



CURVE

NEW SCULPTURE PROPOSAL

MAMIE "PEANUT" JOHNSON PLAZA

WASHINGTON, DC

US COMMISSION
ON FINE ARTS

January 15, 2026

NOMA

BUSINESS
IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT

Project Goals

CREATE a visually compelling sense of arrival into the heart of the NoMa, Eckington, & Union Market gateway into Washington DC.

FOSTER a strong sense of excitement and American pride in the work, especially as it is being installed during the 250th birthday of the nation.

CELEBRATE the excellence of the DMV artist community.

CONTRIBUTE to the extraordinary bank of public artworks in DC.

CREATE a significant sculpture that will act as a wayfinding marker for one of our DC gateways and for the NoMa & Eckington neighborhoods.



Project Context

LOCATION: The intersection of Florida Avenue NE, New York Avenue NE and First Street NE was redesigned through a partnership between the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), the NoMa Business Improvement District, and the NoMa Parks Foundation to improve safety in the area and better connect NoMa, Eckington, Union Market and their surrounding neighborhoods.

DESIGN: The redesigned intersection opened in June 2025 and features a trio of newly-landscaped “park spaces” that transformed the intersection and now provide residents and visitors with safer intersections, new bike lanes, and over an acre of public space. The spaces include generous seating, a new playground, and thoughtfully designed landscaping that beautify the neighborhood and helps buffer the sounds of adjacent traffic. These park spaces now make up the newest plaza in the BID.

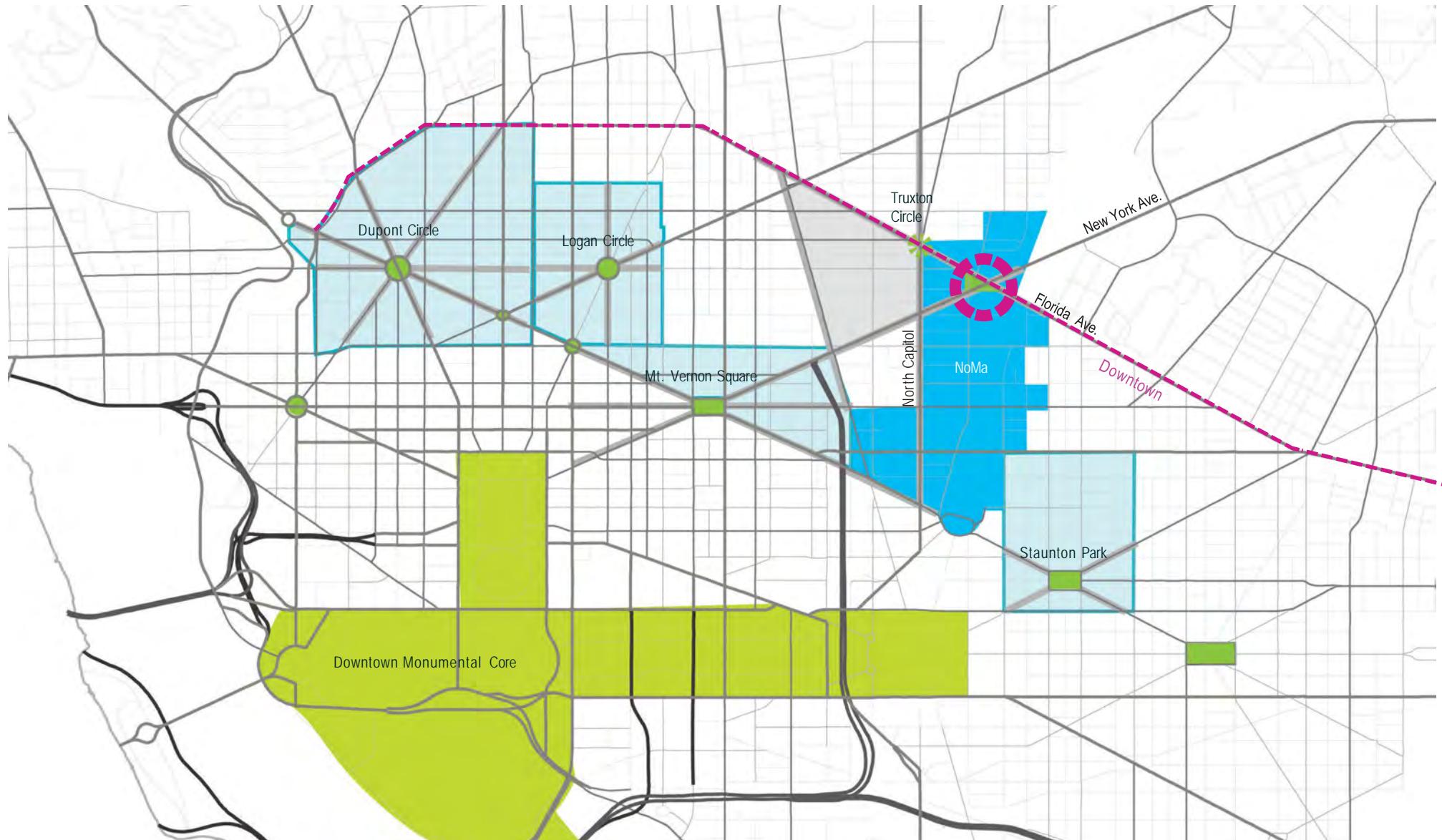
NAME: Through a comprehensive survey issued by the NoMa BID in 2023, the D.C. community chose to name the plaza after Mamie “Peanut” Johnson, a DC resident and the first black woman to play professional baseball as a pitcher. In her impactful career she was especially known for her fast curve ball. After retiring from baseball, she served DC as a nurse for 30 years at Sibley Hospital.

