

Submitted On	Name	In your opinion what should be done with the Monuments	Message
01/01/2018 14:11:13	Bob Swisher	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>In my over ten years as a tour guide at the Virginia Capitol I have interacted with many visitors, from both the U.S. and abroad, who indicated they came to Richmond to see Civil War-associated sites, including Monument Avenue. Hardly a day goes by at the Capitol that we are not asked by a visitor for directions to Monument Avenue.</p> <p>I'll share with you here about one Capitol visitor, a young man from the Netherlands whom I had on a tour last month (December 2017). We chatted after the tour when he told me about his reason for coming to Richmond and about what one town in the Netherlands had done about a statue commemorating a controversial historical figure. The young man, Heino Oome, was on his first trip to the U.S., indicated he was particularly interested in the American Civil War and had come to this country in large part to see Civil War-associated sites. Before Richmond he had toured the Gettysburg, Antietam, and Manassas battlefields. After Richmond he was planning to go to Appomattox.</p> <p>In Richmond Mr. Oome spent money staying at least two nights at the Holiday Inn Express downtown. He spent money in Richmond restaurants. Possibly he bought one or two souvenirs in Richmond. Mr. Oome told me he had a rental car (for which he may have bought gas in Richmond) but walked from his hotel out to Monument Avenue as he wanted to spend plenty of time seeing all the statues and architecture.</p> <p>Mr. Oome told me that a town in the Netherlands, after much discussion, decided to keep a statue of Jan Pieterszoon Coen, a colonial figure in the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) who was once a Dutch national hero but who has fallen out of favor because of his involvement in the slave trade and genocide. The town, Hoorn, decided to keep its J.P. Coen statue, with new signage, as a "warning" and "critical reminder" to future generations.</p>
01/03/2018 9:08:32	Sarah Cribbs		<p>I wondered if there are any members of the Commission who would be willing to come and talk to two Randolph-Macon College classes about the process the Commission is undertaking. The two classes, Psychology of Prejudice (Dr. Kristen Klaaren's class) and Race & Ethnic Relations (my class), are meeting once per week during the January term to work on a collaborative project on Monument Avenue (generating facts related to the monuments, etc.). We wondered if someone is available to come and talk about their process on the Commission but not divulge any private information. Thanks! Sarah Cribbs (541)521-1810 -- cell</p>
01/04/2018 14:53:11	William Gallasch	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Please call me at 804-356-0234 or email about setting a date for a meeting. Thanks. Bill

01/05/2018 10:02:22	Claude Armstrong	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>To Whom this May Concern:</p> <p>My name is Claude Armstrong, a 2nd year student at VCU's L. Douglas Wilder School in their Masters of Urban & Regional Planning program. I am evaluating ideas for my Professional Plan capstone project to be completed at the end of Spring 2019 and am writing to inquire about the possibility of working with the commission to develop a visioning plan and concept built on public participation by the diverse interests surrounding the Monument Ave Monuments. Though a MURP student I have an architectural design background and some urban design education & experience.</p> <p>I would like feedback from you on the feasibility of such a venture. If feasible, I would like to get a gauge on the possible scope and timing for such an undertaking to determine whether, with my schedule, I can take it on. What you are doing is important so I want to make sure that any assistance I give will serve your purposes and advance this sensitive discussion.</p> <p>Respectfully, Claude P. Armstrong Masters Degree Candidate, Virginia Commonwealth University L. Douglas Wilder School of Government, Masters of Urban & Regional Planning (MURP) Program</p> <p>c 804-586-3546 (personal) o 804-734-5046 (day time)</p>
