is as follows:

*The mission of the 5/14 Memorial Commission is to respectfully develop a living and lasting Memorial that will honor the survivors and the lives lost during the racially motivated mass shooting in East Buffalo. The living memorial will embrace the wishes of the families, honor the legacies of their loved ones, reflect the wishes of those who lived through the experience, and provide ongoing transparency and comfort to members of the community.*

The 5/14 Memorial Commission is following a process that will help accomplish this mission that will include the following considerations:

- The commission will be transparent as decisions are made.
- The commission will inclusively and respectfully involve members of the families.
- The commission will engage in public comment and input.
- The commission will provide periodic updates to the public.
- The commission will involve the Jefferson Avenue community, the East Buffalo community, and the community at large.

- The commission will fully vet the type of Memorial and the site of the memorial.
- The commission will educate the public about race relations and civil rights.
- The commission will designate a person or persons who are accountable for communications with the public.

### 3.2.2 Commission Membership

As appointed by New York State Governor Hochul and Mayor Brown, the Commission's membership includes the following individuals:

Chair: **Reverend Mark Blue**, Buffalo Chapter NAACP President

**Julia Bottoms**, Visual Artist & Exhibitionist, Albright Knox Gallery

**Steven J. Carmina**, President, Carmina Wood Design

**Diane Colgan**, Senior Vice President, Tops Friendly Markets

**Jonathan Dandes**, Buffalo Niagara Partnership

**Zeneta Everhart**, Family Member

**Tiffany Gaines**, Curatorial and Digital Content Associate  
Burchfield Penney Art Center

**Fragrance Harris-Stanfield**, Survivor

**Dr. Norm Lewin**, Buffalo Arts Commission

**Larry Stitts**, Jefferson Avenue Business owner

**Garnell Whitfield**, Family Member

Government Representatives:

**Mo Sumbundu**, New York State Governor Kathy Hochul's Liaison

Technical Support and Volunteers:

**Amitra Wall**, State University of New York Fellow (Assigned to the 5/14 Commission)

### 3.2.3 Commission Planning Activities

Since its inception, the Commission has focused on keeping public engagement integral in the Memorial planning process. Several community engagement meetings have taken place and a community survey was developed and made available to the community at large. The survey solicited opinions and feedback from the community on topics such as the placement of the Memorial, the type of Memorial, and the theme of any potential Memorial.

