

# Memorials for the Future



## Climate Chronograph Named Memorials for the Future Ideas Competition Winner

*Innovative concepts on exhibit at Kennedy Center beginning September 8*

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### Editor's Note: To view a digital press kit, including high-resolution images:

<https://future.ncpc.gov/press.html>

**Washington (September 8, 2016)** – Today the National Park Service (NPS), National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), and Van Alen Institute announced **Climate Chronograph** by Bay Area-based landscape architects Erik Jensen and Rebecca Sunter as the [winning concept](#) in the *Memorials for the Future* ideas competition. The competition sought to reimagine the way we develop and experience memorials in Washington, DC, and inspire new memorial approaches around the country.

A free public exhibition showcasing the winner and finalists' design concepts opens this evening in the Hall of Nations at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and runs through October 20, 2016. Members of the four teams will be at the exhibition from 7:00-8:00 p.m. tonight, Thursday,

September 8. The teams will also present their proposals at the National Capital Planning Commission meeting at 1:00 p.m. today, which will be live-streamed at [www.ncpc.gov/live](http://www.ncpc.gov/live).

Climate Chronograph, the winning concept, is a forward-looking memorial that takes a complex global process— climate change—and turns it into a tangible, personal experience. While memorials conventionally commemorate a moment in the past, this initially traditional-looking memorial offers a reimagined landscape and a living observatory that allows people to interact with the space as it evolves unpredictably over time.

“The National Park Service Centennial challenged us to think about new ways to engage the next generation and tell stories relevant to them. Memorials for the Future challenged us to think about how we will take the imagination displayed in this ideas competition and use it to spark a new generation of national park visitors, supporters and advocates, not to mention artists, architects and philosophers,” National Park Service Regional Director Bob Vogel said. “We’re committed to continuing this conversation and engaging people in the stories and commemorations that are important to them and to the shared heritage of our nation.”

The most compelling and relevant themes and trends from the competition were summarized in a just-released findings report, *Not Set in Stone: Memorials for the Future*. These ideas, which include engaging the present and future as much as the past; allowing for changing narratives; and considering ephemeral, mobile and temporary forms; may be used by organizations, planners and designers to inspire contemporary approaches to 21st-century memorials. The report explores these opportunities and can be viewed at <https://future.ncpc.gov/>.

“Whether linking local places to national issues, using boundary-pushing technology, or recognizing more voices in the American experience, this competition provided amazing ideas that expanded our understanding of what the capital city’s memorial landscape might include in the 21<sup>st</sup> century,” Marcel Acosta, NCPC executive director, said.

“The finalist concepts allow us to think outside the often-fixed nature of memorial design, looking beyond solemn marble statues of uniformed men on horseback, and envisioning emotionally resonant memorials open to varied interpretations,” Van Alen Institute Executive Director David van der Leer said.

Four finalists were selected in June from 89 teams from eight countries. The winner and [finalists](#) all offer a variety of innovative approaches to share and add new narratives, and connect people and places from across the nation. Various technologies are proposed to provide commemoration content and interpretation, and several designs change over time. The other three finalists were each recognized with honorable mentions: American Wild: A Memorial (Honorable Mention for Marrying the Ephemeral and Iconic); The Im(migrant): Honoring the Journey (Honorable Mention for American Heritage and Community); and VOICEOVER (Honorable Mention for Futurism and Reinterpretation). For more information on the four finalist teams and competition process visit: <https://future.ncpc.gov>.

The competition partners extend our thanks to members of the jury.

- Marcel Acosta, Executive Director, [National Capital Planning Commission](#)
- Mark Gardner, Principal, [Jaklitsch/Gardner Architects](#)
- David van der Leer (Jury Chair), Executive Director, [Van Alen Institute](#)
- Thomas Luebke, Commission Secretary, [U.S. Commission of Fine Arts](#)
- Jonathan Marvel, Principal and Founder, [Marvel Architects](#)
- Julie Rhoad, President & CEO, [The NAMES Project Foundation](#)
- Deborah Rutter, President, [John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts](#)
- Kirk Savage, Professor, History, Art, and Architecture, [University of Pittsburgh](#)
- Jason Schupbach, Director of Design Programs, [National Endowment for the Arts](#)
- Eric D. Shaw, Director, [District of Columbia Office of Planning](#)
- Gay Vietzke, Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks, [National Park Service](#)

#### About the National Park Service

More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 413 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities.

Website: <http://www.nps.gov>, Twitter: @NatlParkService, Instagram: @NationalParkService  
Facebook: /nationalparkservice

#### About the National Capital Planning Commission

Established by Congress in 1924, the National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's central planning agency for the Washington, DC region. NCPC preserves and enhances the extraordinary historical, cultural, and natural resources and federal assets of the region to support the needs of the federal government and enrich the lives of the region's visitors, workers, and residents.

Website: [www.ncpc.gov](http://www.ncpc.gov), Twitter: @NCPCgov, Instagram: @ncpcgov, Facebook: /NCPCgov

#### About Van Alen Institute

At Van Alen Institute, we believe design can transform cities, landscapes, and regions to improve people's lives. We collaborate with communities, scholars, policymakers, and professionals on local and global initiatives that rigorously investigate the most pressing social, cultural, and ecological challenges of tomorrow. Building on more than a century of experience, we develop cross-disciplinary research, provocative public programs, and inventive design competitions.

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