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01/05/2018 23:14:05	Ruth Blair Moyers	Relocate the monuments.	<p>My opinion is these statues should be relocated to the Virginia Historical Society Museum (inside or outside). They still exist, not wiping away any history, only removing a controversial figure from a public space, where they are still participating as active players in the shaping of Richmond as a city.</p> <p>Although I am in favor of relocating the monuments, I have an interesting thought to offer.</p> <p>I am a fourth-year architecture student at Washington University in St. Louis, but was born and raised in Richmond. I grew up in the suburbs and didn't really get to know the city until I attended Orchard House School, located on North Allen, directly north of the Lee Monument. The monuments did not really mean much to me other than fun places to play at recess, but after deciding to study architectural spaces, I have started to understand the significance of public space. This summer, after the Unite the Right rally, I was asked to help lead an hour-long informal round table discussion at my school about monuments and their role in modern times. In attendance were administrators from the Office of Community Engagement at my school, graduate architecture students, undergraduates and a PhD candidate in art history who is writing her thesis on art (specifically monuments) in public space. Much of what we talked about was redundant, and obviously one-sided but at one point we came round to talking about how monuments are also one-sided. It is impossible to sum up the feelings of an entire community in one "heroic" figure. Monuments represent the emboldened, empowered or enraged views of those with enough money or clout to erect a statue. What doesn't get built in those moments are the stories of the other side of history. If we argue that these monuments represent our heritage, we are lying to ourselves and to everyone who sees them. We are giving only one side of history. These monuments show mounted warriors, noble orators and leaders, so why don't we write in the other side. As a city, we can respond to these calls of Southern Pride and heritage with statues of Richmonders who lived in the same time, on the other side of history. Slaves, northern sympathizers, people fighting for freedom from slavery. We shouldn't put them on the other side of town, but directly in front of our confederate heroes. A conversation ensues, one that doesn't forget either side of history.</p>
01/08/2018 10:32:37	David Morris	Relocate the monuments.	<p>1. move the monuments to Belle Isle & commence archaeological work to identify locations of the Confederate Prison there. Belle Isle held over 30,000 Union POWs. The monuments thus take their place in a historical setting related to the Civil War, where the educational context can be made clear. no one is forced to visit them. self-determination.</p> <p>2. Dean Joe Seipel (VCU) once had the idea for a sculpture park along the James River. the monuments, in such a context, could be appreciated as works of art--and surrounded with explanatory materials</p>
01/08/2018 14:07:13	Thomas Crompton	Leave the monuments as they are.	Please leave the monuments alone...they are beautiful and add more!!!!
01/08/2018 17:23:21	Janet White	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Please update this site!!!

01/09/2018 17:49:54	Sheila Schnitt	Leave the monuments as they are., Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	I understand that there is a great deal of emotion surrounding these issues. Regardless, of which decision is made, nothing that happens should use public funds. When the city schools are in such disarray and people in subsidized housing have no heat in record breaking cold weather, I find it reprehensible that people would want to spend public monies for any changes when people are suffering. If people want relocation or additions to happen, they need to find private funding. I think the current administration needs to make it clear that their first priorities go to the well-being of the living before assuaging the bitter memories of the past. Nothing will really erase what has happened but we can work to insure fulfilling the promise of the future.
01/10/2018 4:13:24	Paul Hatfield	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	The people they depict, however wrong their cause, played an important role in shaping the future of the nation into one that became united. The war, itself, was the price we paid for our failure to settle the slavery issue when the Constitution was written. Lee, Jackson, Stuart and Maury were tragic heroes of that conflict. I could argue that Davis needs to come down. He was not a Virginian, and, in his role as President of the CSA, prolonged the war. Besides the statues' historical significance, they are works of art - maybe among the best examples of equestrian forms.