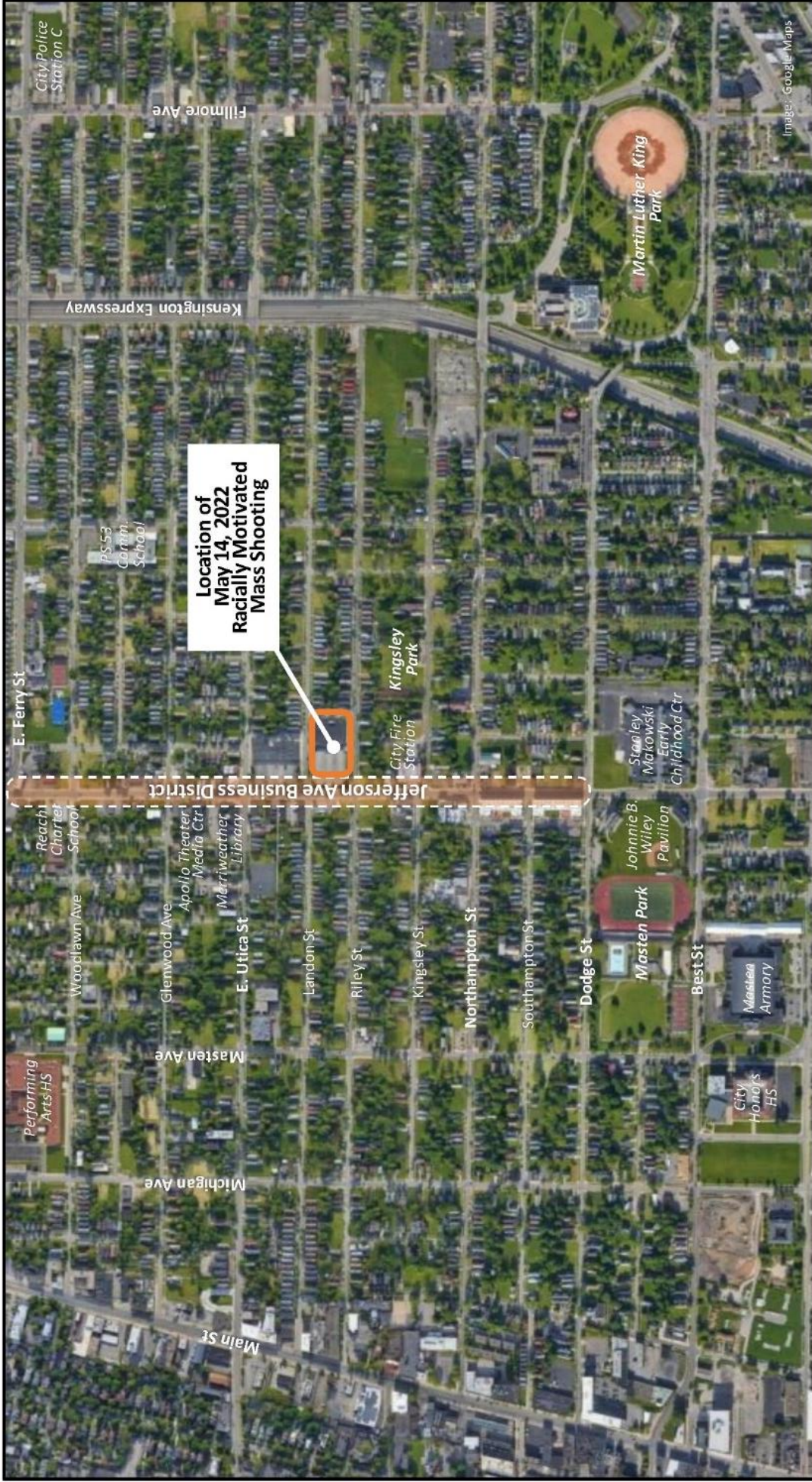
## 4. NEIGHBORHOOD AND POTENTIAL SITE CONTEXT FOR MEMORIAL

### 4.1 Neighborhood Context

As previously noted (see **Figures 1 and 2**) the May 14, 2022 racially motivated mass shooting