ART: A significant artwork was always expected to be placed on site. *Curve* is proposed to be that sculpture, inspired by Johnson, NoMa, and surrounding neighborhoods. The design signifies strength, resilience and community connection.



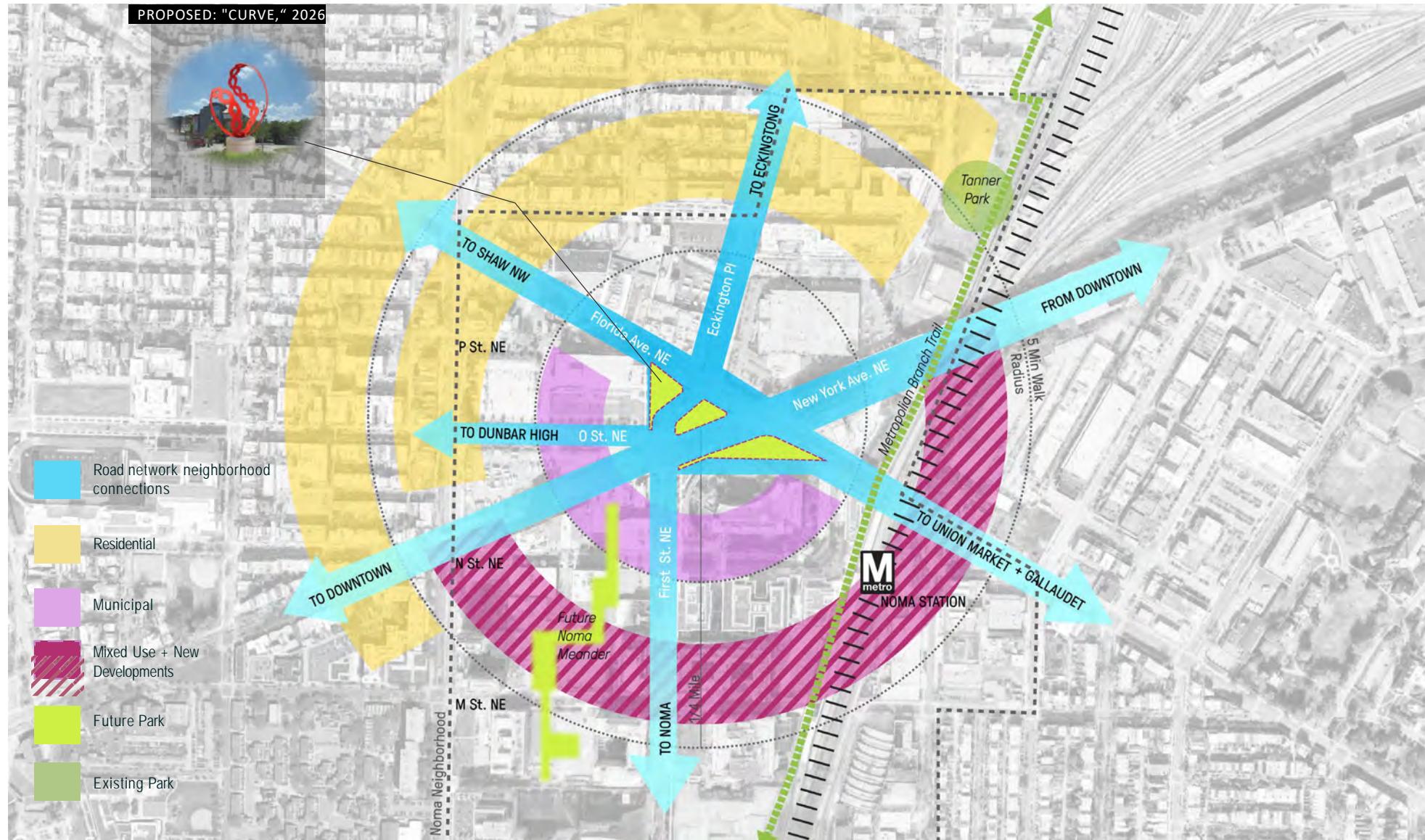
Macro Context

DC Circles and Squares as neighborhood anchors