01/10/2018 18:43:26	Robin POULTON	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>Why do Richmonders only celebrate males whose trade is killing people? Why does Monument Avenue not celebrate famous artists, scientists and even (a daring suggestion!) women? Virginia is overly obsessed with military uniforms (not just confederate uniforms). Poor, lonely Arthur Ashe needs some non-military company. Richmond's city fathers and mothers should complete the historical record. Starting with WOMEN.</p> <p>Among Richmond's Civil War women, the top candidates might be Elizabeth Van Lew and Mary Bowser, spies who together provided immense amounts of information to the Unionist army. Mary Bowser was a free black woman hired as a servant – on the advice of Elizabeth Van Lew – by Mrs Varina Davies, wife of the president of the Confederacy. Bowser was able to spy from inside the White House of the Confederacy. A giant statue of Bowser and Van Lew, American women heroes, one black and the other white, would challenge the racist militarism inherent in Richmond's otherwise-beautiful Monument Avenue.</p> <p>Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth were famous anti-slavery women heroes, even though they – like Rosa Parks who would also be a good subject - were not Virginians. Local statue candidates might be Pocahontas (died 1617) and Oppussoquionuske (died 1610) famous women leaders of the Powhatan Native American confederation; Angela from Angola, the first African woman to arrive in Virginia in 1619; Gabriel, the slave who led the 1800 rebellion for freedom and against slavery in Richmond; civil rights lawyers Sam Tucker (1913-1990), Spottswood William Robinson, III (1916-1998) and Oliver Hill (1907-2007); and Congressman John Mercer Langston (1829-1897) an abolitionist lawyer who was the first dean of the law school at Howard University and the first president of what is now Virginia State University, an historically black college in Petersburg near Richmond.</p>

01/11/2018 13:27:02	Lyndon German		<p>Greetings</p> <p>My name is Lyndon German staff writer with the Hopewell News. I'm looking to write a story on Rev. Curtis Harris for the week of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Rev. Harris was one of the several hundred to walk along side Dr. King and was even granted an opportunity to meet with him here in Hopewell, Va. As the first African-American mayor of Hopewell Harris was instrumental in implementing a bust of Dr. King in the city's civic plaza. Today your committee was one of many to consider Harris for a statue himself. I was looking for a point of contact to discuss why Harris was chosen as one of figures for the Monument Avenue Commission. You can contact me at (804) 658-9825 or germanlyndon@gmail.com.</p> <p>Thank You,</p> <p>Lyndon German</p>
01/12/2018 10:00:26	Thomas O'Keefe	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add context to the monuments., Relocate the monuments.	<p>I'm kind of a fan of the idea of just ditching the confederate monuments, one interesting possibility that might be more diplomatic could be:</p> <p>What if the monuments simple stopped being maintained, except for things necessary for safety? In other words, allow the monuments to weather, wear, and deteriorate. Imagine these monuments aging and dying naturally over time, vines growing on them, crumbling bases... it would reflect the archaic nature of the beliefs of these figures, and allow them to fade into the past as they should</p>
01/12/2018 10:14:49	joel blum	Add context to the monuments.	<p>The Monuments represent a part of our history that most directly oand powerfully impacts the people whose ancestors suffered under slavery and the Jim Crow Laws. Therefore, the input from these people (our African American Fellow Citizens) is crucial to any decision that is reached. Extraordinary outreach efforts should be made to solicit this input and we all then need to be informed as to what this input is.</p>
01/12/2018 11:08:39	Tom O'Keefe	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	<p>I sent in a more reasoned perspective, but then I felt wrong about it. I was born and raised in Richmond and have ancestors that fought on both sides of the war, and I think the monuments must be removed. A quick glance at the secession documents and other critical primary sources reveals that the Confederacy was all about preserving the slavery of black people, and to glorify them one moment more is an insult to every American. A historical argument for preserving them is not persuasive: many methods of highlighting history exist that do not intentionally elevate and glamorize these warriors for the cause of slavery.</p>

01/18/2018 10:02:26	Jennifer Grogan	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	<p>Dear Commission,</p> <p>From my perspective, the monuments are the equivalent of flying large confederate flags at each circle along Monument Ave. They were raised as part of an ugly reassertion of white supremacy and continue to represent the idealization of an abhorrent set of beliefs and practices. It is hard to see the justification for honoring people who fought so as to ensure they could continue to exploit, brutalize and maim another group of people.</p> <p>The argument that removing the Monument Ave statues puts us on a slippery slope which will result in the removal of all monuments to the country's 'founding fathers' is simply disingenuous and/or uninformed. There is a critical distinction between racists, which many of the founding fathers were, and those who would divide the country in order to preserve their right to continue with chattel slavery. The argument that the statues somehow evoke a glorious and gracious past similarly ignores the fact that (a) this vision of the past, even to the extent valid, was built and relied for its maintenance on slavery, and (b) that's not what the monuments in fact represent; rather, by form and plaque, they explicitly represent leaders of a political and military movement the goal of which was to allow the continuation (and expansion) of chattel slavery. Nor is there any meaningful way to 'contextualize' the statues in a way that would render them no longer monuments to an ugly ideology. Beyond that, I don't actually care whether the statues are destroyed or put in a museum, provided the museum wants them and can raise private funds.</p> <p>Finally, regarding the cost of removal, to reduce the same, we could consider simply removing the statues and the plaques and leaving the pedestals in place, either to support other statues that are not so blatantly offensive or as planters for flowers/trees, making the avenue still more beautiful and supporting Richmond's image as a forward-looking, green city that supports the ideals of this country and true grace.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jennifer Grogan</p>
01/19/2018 14:04:26	Jackson Moret	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	I think we should add a monument of Annie Sullivan because she worked hard to help Helen learn pretty much everything she needed and kept trying. I think when people see this monument it will encourage them to reach for their dreams.