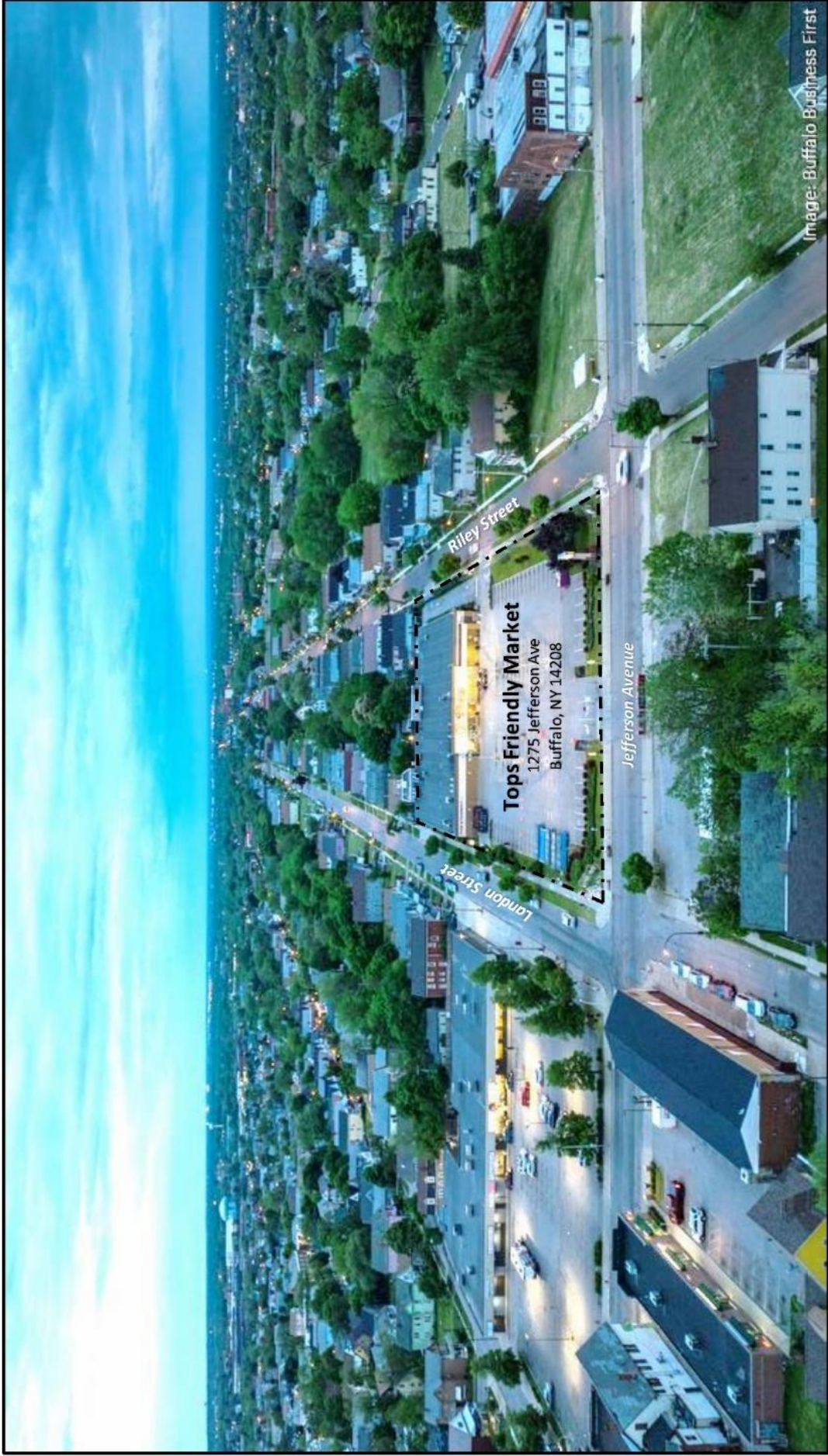
occurred at the Tops Friendly Market at [1275 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14203](#). Respondents are strongly encouraged to visit the site, or at a minimum thoroughly use virtual resources, to develop an understanding of the site and neighborhood context.

This Tops Supermarket was built in 2003, as part of a redevelopment that replaced a smaller supermarket brand at the site that had since closed. The supermarket sits within the broader Jefferson Avenue business district. The characteristics of the supermarket property, and an adjoining modern shopping plaza, somewhat differs from the balance of the business district. This primarily includes traditional early-20<sup>th</sup>-century retail storefront structures adjoining public sidewalks, on properties of varying widths and with property depths of 100-150 feet. Sometimes, these storefront buildings include upper level residential/office uses or are attached in front of single/double-family residential structures.



**Figure 1:**  
**Neighborhood Context Map**





**Figure 2:**  
**Aerial View of Neighborhood**  
**Looking East from Jefferson Avenue**

Adjoining streets intersecting with Jefferson Avenue are predominated by a mixed of wood frame single, double, and multiple-family residences on parcels generally ranging in multiples of 25 feet in width and between 100 to 150 feet in depth. Other prominent features in the immediate neighborhood include the following:

- The Frank E Merriweather Jr. Library at the corner of Jefferson Avenue and East Utica Street (one block north of Tops);
- The Apollo Media Center, immediately north of the Merriweather Library, is a city-owned media production and training center housed in the former Apollo Theater;
- Kingsley Park, a city-owned park between Riley and Kingsley streets (one block south of Tops), which is in a planning process to realize enhancements, including recently improved basketball courts; and
- The Johnnie B. Wiley Pavilion, a city-owned sports and recreation complex and named for a late community leader, located four blocks south of Tops on the site of the former War Memorial Stadium (first home to the Buffalo Bills football team).

