

Program Summary:

Lighting installation and memorial transforms three blocks into a luminous atmosphere for community, reflection, and remembrance for those impacted by the January 1, 2025 attack.

Program Statement:

In the wake of the January 1, 2025 terrorist attack, a community-led lighting and memorial installation uplifts three blocks within New Orleans, becoming a luminous atmosphere for reflection, remembrance, and renewal. Suspended above the historic corridor, the memorial creates a ceremonial environment where grief, memory, and celebration converge, activating the street as a shared civic space. Developed through a participatory, community-driven process, the installation leverages collective knowledge, creative collaboration, and local partnerships to support healing and enhance public safety within a fragile urban context. Nearly 1,000 double-sided prayer flags were created by local artists in collaboration with residents, incorporating photographs, handwritten messages, survivor testimonies, and family notes that, together, form a collective act of remembrance. Rooted in New Orleans' second line tradition, the installation unfolds as a sequential narrative lining the downtown streets. The first block specific to honoring families whose loved ones were lost, are followed by imagery celebrating procession, music, and cultural memory. Extending across more than twenty buildings, the flags form a luminous canopy that invites reflection while reinforcing visibility and shared presence. Illuminated trumpets, umbrellas, and handkerchief motifs extend the city's cultural language, embedding the memorial within the rhythm and identity of this historic street landmark.

SP20.01

Building Area: (sf)
36,000 sf; 0.85 acres

Cost per Square Foot:
\$10/sf

Construction Cost
\$350,000

Date of Completion:
November 2025

SP20.02

Positioned among institutional flags, the installation merges civic identity, unity, inclusivity, and the presence of grief, where light and community-designed art illuminate a path forward. By honoring the voices, stories, and memories of those directly impacted by the tragedy, the initiative fosters a shared, held space for resilience and remembrance.



SP20.03

In this early drawing, visioning studies explore scale and outline the structural and architectural strategies required to realize the installation, capturing the project's clarity, restraint, and meaningful design intent.



SP20.04

Site plan, spanning three blocks
within New Orleans

Legend

- Primary Support Lines
Globe Lights & Prayer Flags
- Secondary Support Lines
- Decorative Umbrella
- Decorative Trumpet w/
Twinkle Mesh Lighting
- Existing Building
- Existing Building of Major/
Local Arch. Importance



Site Plan
SCALE: 1" = 80' - 0"



SP20.05

From the vantage of a passerby, an early drawing by the design team evokes the second line procession while capturing the installation's gentle spirit through the memorial's illuminated canopy—elements that ultimately guided both the design and the sensitive engagement process.



SP20.06

Nearly 1,000 suspended flags form an overhead canopy, creating spatial rhythm and visual continuity, illuminated by strings of light, spanning this downtown street.

SP20.07

Each unique flag, co-designed with local artists, becomes a glowing tribute to honor the stories and lives affected by the tragedy on January 1, 2025. Each flag resembles the individual as part of the collective.



SP20.08

Suspended beneath a programmable, color-changing canopy of LED umbrellas and instruments, community-designed flags bearing photos, notes, and stories animate in choreographed lighting sequences.

Developed through participatory co-design, the installation fosters collective healing while enhancing safety, accessibility, and engagement with New Orleans' cultural traditions.



SP20.09

Custom fiberglass lighting elements are designed for reuse and seasonal reinstallation, establishing a new community tradition. Here, illuminated musical instruments—evoking the city's second line tradition—celebrate its spirit through seamlessly integrated, programmable lighting controls.





SP20.10

Dynamic, color-changing lighting animates umbrellas and trumpets, turning the streetscape into an immersive ceremonial environment.

SP20.11

Suspended between twenty-one buildings across three blocks, the installation creates a continuous illuminated plane, uniting the community beneath a shared field of light and reinforcing collective grief and unity.

