



# The Historical Society of Washington, D.C. presents

# My DC Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt

## // COMMUNITY EXPLORER //

Funding provided by HumanitiesDC and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020.

Welcome to the second edition of My DC Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt! If you had fun exploring your neighborhood with our first hunt, we welcome you to dive deeper and think about **what makes your neighborhood special** here in Round 2. *Let's get started!*



Members of the Arthur Taft family cool off at an August 1902 picnic beside Chevy Chase Lake, in Maryland. The lake no longer exists. Henry Arthur Taft Collection, Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

### Find a spot to cool off

Back before air conditioning became common, Washingtonians stayed cool by finding high ground to catch a cool breeze.

**Where do you go in your neighborhood to cool off in the summer heat?**

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A horse drawn produce wagon makes deliveries in an alley, 1923, courtesy Library of Congress.

### Find an alley

DC's alleys originally provided access to the backs of the houses and lots that faced the street. Over time, large properties were divided and smaller buildings were built along the alleys. In some places, alleys filled up with businesses, in others small houses were built that were more affordable than the big houses facing the street.

**Where do you see an alley today?**

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Portrait of Duke Ellington, 1946, courtesy Library of Congress.

### Find a building, park, street, or other place named for a Washingtonian

Jazz composer and native Washingtonian Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington has several places named for him around town, including the Duke Ellington Bridge connecting Adams Morgan and Woodley Park, and the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Georgetown.

**What place did you find that's named for a Washingtonian?**

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*Hint: many schools and official buildings are named after Washingtonians.*



Many Voices Many Beats One City, a mural in Anacostia by Cory L. Stowers and Jason Philip, image courtesy MuralsDC

### Find a piece of public art

From traditional statues to modern murals, chances are you can find art in a public space in your neighborhood. Maybe you'll find one from #MuralsDC51, a project to create 51 murals themed around statehood, Black history, and social justice in all eight wards.

**What kind of art did you find in your neighborhood? What kind of art do you wish you could find?**

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Kenilworth Courts Playground, 1961. Image courtesy National Capital Housing Authority

## Find a place to play in your neighborhood

Washington might have a reputation as a serious town, but we know DC is a fun place to live.

**Where do you go to have fun and play?**

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Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church, courtesy Library of Congress.

## Find a house of worship, community center, or gathering place

When it is safe to gather in groups, our city is full of places to be together with our friends and neighbors.

**Where do people gather in your neighborhood?**

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Image, 1920s, courtesy Library of Congress.

## Find a piece of “street furniture” like a bench, mailbox, or bike rack

At the beginning of the 20th century, horses were the most common and efficient way to get around town. The Humane Society of Washington installed water troughs like this one all over the city to quench the thirst of working horses’ and help them stay cool in hot summer weather. The city removed most of the troughs in the 1950s, but one can still be found in Rock Creek Park today!

**What kinds of furnishings did you find on your streets and sidewalks?**

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Washingtonians celebrate the opening of Metro at Rhode Island Avenue station, 1976. Photograph by Larry Levine, courtesy of WMATA

## Find something new

Neighborhoods are always changing - find a building under construction, a new business, or maybe a tiny sapling that will someday be a big tree.

**What new place or thing did you find?**

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## MORE TO EXPLORE

### Find a place to learn

Like a school, library, or museum.

**Where do you go to learn new things in your neighborhood?**

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### Find your favorite tree

Don't have a favorite tree? Time to pick one! The scarlet oak tree is the official tree of DC. Maybe there is one growing in your neighborhood!

**What makes your tree the best?**

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### Find something you've always wondered about

Maybe it's a street name, an old building, or a manhole cover.

**Take a photo, tag us on social media @dchistory, and let's see what our community knows about it!**

**For more resources, visit [dchistory.org](https://dchistory.org)**