## 4.2 Potential Memorial Sites

The specific site for the Memorial has **not** yet been identified. Respondents may suggest Memorial locations as part of their submissions, particularly if a particular geographic location contributes to the nature and/or features of the proposed concept. If a respondents suggest a location, they will need to identify the current owner, whether public or private sector. The City of Buffalo maintains an online geographic information system (GIS) database containing various types of publicly accessible property information. This can be accessed at:

<https://gis.buffalony.gov/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=77c7711c9d3546f99bf2cd765822ee22>

NOTE: The Tops Friendly Markets grocery store located on Jefferson Avenue cannot be considered a location for the memorial. The grocery store is already planning a separate memorial. This memorial at Tops is independent from the subject Memorial planned by the Commission and spearheaded by the Governor and the Mayor.

## 5. PRELIMINARY MEMORIAL COMPONENTS AND CHARACTERISTICS

### 5.1 Overall Objectives

While the Commission is seeking to fully avail itself of the creativity and talent of national and international designers to best conceptualize the actual components of the Memorial, Respondents should be informed by the following broader considerations:

- Best remembering and honoring the everyday and broader community contributions made by those who lost their lives or were injured on May 14, 2022;
- Commemorating the community's response to this racially motivated mass shooting, including the on-going efforts to assist survivors and neighborhood residents to emotionally heal the collective and individual trauma caused by it; and

- A need to properly frame and conceptualize a broader public awareness of this tragedy, to be relevant and powerful to future generations and to best prevent recurrence.

## 5.2 Potential Features and Scale

The Memorial will most definitely be a public destination that provides an appropriate setting in which to remember the lives lost and survivors of this tragic event. Therefore, the design must provide a both a place for peaceful, contemplative visits and still provide a power messaging to inform perceptions and inspire positive future actions. Therefore, responses might consider the following features:

- **Size.** While there is no minimum or maximum size for the Memorial, it should be consistent with the overall character and scale of land parcels (generally multiples of 25 feet in width and 100 to 150 feet in depth) and building features in the neighborhood (predominantly one and two-story structures).
- **Budget.** A budget and funding source(s) for the Memorial has not yet been finalized, but for the purpose of planning and setting expectations for responses to this solicitation, a prototypical budget for the Memorial should be between \$13 - \$15 million, including all costs of site acquisition, design, permitting, and construction.
- **Site Features and Structures.** Concept designs could include exterior landscape features and a building(s). Concepts should consider the four-season nature of the Buffalo climate to permit meaningful year-round visitation. The concepts could consider lighting, multi-media, and electronic features provided they are compatible with the surrounding neighborhood.
- **Maintenance Requirements.** Concepts should generally consider long-term requirements to maintain the Memorial, in terms of materials and features selected.
- **Ability to Phase Features.** Concepts could consider the ability to phase the implementation of features over time, both to meet budget needs and to allow for refining/augmenting of messaging of the Memorial. Nevertheless, any phasing must be done in a manner where the Memorial would present a complete presence/appearance at any point in its phasing.

## 6. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

### 6.1 Part 1 Submissions

Part 1 submissions should be no longer than 20 pages in length and involve broad, concept level information outlining the intent and major features of the Memorial.

At a minimum, Part 1 submissions should include the following:

- 1) A narrative providing an overview of proposed concept for the Memorial (e.g., its intent, general location, features, materials, messaging, etc.). This narrative should be no greater than five (5) pages in length.

