

Parkland 17 foundation picks 3 finalists for memorial, asks public to weigh in

by Nick Viviani
Thu, July 11th 2024 at 8:26 PM



FILE - In this Feb. 23, 2019, photo, a bicyclist rides past a sign at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. Vice President Joe Biden will tour on Saturday, March 23, 2024, the blood-stained classroom building where the 2018 Parkland high school massacre happened. The foundation for the school's victims' family members who are pushing for stricter gun laws and improved school safety. (Mike Stocker/South Florida Sun-Sentinel via AP, File)

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PARKLAND, Fla. (CBS12) — The Parkland 17 Memorial Foundation narrowed to three the top of designs for a planned memorial to honor the victims of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School six years ago; and now, the organization is asking the public to weigh in.

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The foundation's vice chairman and liaison to the victims' families Tony Montalto explained how the proposals were narrowed down with input from the families.

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"Once we have input from the public and further input from the families, the design firm will make a formal presentation, and we will award the contract from there," explained Montalto. He is the father of Gina Montalto.

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The memorial is slated to be built on a 150-acre preserve between Coral Springs and Pompano Beach. People wanting to weigh in the design are asked to go to <https://parkland17.org/finalists> to provide their feedback.

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"This memorial will be a destination, not only for the families, but for all of us who want to honor and remember these innocent souls," said Foundation Chair Michael Moser, First Responders Representative. "We cannot, however, bring this memorial to life without everyone's help."

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Renders of the proposals can be viewed in the gallery above. Descriptions of each plan provided by Parkland 17 foundation are listed below.

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- Gordon Huether, Gordon Huether Studio, Napa, California:** The proposal is built around concentric circles, with a central fountain with seating, surrounded by 17 limestone pillars – a tribute to each victim. These forms hold each victim’s name and include a small table for visitors to place mementos. The poem “But for a Small Moment” is engraved into the center of the plaza. Shade structures have been added to shield visitors from the sun, and laser-cutouts that create unique shadows as the sun moves throughout the day. To complete the circular theme, 17 royal palm trees and an outer seating wall form the perimeter of the Memorial.
- Humanity Memorial Inc., Sutton, West Virginia, with EDSA, Inc., Fort Lauderdale, Florida and Dills Architects, Virginia Beach, Virginia:** 17 Rays of Light is an original design, a tranquil symbol of light, with peaceful reflection pool and heroic scale honoring the victims’ peaceful spirit; a haven for remembrance and immersion in their spirit of light. A place that celebrates their vibrant life amidst the beauty and privacy of nature and 17 private pillars infused with emotion and profound meaning of light honoring the essence of who they were-our light continues touching us, not dimmed by tragedy but forever shines. The stars represent their uniqueness irreplaceable. Patterns of the families’ choices were created.
- VLC One, Inc., Hollywood, Florida:** There will be 17 angular sculptures rising 30 feet, extending outward to a sheer curtain of water flowing continuously into a reflective reservoir. Each sculpture represents an individual precious life lost. The eternal circular flow evokes ideas of profound depth, changing feelings, love and sadness, but also hope, rejuvenation, and transformation. A 16-inch (minimum) cast bronze plaque is permanently embedded into each pillar as a tribute to each victim with an optional “bas relief” as well as a QR code for more information. Permanent tasteful seating will be included surrounding the memorial. A separate historical placard is provided at the memorial entrance.

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PARKLAND, Fla. (CBS12) — The Parkland 17 Memorial Foundation narrowed to three the number of designs for a planned memorial to honor the victims of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School six years ago; and now, the organization is asking the public to weigh in.

The foundation's vice chairman and liaison to the victims' families Tony Montalto explained that the proposals were narrowed down with input from the families.

"Once we have input from the public and further input from the families, the design firms will make a formal presentation, and we will award the contract from there," explained Montalto, who is the father of Gina Montalto.

The memorial is slated to be built on a 150-acre preserve between Coral Springs and Parkland. People wanting to weigh in the design are asked to go to <https://parkland17.org/finalists> to give their feedback.

"This memorial will be a destination, not only for the families, but for all of us who want to honor and remember these innocent souls," said Foundation Chair Michael Moser, First Responder Representative. "We cannot, however, bring this memorial to life without everyone's help."

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