01/19/2018 14:07:52	Austin Rose	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	My monument idea is a dog. This will promote dog walking it also has a fountain with drinking water for dogs . It is made of concrete and is 26 feet tall by 25 feet wide.
01/19/2018 14:08:38	sam v	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	My monument idea is a concrete monument saying Richmond this would be open to the public to climb or to look at there would be benches and maybe a fountain.The words could be colored or could be plain.You could also have janitors or custodians to keep it clean and looking good. And people on work release could also help to clean it. Thanks,Sam
01/19/2018 14:08:38	Charles O'Bryan	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	Hi I'm Charles. I am a 7th grade student at 7hills school in Richmond, Virginia. I am sending this as an idea for the empty monument spot. I think a statue of a union soldier cutting through a confederate flag should be put there. I think it would be a good idea to show something like this to show that Richmond was the place where the confederate flag would stand, but now it's not. replace the monuments with statues of war heroes of the union.
01/19/2018 14:10:35	caleb ross	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	This marble statue of of lady liberty also comes with a marble US flag. It will be made of diffrent color marble to make it have more color compaierd to the other monuments. This monument will show how this state was the first state to be colnized and stated here. The sigh at the bottom will be made of marble and have gold as substance for the letters.

01/19/2018 14:13:13	Alexander Moore	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	I have an Idea for a monument for monument avenue. It is 20 feet tall, it is made of stone, It has every monument character standing tall. There is text on the base that says "Our history will not leave so neither will we." It is on monument avenue. I think this would be a good Idea because There is a lot of hate towards the monuments right now. I think this monument will show people that the monuments will not fall or be moved.
01/19/2018 14:14:06	george starkey	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Hello I am a 7th grade student at seven hills school I have a monument idea for monument avenue it would be a statue of mars with the words under the pedestal, Explore. And on the globe of mars it would say do it. the mars globe would be made of brass and the pedestal would be made of hardened kilned clay and the ice cap would be made of granite, and the entire dimensions of the monument would be 32 feet wide and 26 feet tall. I think it would be a good idea because I think it would make people more adventurous and more curious.
01/19/2018 14:15:21	Walker Hill	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	My monument idea is the reddish building and clock tower of the Main Street Station. The monument will be made of concrete so that it doesn't break. The monument itself will be 9 feet long, 5 feet wide, and 11 feet high. The clock tower will be two feet long and two feet wide and connected to the building. There will be a pedestal 13 feet in diameter at the bottom and 11 feet in diameter on the second level. The monument will be constructed on the second level of the pedestal. There will also be important facts engraved on the bottom of the pedestal and the name of the monument on the second level. This monument will bring awareness and would bring people to learn about the history of trains and modern things. People would like to learn about the grand opening and renovations of the Main Street Station.
01/19/2018 14:16:06	Darwin Lederay	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	My idea for a monument is to build a rock surrounded by water on a column to represent the James river. The monument will be 25 feet high. The column is 18 feet high and the rock will be 7 feet high. The column will be dark gray and be made of granite. The rock and the water will be shiny light gray and will be made of marble. I think the importance of a monument representing the river would be a great idea because I think it would remind people of how long the James River has been with us. I think people won't fight over the statue. Everybody would be able to enjoy it.
01/19/2018 14:17:57	Chris Leffler	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	My monument Idea is just a large pine tree standing at twenty six feet tall and having a marble base.
01/19/2018 14:22:39	jahleel covington		wassup my monument was a cannon on top of stone with cannon balls on the side.