- 2) A series of “sketch-level” graphic depictions of the Concept Design, developed only to a level suitable to communicate major components of the proposal, all formatted at “report-level” scale (i.e., readable at an 8½” x 11” page size). Such illustrations could include conceptual maps or plans (to scale), diagrams, and/or aerial or ground level sketch renderings to illustrate aspects of a Concept Design.
- 3) A broad description of anticipated costs.
- 4) Respondent Qualifications. Each Respondent is required to submit information related qualifications, including the following (as applicable):
  - a. Descriptions and background profiles of the Respondent and/or members of the Respondent team (no more than one [1] page per team member).
  - b. Resumes of key individuals (no more than one [1] page in length) citing experience in disciplines/efforts comparable to specialties involved in this solicitation.
  - c. Description and list of past projects (no more than five, one [1] page descriptions) similar in scale and characteristics to the subject submission.

## 6.2 Part 2 Submissions

It is anticipated that a short list of no more than five (5) Part 1 submissions will be selected by the Commission to develop and submit more detailed Part 2 submissions. A stipend will be provided to Part 2 Participants to help offset the costs of developing their proposed designs and to facilitate a consistent level of quality.

All Part 2 Respondents will also be required to make a virtual presentation of their proposals to the Commission, which will be recorded to allow for public review.

## 7. SCHEDULE

Following the issuance of this Part 1 Request for Submissions on October 3, 2023, upcoming milestones in the process shall include the following:

- A Question-and-Answer period for the Request for Submissions will run from **October 3, 2023 to a deadline of Oct. 23, 2023**. Questions may be submitted via email to: [514memorial@buffalony.gov](mailto:514memorial@buffalony.gov).
- By **October 30, 2023**, responses to questions received will posted on the Project website at: [www.514memorial.com](http://www.514memorial.com).
- Part 1 Submissions will be accepted until **4:00 PM EST on December 1, 2023**.
- The Part 1 submissions will be reviewed and the short list to be invited to participate under Part 2 of the process will be selected by **January 23, 2024**.

## **8. TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

### **8.1 Consistency with Laws, Permits and Approval Requirements**

Unless otherwise stated in this Request for Submissions, all Respondent submissions must be consistent with various state and local regulations and be defensible under state environmental/historic review procedures, including as applicable: the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and Section 14.09 of the NYS Historic Preservation Act.

As applicable, proposals must ultimately be consistent and compliant with various codes, including, but not limited to:

- The Buffalo Green Code (i.e., Unified Development Ordinance of the City of Buffalo);
- Building Code of New York State and other associated New York State building codes/regulations; and
- General compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and its implementing regulations and standards.

### **8.2 Quality and Ownership of Submissions**

Only submissions that comply with all provisions, requirements, terms, and conditions outlined in this Request for Submission will be considered for review by the Commission.

The Commission reserves the right to independently investigate or request clarification of the contents of any submission, including requiring any Respondent to provide additional information or to make an oral presentation.

All materials submitted in response to this solicitation become property of the Commission without any obligation to return such materials.

All determinations of completeness of any submission and its compliance with the provisions, requirements, terms and conditions of this Request for Submissions and the eligibility or qualification of any Respondent shall be in the sole and absolute discretion of the Commission. The Commission may waive any of the provisions, requirements, terms, and conditions of this solicitation.

Subsequent to receipt of responses to this Request for Submissions, the Commission, in the exercise of their sole and absolute discretion, may designate two or more Respondents for a “short list” for consideration; may request “best and final” submissions, and/or may conduct other additional proceedings with respect to the potential disposition covered by this solicitation.

### **8.3 No Payments for Expenses for Part 1 of Solicitation**

The Commission shall not be liable for any costs or expenses incurred by any Respondent in responding to Part 1 of this solicitation (Concept Design), whether or not a particular submission was accepted, rejected, or otherwise designated or selected or if Commission selects not to proceed with the solicitation process. All costs and expenses incurred by each Respondent in

connection with Part 1 of this solicitation will be borne by the Respondent, including, without limiting the foregoing, all costs and expenses in connection with: due diligence work; preparation of each submission; advice and representation of legal counsel; and/or responding requirements of this solicitations.