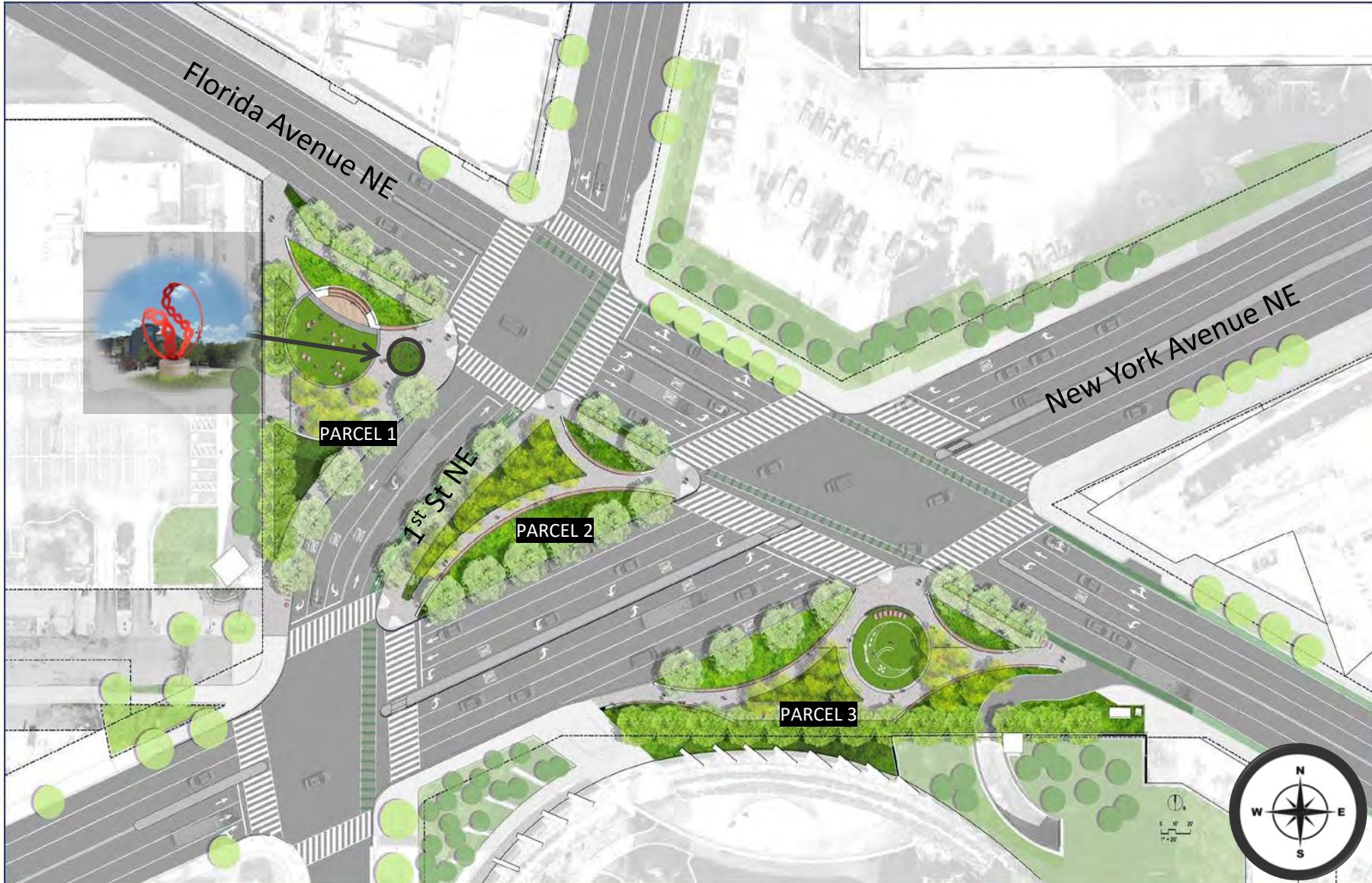
Intersection Analysis

A diverse crossroads in a changing neighborhood



Site Analysis

Location of *Curve* within Mamie "Peanut" Johnson Plaza



Existing Conditions

Aerial view of site looking SE



Existing Conditions

Site view of *Curve* location



Figure 1: Artwork Site: Circular Landscape Planter, looking SE down Florida Ave NE