01/19/2018 14:23:16	Maddox Turner	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	I did this monument for a project at my school What I believe it should include is an angel and a demon reaching for a bird man with american flags for wings promoting peace. It should be 16 feet tall and 5 feet wide and made of stone It should present the message that no man or woman is perfect and that all humans are imperfect but that we should strive to be perfect even if it is impossible. It tells us that we are not good or evil, but we are still human beings no matter what we look like, what religion we are from, that we are all humans and that makes us all equal. But there is a time when we do become good or evil and this is when either the angels blow their trumpets and send their messengers to bring us to heaven, or when the demons blow the horns of destruction and send their messengers to bring us down to the depths of hell. This monument should tell us that we should strive to be good and also strive to be perfect so that the demons can no longer drag us into the pools of eternal destruction and pain.

01/19/2018 14:26:36	Asher Levy	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Hello, I'm a 7th grader living in Richmond Virginia and I was thinking of adding a monument of Edgar Allen Poe. The reason I think Edgar Allan Poe would be a good addition to Monument Ave is because he lived in Virginia for a long time and he is one of the most famous poets of all time and I think he deserves a Monument on Monument Ave to honer to him. I was thinking of making a 13 foot, 3 demensional piece of stone with Edgar Allan Poe, a raven, his name, and when he was born and when he died engraved into the piece of stone. I want the picture of him taking up the top and the middle of the stone, and the raven, his name, and when he was born and when he died at the bottom of the stone.
01/19/2018 14:37:25	jack keith	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	hi im a 7th grader at 7 hills school and i want to make a new monument about an x. this x will stand there for the ending of poaching. we will make this monument to help end and prevent poaching.myself jack keith i love animals but its hard to see them go one species by one species down the drain in witch i wanna stop that all from going down. this is my letter and i really hope this is a possibility.thank you for your time,jack keith
01/19/2018 14:38:40	Carter Fischer	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Hi. My name is Carter Fischer and I would like to propose that there be a bridge over the Monument/Meadow intersection connecting both of the medians. The bridge would be 17ft over the road and 114ft long(58ft for steps, 29ft per side) with the possible addition of a handicap ramp. Arches would arch over the bridge at regular intervals. Now you might be wondering "What does any of this have to do with monuments?" Well, this monument would symbolize the structure and stability of Richmond. It would also encourage people to walk places, and their dogs would be able to play in the grassiest areas nearby. Please feel free to email me for more details.
01/19/2018 14:42:37	Kyan patel	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	I think that we should add a new monument about trust.I think that the monument should be 16-17 feet tall.the pedestal should have carvings that remind people of trust of loyalty. There is a kid (girl or boy) that is about to fall off the pedestal then the other kid (boy or girl) is grabbing his or her hand towards here. my meaning behind this is that in our world people are starting to care more about there self than other people.The materials for the kids are going to be steel. Hopefully this is something that people will not fight about because it was not part of the war and every one will be happy
01/19/2018 14:44:20	Braxton Hill	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	My idea of my monument is the Tredegar Iron Works Water wheel. The wheel is made of iron, and it sits on top of a concrete pedestal. It will be 13 feet tall and 13 feet wide. The monument will show how important the James River was back during the Civil War. The water from the James River powered the water wheel, which made factories in the Iron Works. When people look at the water wheel, they will remember how important the James River was back during the Civil War.
01/19/2018 14:45:51	arthur Bunnell	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	it looks like a hand. it would be 12 ft high. the hand would hold a candle. it would be a good idea because it would show that there is always someone ready to help you when you need it. it would help stop racism because it show that everyone is equal. it would not be on a pedestal to show that it is for everyone from all walks of life. there would be a pool of water around it, and the money that people threw in would go to helping the poor. it would be built of bronze. There would be crosswalks leading over to it.
01/19/2018 14:49:52	Laquan Almond		my monument is a 11 ft. by 2.6 ft. of Harriet Tubman . I think it stand's for her courage, bravery, and the thing's she did for other slaves. it's made out of steel because she was very strong .