#### **8.4 Brokers**

Submissions shall be accepted from principals only. No brokerage fees, finder's fees, commissions, or other compensation will be payable by the Commission in connection with the selection of a Respondent.

#### **8.5 Hold Harmless**

Submission in response to this solicitation constitutes an undertaking by the Respondent to hold harmless and indemnify and defend the Commission, the City of Buffalo, State of New York (or any of the City or State's agencies, departments, offices, public authorities or other entities) and other funders of the Memorial project from and against any and all expenses, damages or liability (including, without limiting the foregoing, attorneys' fees and disbursements) arising out of any claim for such fees, commissions or other compensation made in connection with such Respondent's response to this solicitation, and selection or (non-selection) thereunder.

#### **8.6 Not an Offer**

This Request for Submissions does not constitute an offer for a specific project or any portions thereof, nor offer to any adjoining site or any portions thereof. Neither the Commission, the City of Buffalo, or the State of New York (or any of the City or State's agencies, departments, offices, public authorities or other entities) shall incur any obligation or liability on account of this solicitation or any submission made in connection with it or any other reason.

The Commission reserves the right, in their sole discretion, not to select or accept one or more submissions submitted in connection with this solicitation, including, without limiting the foregoing, the highest-ranked submission. The Commission shall have no obligation, under this solicitation or otherwise, to implement or construct any aspect of any submission in response to this solicitation.

The Commission reserves the right in their sole and absolute discretion to reject any and all submissions, to accept any submission, and to elect not to proceed with the process set forth in this solicitation.

The Commission has no obligation to discuss its reasons for selecting, accepting, or rejecting any submissions with any Respondent.

#### **8.7 No Warranties**

The Commission does not make any representations or warranties whatsoever with respect to this solicitation, without limiting the foregoing, representations or warranties as to the accuracy or completeness of any information or assumptions contained in or provided in connection with this solicitation.

Respondents of this solicitation shall make no news/press release pertaining to this solicitation, or anything contained or referenced herein without prior written approval from ESD. Any news release pertaining to this solicitation may only be made by the Commission or in coordination with Commission.

## **APPENDIX**

### **Additional Background Information**

#### **Media Tributes to Individuals Lost on May 14, 2022**

This appendix provides online links a number of tribute articles on the lives of those lost on May 14, 2022, as published in local and national newspaper publications.

Please note that these publications may require subscriptions to access their respective websites.



## **Andre Mackneil**

The Buffalo News, by Mark Sommer - May 27, 2022

[https://buffalonews.com/news/local/andre-mackniel-recalled-as-someone-who-loved-his-family/article\\_d1a54fba-dde4-11ec-8cbc-bbc7de9f4a81.html](https://buffalonews.com/news/local/andre-mackniel-recalled-as-someone-who-loved-his-family/article_d1a54fba-dde4-11ec-8cbc-bbc7de9f4a81.html)

## **Roberta A. Drury**

The Buffalo News, by Jon Harris - May 21, 2022

[https://buffalonews.com/news/local/she-truly-loved-and-embraced-everybody-family-friends-remember-roberta-drury/article\\_dde2a302-d922-11ec-9cf4-5fd8c6565c74.html#tncms-source=login](https://buffalonews.com/news/local/she-truly-loved-and-embraced-everybody-family-friends-remember-roberta-drury/article_dde2a302-d922-11ec-9cf4-5fd8c6565c74.html#tncms-source=login)