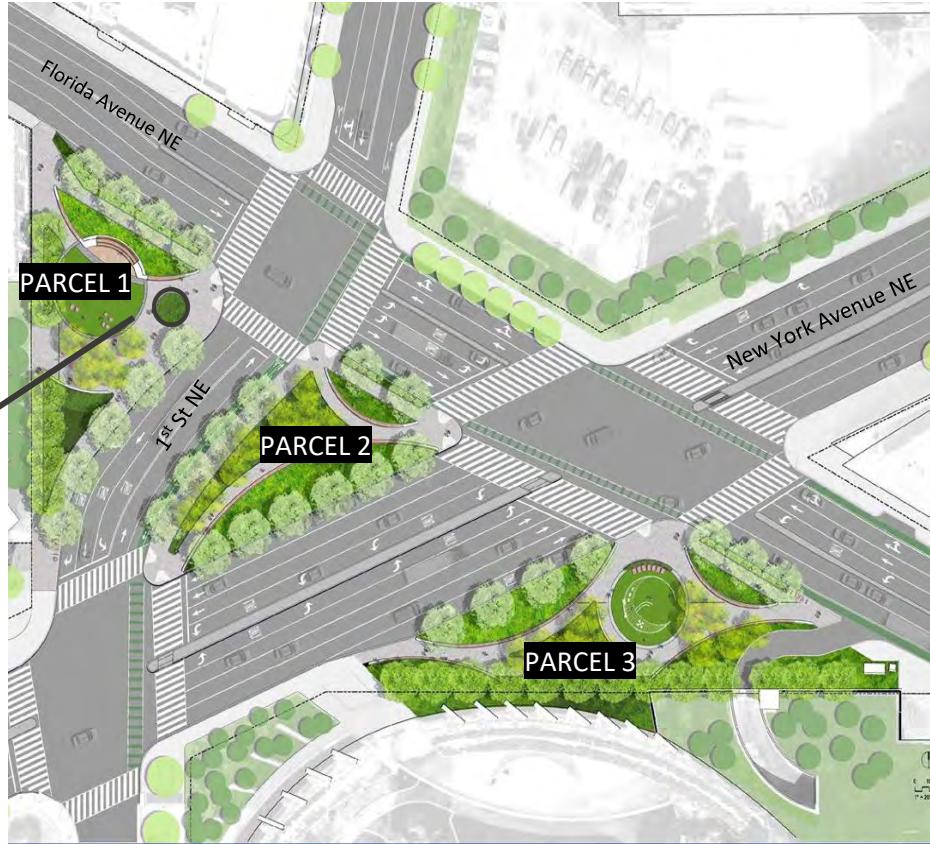


Figure 2: Location within Mamie "Peanut" Johnson Plaza

About *Curve*

- *Curve* is designed by local DC artist Rania Hassan.
- The sculpture will be located in the westernmost plaza of Mamie “Peanut” Johnson Plaza at the intersections of New York Avenue, Florida Avenue and First Streets NE, opened in June 2025.
- The artwork will be placed atop a 4' tall base, installed separately by the NoMa BID, within an existing 20' diameter landscaped and rimmed concrete planter, all acting as psychological deterrents to climbing.
- The sculpture will sit at the SW intersection of Florida Avenue NE and First Street NE. This is in Parcel 1 of Mamie “Peanut” Johnson Plaza.



About *Curve*: Design Inspiration

The sculpture honors Mamie “Peanut” Johnson’s extraordinary legacy by combining her two impressive careers in sports and healthcare into one bold sculpture titled *Curve*. Known for her powerful curveballs, she broke barriers on the mound with skill and determination. After baseball, she continued her trailblazing path as a dedicated nurse serving her community for over three decades at Sibley Hospital in Washington, DC.

Curve references Johnson’s signature pitching style in its sweeping circular motion and is made of one continuous line forming an infinite loop. The woven lines trace the path that threads follow in baseball stitching and echo the intertwined forms of the nursing symbol—symbolizing the strength and unity of her two remarkable careers.

The sculpture represents connection, threading her story into the fabric of the surrounding community and offering a reminder of how one woman’s journey can inspire many others.