01/19/2018 14:55:05	Samuel Holliday	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>Dear Monument Commission, My name is Samuel Holliday, and I have an idea that relates to adding a monument to Monument Ave.</p> <p>Days that my sister gets dropped off first on my drive to school, I pass Monument Ave. I always look at the statues as we pass them always memorizing which way Stonewall Jackson faces, or figuring out what a monument is about. Recently, I learned that some people disrespect these monuments, like drawing graffiti on them. I also learned that some people praise these monuments stand for so much, that they block off a part of the road and play Confederate tunes. The second one is a bit too much flair but we do have the right of speech so according to the law, it's okay. I really hate when people disrespect historic artifacts like destroying part of a monuments. So I have decided to make my own monument to help (hopefully) preserve these artifacts.</p> <p>My Idea is this, on the intersection of monument and meadow, two civil war soldiers, confederate and union, standing side by side, holding their respective flags on a flag pole, with the bottom of the flagpoles touching. The platform that they are on is kind of like a seduced explosion with spikes heading upward, not out. It has a plaque on the front that states, "This monument is dedicated to the people who fought or died in the civil war 'Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.' - George Santayana"</p> <p>The materials needed are as follows: Iron cast steel for the soldiers and the flagpoles, Woven fabric for the flags, and black granite for the pedestal.</p> <p>I think how people would react would be different. Some people would praise it, some people would hate it, some people go "meh", but the possibility I would think most likely would happen would be that the people disrespecting the monuments would stop because they have a monument, and the neo confederates would be okay because they have one more monument, but it has the union on it.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time for reading this. If you have any questions, or just have any feedback, please email me back at s.holliday@7hillsschool.org.</p> <p>from, Samuel Holliday.</p>
01/19/2018 14:57:23	Alistair Burnett	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>Dear Staff at Monument Avenue Comi</p> <p>I have an idea for a monument. The monument will be built at the corner of Monument Avenue It involves a cylindrical base hat is fairly wide, another cylindrical base on top but not as wide and the same height. there is another cylindrical base on top of that which is not as wide and shorter than the last. On the middle base there is an engraved peace sign.</p> <p>I think that this would benefit Richmond and Monument Avenue because nobody would argue over its removal because it won't go against anybody's beliefs. It wouldn't cost a ton of money because it is relatively simple. When people drive by it will remind them to be kind and to be peaceful and nice to the people that they are around. Thank you for spending the time to read through my monument and consider it as a possibility of Monument Avenue.</p> <p>Sincerely, Alistair Burnett</p>

01/19/2018 15:00:58	Thomas Bone	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>Dear, people of monument avenue</p> <p>I think Russel Wilson would be a great statue to put up since he went to collegiate private school, hes one of those people who dont forget about there hometown, he comes back whenever he can to teach young kids about football, and to help highschoolers get acedimicly better. It would be 15 feet tall and 10 feet wide and made of stone. The statue would be of Russel Wilson with kids gathered all around him and make it look like he would be telling them something to help them.He hasn't passed away yet so you would be taking a risk if he were to do anything illegal you would have a statue of a felon. So I feel you should make a statue of him in the future when he passes away.</p>
01/19/2018 15:01:48	Aayan P		<p>Hello thank you for listening to me my monument is a monument of all the good solideries that died in the civil war it does not need to be even a bunch of name it should be a solidier split and half one of the north and one side south why it should be there is so that when we drive by we dont just think of some infamous general but of the good solidier the server in army I'm hoping that all of this is a sucess I am going to be a very hapy person I think there should be a 15 by 15 ft solid chunk of marbal then a glass marbel statue of the north and south statue split but they are still together, thank you for listening to my request.</p>
01/19/2018 15:07:39	Nathan H	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>I have an idea for a monument. I will be called Hands of Equality. It is two hands shaking. The monument will be ten and a half feet tall and 9 feet wide and 6 feet long. The two marble blocks holding the hands the one on the bottom will be 9 feet wide and 6 feet long. The smaller marble block will be 5 feet wide and 2 feet long. The hands will be made of bronze. There will be a plaque that says " We are all equal no matter anyone tells you." There will also be two 7 foot benches coming out of both side to form a semicircle around a brick patio so people can sit and enjoy the monument. I think that this monument should be in Richmond because Richmond needs to start treating each other as equal.</p>