## **Margus D. Morrison**

The Buffalo News, by Deidre Williams – May 27, 2022

[https://buffalonews.com/news/local/margus-morrison-a-jokester-who-loved-to-smile-celebrated-at-service/article\\_91119ef4-de07-11ec-99b7-ffdca1cff0d5.html](https://buffalonews.com/news/local/margus-morrison-a-jokester-who-loved-to-smile-celebrated-at-service/article_91119ef4-de07-11ec-99b7-ffdca1cff0d5.html)

## **Aaron Salter**

The Buffalo News, by Maki Becker – May 25, 2022

[https://buffalonews.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/a-farewell-to-a-former-buffalo-police-officer-who-gave-all-aaron-bravely-fought-evil/article\\_2e74a590-dc66-11ec-ab70-97f35aa20769.html#tracking-source=home-top-story](https://buffalonews.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/a-farewell-to-a-former-buffalo-police-officer-who-gave-all-aaron-bravely-fought-evil/article_2e74a590-dc66-11ec-ab70-97f35aa20769.html#tracking-source=home-top-story)

## **Geraldine Talley**

The Buffalo News, by Jon Harris - May 27, 2022

[https://buffalonews.com/news/local/at-geraldine-chapman-talleys-funeral-speakers-remember-her-caring-nature-call-for-buffalo-to-stand/article\\_bc2f57f2-dddf-11ec-b0f9-8bd75f6464d3.html](https://buffalonews.com/news/local/at-geraldine-chapman-talleys-funeral-speakers-remember-her-caring-nature-call-for-buffalo-to-stand/article_bc2f57f2-dddf-11ec-b0f9-8bd75f6464d3.html)

## **Celestine Chaney**

The Buffalo News, Mark Sommer - May 24, 2022

[https://buffalonews.com/news/local/were-all-going-to-miss-her-shooting-victim-celestine-chaney-mourned-by-300-at-funeral/article\\_8ff71e1e-db86-11ec-9a66-17bcf176d271.html#tracking-source=home-top-story](https://buffalonews.com/news/local/were-all-going-to-miss-her-shooting-victim-celestine-chaney-mourned-by-300-at-funeral/article_8ff71e1e-db86-11ec-9a66-17bcf176d271.html#tracking-source=home-top-story)

## **Heyward Patterson**

New York Times - By Troy Closson, May 20, 2022

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/20/nyregion/buffalo-shooting-victim-funeral.html>

## **Katherine Massey**

The Buffalo News, by Barbara O'Brien - May 23, 2022

[https://buffalonews.com/news/local/kat-massey-the-mayor-of-cherry-street-is-laid-to-rest/article\\_e99b08c2-dac8-11ec-991f-dffcc0f73d88.html#tracking-source=home-top-story](https://buffalonews.com/news/local/kat-massey-the-mayor-of-cherry-street-is-laid-to-rest/article_e99b08c2-dac8-11ec-991f-dffcc0f73d88.html#tracking-source=home-top-story)

## **Pearl Young**

The Buffalo News, by Ben Tsujimoto – May 25, 2022

[https://buffalonews.com/news/local/pearl-is-indeed-a-pearl-family-community-remember-shooting-victim-pearl-youngs-service-and-joy/article\\_e4b7d71c-dc59-11ec-aa16-17ae96c18fd6.html#tracking-source=home-top-story](https://buffalonews.com/news/local/pearl-is-indeed-a-pearl-family-community-remember-shooting-victim-pearl-youngs-service-and-joy/article_e4b7d71c-dc59-11ec-aa16-17ae96c18fd6.html#tracking-source=home-top-story)

## **Ruth Whitfield**

The Buffalo News, by Ben Tsujimoto - May 28, 2022

[https://buffalonews.com/news/local/ruth-did-not-die-in-vain-shooting-victims-memorial-urges-change-shares-memories/article\\_5aefa33a-deba-11ec-97a6-c7236a531258.html](https://buffalonews.com/news/local/ruth-did-not-die-in-vain-shooting-victims-memorial-urges-change-shares-memories/article_5aefa33a-deba-11ec-97a6-c7236a531258.html)