12' high



Curve in rotation



8' wide



10' deep



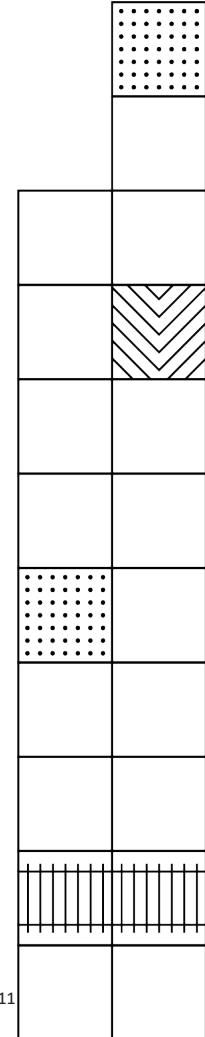
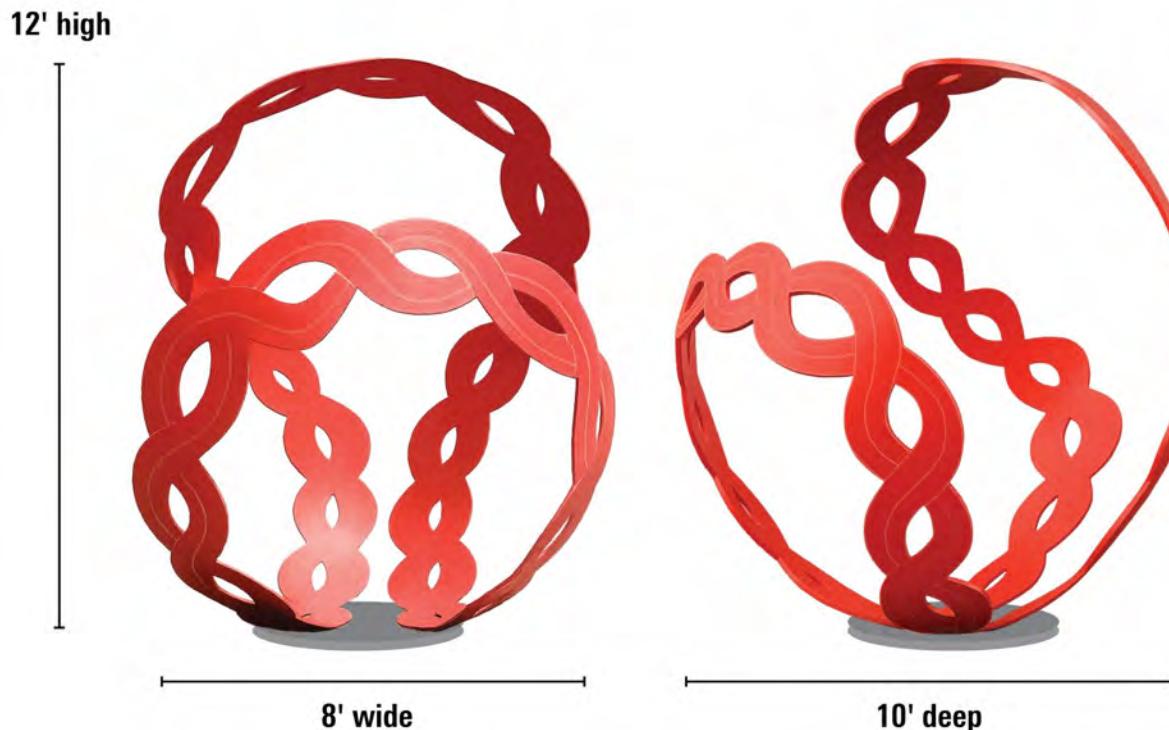
Symbolic Inspiration for **Curve**



About *Curve*: Fabrication

CURVE measures 12' tall, 8' wide and 10' deep. It will be fabricated from $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-thick carbon steel, chosen for its strength, durability and ability to hold precise cuts and welded seams.

The inner plane will include $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch sidewalls, as determined by the engineer, to ensure stability and long-term strength. The sculpture will be finished in a high-performance, industry-standard polychrome paint in bright red, accented with custom pinstriped linework in a second lighter shade.



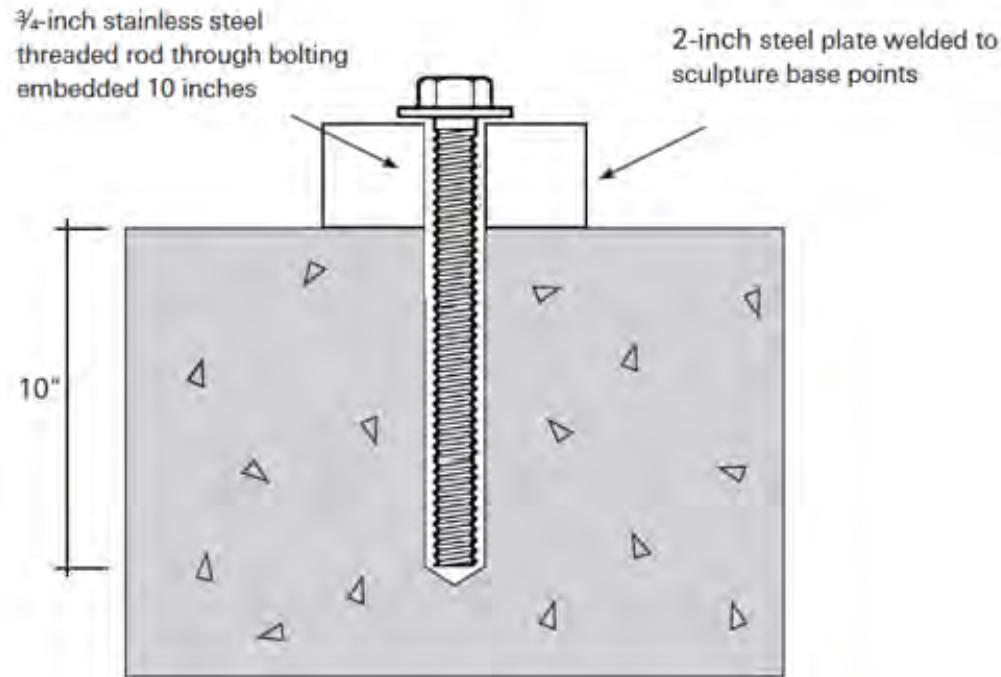
About *Curve*: Fabrication Details

Material: "Curve" will be fabricated by the ART Research Enterprises foundry from carbon steel, selected for its strength, durability, and ability to hold precise cuts and welded seams. Metal components will be waterjet or laser cut, welded, assembled, and prepped for paint. The sculpture will include $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch sidewalls on the inner plane of the piece as determined by the engineer to ensure stability and long-term strength.