01/22/2018 21:46:37	Joel Blum	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	<p>I submitted an application for a community forum to be held at the 1st UU Church of Richmond on Thursday, March 22nd. Could you please confirm that you have received this application and let me know when I can expect to hear whether this date will work for the Commission- i.e. that some members will be able to attend. I have reserved space for the forum but we cannot go ahead with detailed planning unless we know that the Commission with be able to participate.</p>
01/23/2018 18:53:37	Paige Horn	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	<p>If the monuments were not put up at the end of the civil war then they do not need to be there. From what I know they were erected during the jim crow era. Regardless, the constitution of the confederacy explicity stated its support of slavery of people from africa as a founding principle. In a city that is almost 60% black, we can do better than leave up these monuments. They are not a remembrance of the dead confederate soldiers- we already have a cemetary for that. These statues are monuments to what the southern racists wanted the confederacy to be- a place with slavery. Leaving them as they are is like a slap in the face to our black citizens. The majority of our citizens. We already have museums where they can be put with a context thats actually a text.</p> <p>Keep the Arthur Ashe statue, and add more monuments in all the empty spots that are in a similar vein to Maggie Walker. More women of color, please! Maybe Governor Wilder or something.</p> <p>Let's have a monument avenue that actually reflects the values of our city's people.</p>
01/24/2018 20:41:17	Kimberly Hannigan	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>Please do not destroy this important part of United States history just because it is a story which is hard to tell. Talk to the different communities and listen to how they want their story told. Tearing up Monument Avenue would be a disservice to history and future generations. It is our job now not to destroy the past, but to use the past to allow us to learn and become better as a society. Tell the hard stories, don't gloss over the painful truth, allow these monuments to be a basis for moving forward.</p>

01/29/2018 12:15:39	DANA HANSON	Leave the monuments as they are.	WE SHOULD NOT HAVE TO LOOK BACK TO PAST UGLINESS EXCEPT TO LEARN FROM IT, TO ENHANCE THE PRESENT, AND TO RELEASE WHATEVER BEAUTY IS TRAPPED BEHIND OLD SECRETS AND SELF-DEFEATING ATTITUDES.
			<p>It has become clear to me that signage alone is not adequate to contextualize the Confederate monuments on Monument Avenue. New statues will be necessary if Monument Avenue is to tell the broader story of Richmond's history.</p> <p>My suggestion is to contextualize the existing Confederate monuments with carefully chosen new monuments to be erected within the same space or, at least, the same viewshed as the existing ones. The new statues would be "oppositional" in some way and speak directly to the existing monuments in a kind of dialogue across the Civil War divide or across the ages. They would serve to put Richmond's best-known history - the Confederacy and the Civil war -- in both chronological and ideological context.</p> <p>THUS:</p> <p>IN THE LEE STATUE VICINITY: add John Mitchell, Jr., who is worthy of a monument and whose editorials against the Lee monument are really the only period dissent to it. If we were to write a sign to "contextualize" the Lee statue, we would certainly quote Mitchell's editorials. Let's do better and put his quotes on a monument to him that visitors can see as they also see Lee.</p> <p>AND/OR: a second new statue to Gen. Winfield Scott, who was Lee' mentor and commander and whose decision to remain in the Union reminds that Lee's decision to secede was not the inevitable course for all patriotic Virginians.</p> <p>STUART statue vicinity. a statue to the US Colored Troops, specifically the "Forgotten Fourteen" Medal of Honor winners. The inscriptions on the Stuart monument base emphasize that he died fighting to save the city. Erect a new monument to remind visitors that other men died trying to capture Richmond.</p> <p>DAVIS statue vicinity: reserved for L. Douglas Wilder or (my preference) Oliver Hill. What better rebuke to Davis and the cause that is celebrated on his monument than a statue to an African-American statesman of Gov. Wilder's historical importance or Oliver Hill's character and accomplishments?</p> <p>JACKSON statue vicinity (logistically difficult): one "pious blue-eyed killer" deserves another: Gabriel Prosser. A God-fearing man of passionate belief who gave his life for a cause.</p> <p>MAURY MONUMENT VICINITY: Admiral Samuel Gravelly. A pairing of famous (to some / obscure to most) Virginia-born U.S. naval heroes.</p> <p>To be successful, the new statues would have to be AT LEAST Arthur Ashe stature (preferably bigger and better) and would require the city to allot all of its public art dollars to them for years to come.</p>
01/30/2018 21:20:28	John Coski	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	I THOUGHT that I had submitted these suggestions the night of the August hearing, but I apparently failed to do so.

