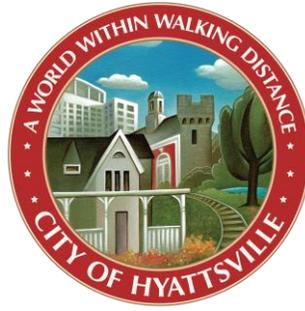


Kevin Ward
Interim Mayor



Tracey E. Douglas
City Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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City of Hyattsville to name park in honor of Dr. David C. Driskell

HYATTSVILLE, MD - Hyattsville City Council passed a motion at yesterday's May 3, 2021 meeting to rename the City's Magruder Park as David C. Driskell Community Park. This new name honors former Hyattsville resident Dr. David C. Driskell, a preeminent artist, historian, curator, and scholar of African American art. The park will be officially renamed through a Council resolution, currently being drafted for the May 17, 2021 meeting.

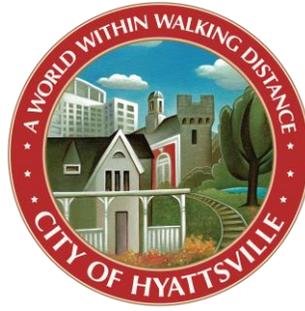
Dr. Driskell was a respected advocate for increased visibility, inclusion, and preservation of African American art. He was a distinguished professor emeritus at the University of Maryland and his artworks are displayed in museums across the country. Dr. Driskell passed away in April 2020 from COVID-19.

City Council began considering a new name for the Park in 2019 after initiating a process to remove racist and exclusionary language from the original 1927 Park deed. The park was then named for William Pinkney Magruder, a former Hyattsville Mayor who donated the park land to the City. Over 800 suggestions for new names were provided by community members, including over 230 in favor of naming the park after Dr. Driskell.

Volunteers from the City's Race and Equity Task Force and Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committees narrowed the list of suggested names to five that were presented to City Council in March of 2021. Council selected the name of David C. Driskell Community Park to both honor an exemplary resident and better reflect the park's current use as a welcoming community center.

Hyattsville's Interim Mayor Kevin Ward shared that, "renaming the park as David C. Driskell Community Park adds a new chapter to the park's storied history, one that we believe embraces some of Hyattsville's core values of inclusivity, neighborly care, and

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appreciation of the arts.” Ward added that, “our Council understands removing the racist language from the deed and renaming the park is not a cure-all to address issues of race and inequity in the City, but we feel it is a step in the right direction”.

More details on the process to rename the park can be found at www.hyattsville.org/namethepark.

The City of Hyattsville is a diverse and welcoming community that celebrates small town character, urban energy, and environmental stewardship. The City’s municipal government aims to provide leadership and effective services that enhance resident’s quality of life. For more information visit www.hyattsville.org.

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