Color: The sculpture honors excellence in baseball, our significant and American sport, and therefore will be coated in a high-performance, industry-standard, polychrome paint in a single color of bright red, with custom pinstriped linework in a second color.

Size: Due to its dynamic curves, depicting the roundness and trajectory of a moving ball, and the sinews of the international symbol of nursing, the sculpture will be seen uniquely from every angle. At its largest dimensions, "Curve" will measure approximately 12 feet tall, 8 feet wide, and 10 feet deep.

Base: At the footprint of the piece, the sculpture has two base points to be welded to 2-inch steel plate bases, which in turn connect to the 6' x 6' x 4' feet concrete sculpture pad. Each steel plate base has four $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch holes, with a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch stainless steel threaded rod through bolting embedded 10 inches into the pad. EXP Engineering company will be overseeing the installation for the NoMa BID, who will install the base separately.



Connection to Sculpture Base

Curve—
SE View
towards
Florida Ave NE

CURVE installs into a
4' high x 6' wide x 6' deep
sculpture pad



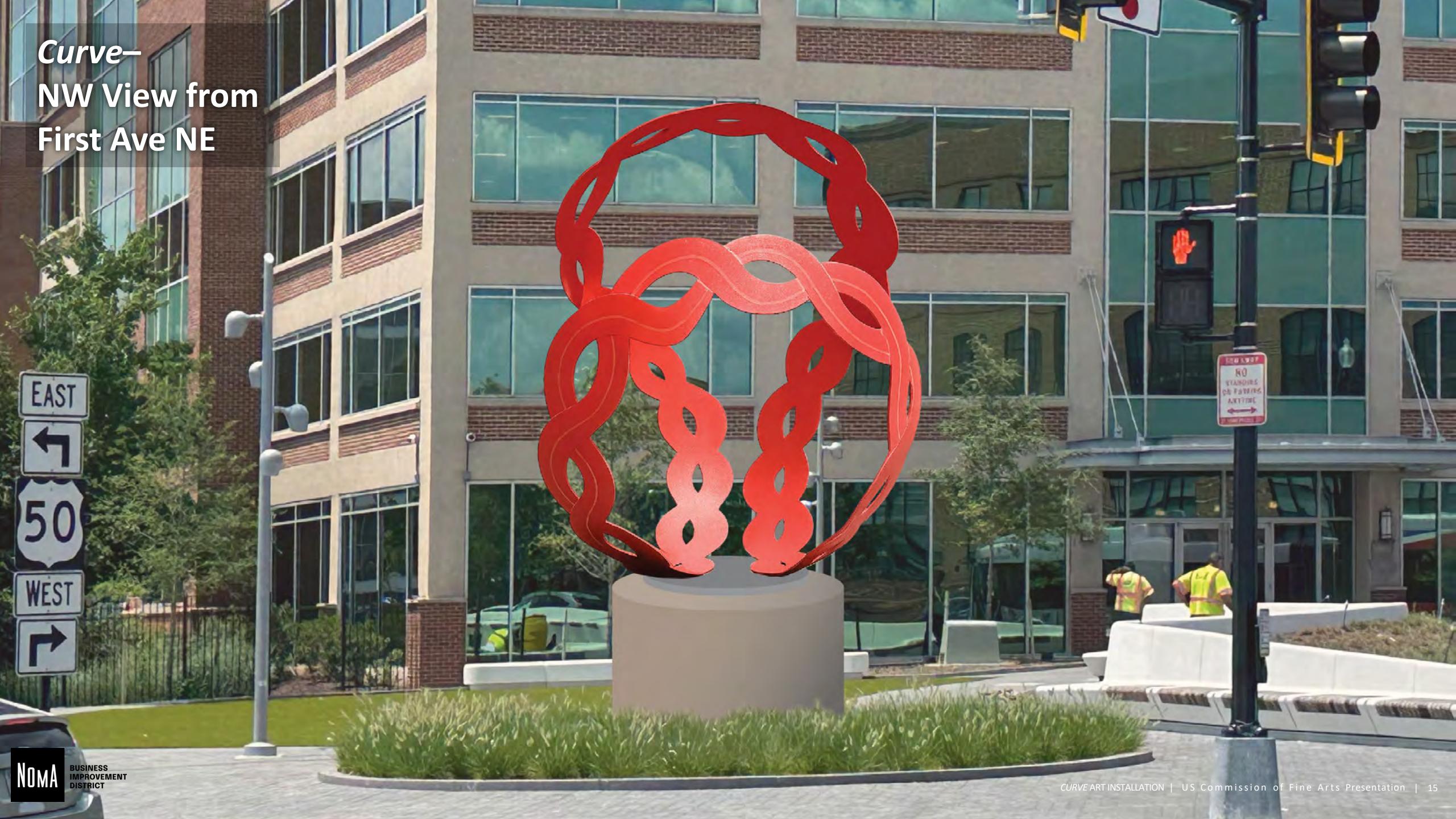
The sculpture pad is inset 7' from
edge of raised landscaped circle

5'7" person
For scale

Curve—
View North
from First Ave
NE



Curve-
NW View from
First Ave NE



Curve—
SE View towards
Florida Ave NE



Curve—
SW View from
Florida Ave NE



**Curve—
Night SW View from
Florida Ave NE**



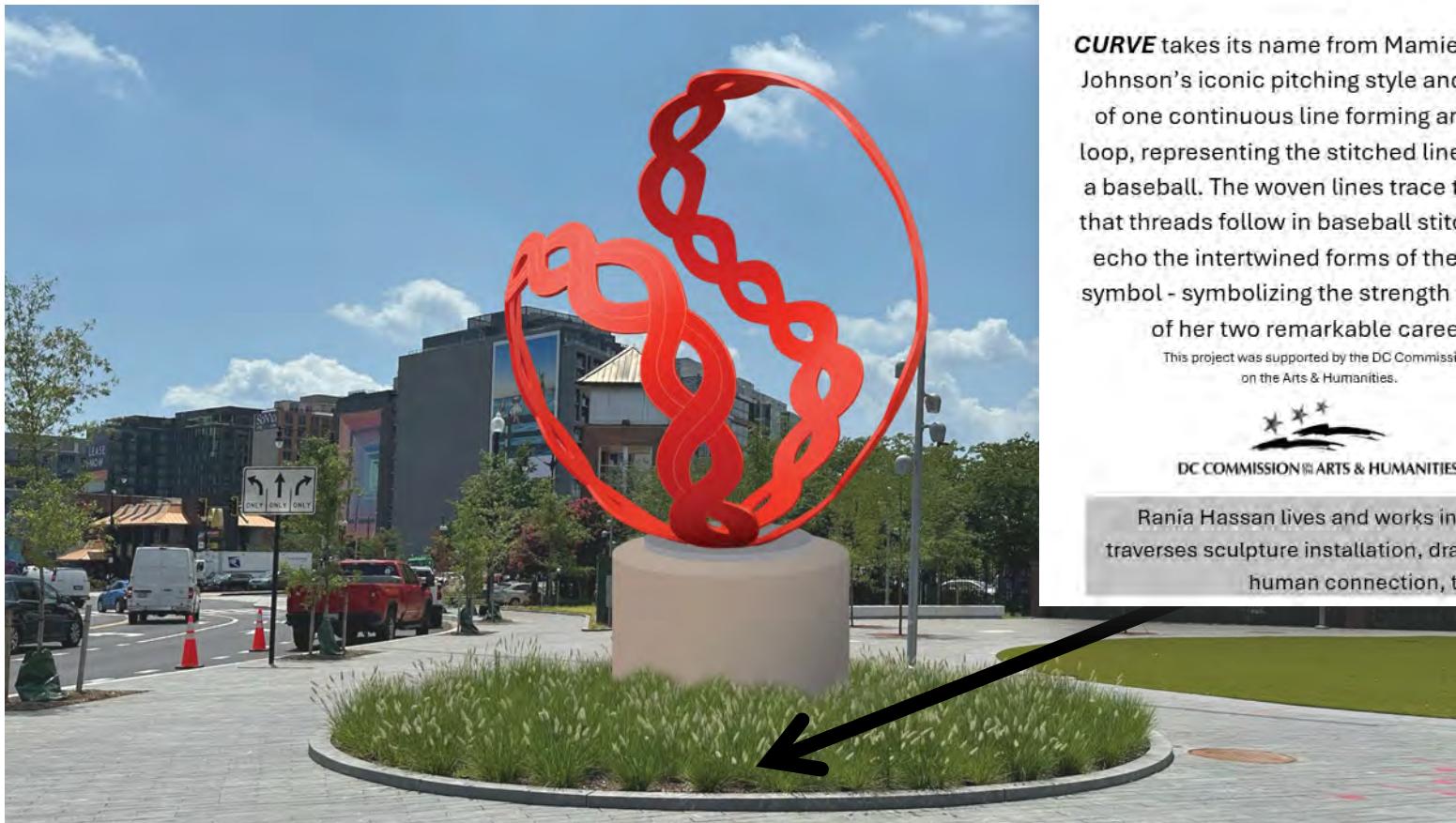
Uplighting will be installed amongst the landscaping surrounding the sculpture. Fixtures will be determined during the sculpture's fabrication phase.

Existing Site Signage



Figure 1: Existing Plaza signage. Each parcel of the Plaza currently has one of these signs installed with the same language (3 total).

Proposed Artwork Signage



Inset: Draft artwork signage

***CURVE*, Rania Hassan**

CURVE takes its name from Mamie "Peanut" Johnson's iconic pitching style and is made of one continuous line forming an infinite loop, representing the stitched lines around a baseball. The woven lines trace the paths that threads follow in baseball stitching and echo the intertwined forms of the nursing symbol - symbolizing the strength and unity of her two remarkable careers.

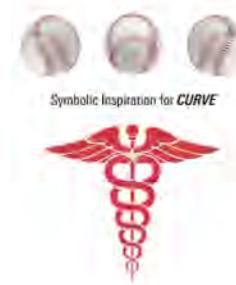
This project was supported by the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities.



DC COMMISSION ON ARTS & HUMANITIES

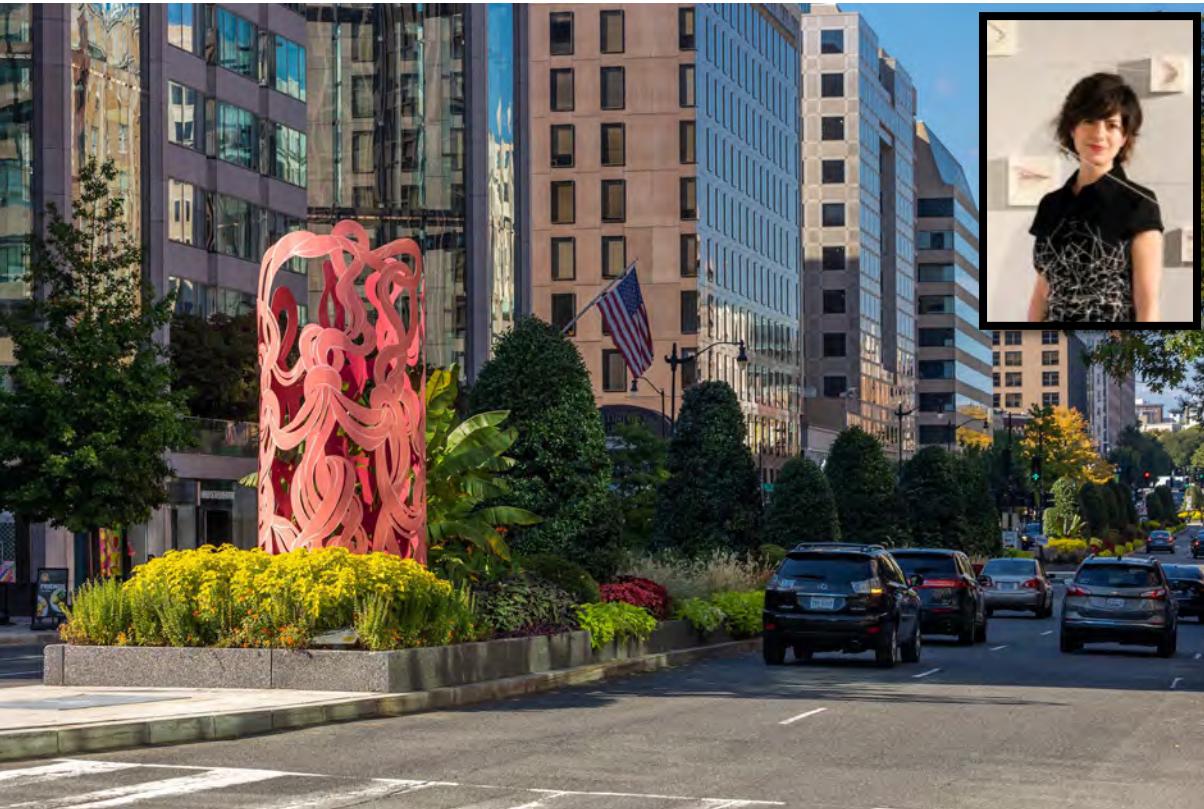


Rania Hassan lives and works in Washington, DC. Her artistic practice traverses sculpture installation, drawing, and performance, and investigates human connection, time, memory, and identity.



About the Artist

- Rania Hassan knits threads into sculptural stories about our connections to time, place, and circumstance. Her large-scale installations span public art, performance, and sculpture, and include site-responsive and interactive kinetic works. She works with themes of community, synchronicity, identity, and memory.
- Her work ranges in scale from modular arrangements of 3 x 4 -inch drawings to 40 x40 x 40- foot suspended installations and materials vary from delicate combinations of the finest threads to 1,500 pounds of curved sheets of cut steel.
- Rania's artwork is included in the permanent collections of the National Institutes of Health (Bethesda, MD), Amazon Web Services (Herndon, VA), and the District of Columbia's Art Bank Collection (Washington, DC).
- She has been featured in publications worldwide including Smithsonian Magazine, a cover story for Textile Plus (Netherlands), and the Washington Post, and has been awarded multiple Arts and Humanities Fellowship Program Grant Awards from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.





Thank You!

NEW SCULPTURE PROPOSAL

MAMIE "PEANUT" JOHNSON PLAZA

WASHINGTON, DC

NOMA

BUSINESS
IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT