

MONUMENT

A Thank You To Food Truck Workers

Monument
Proposal
December 2021

HIST 164 - PROFESSOR FARMER



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A PROPOSAL TO AN UNDER- THANKED GROUP

This paper will propose the creation of a new monument on Penn's campus, honoring and thanking the food truck workers who work on and around the University of Pennsylvania.





Purpose:

Food Truck Workers at Penn have served students and faculty for decades. With a wide variety of cuisine, the diverse array of food trucks allow for students and staff to come to classes and study hard well fed. This is not to mention the positivity these workers bring to the streets of Penn, constantly engaging in conversation and forming relationships with anyone who stops by.

It would be an insult to say that food truck workers are not a part of the Penn community: they are family.

Furthermore, these businesses have struggled throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, especially last year after the city took a punitive stance on food truck operations.

And yet, these workers are completely absent from the monument landscape not only on Penn's campus, but in the United States. While there are hundreds of plaques, statues, and sculptures dedicated to Penn students, alumni, staff, historical figures, etc., there is nothing to help commemorate the contributions of food truck workers. It is time to reshape this landscape, campus wide, and nationally.



DESIGN AND LOCATION



Food trucks exist throughout Penn's streets, but are primarily situated around the Quadrangle on Spruce Street, the dormitory for many Freshman. Furthermore, the spirit of food trucks and street food lives on the sidewalk and in the street. As a result, all three proposed locations exist on and around Spruce street. This will not only allow for visibility by food truck owners and food truck going students, but will also keep in theme with food trucks as street and sidewalk based locations.

LOCATIONS

In Front Of WARB

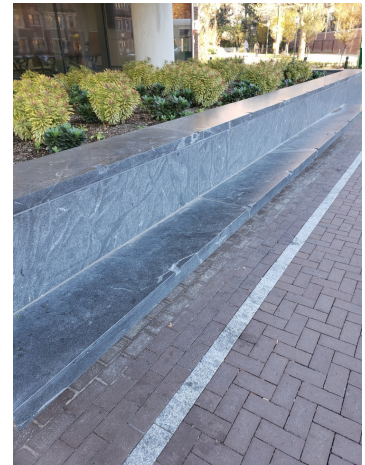
Walkway

Ground Location
(Engraved Writing
or Plaque in the
Middle of These
Stones)



Bench Outside WARB

Bench Engraving



Quad Wall

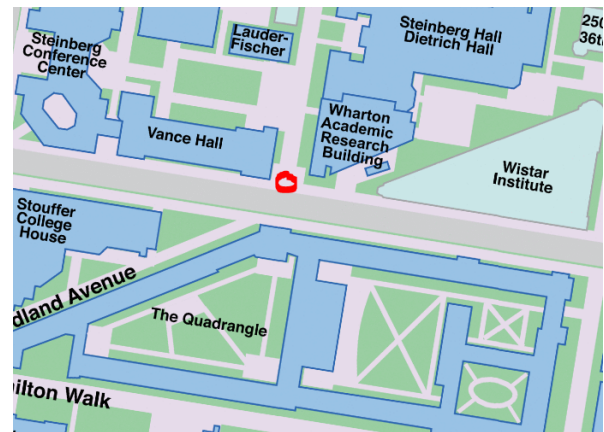
Quad Wall

Engraved on Stone
Outside Lower
Quad Gate



MOCKUP IMAGE

Attached is an example of a plaque, located in front of the Wharton Academic Research Building (WARB)



Asking A Food Truck Worker At Penn

In an interview with Cristina Barradas, the owner of the "Cristy's" food truck located primarily at 38th and Walnut St. she had this to say about her experience at Penn:

"Briefly, what was the food truck experience like throughout the COVID pandemic?"

"We were closed all pandemic year. And after that, everything is so expensive. Everything went up in price and business went down a lot"

As expected, the food truck community struggled greatly throughout the Pandemic. It is about time we give something back in appreciation. Because even through all of the hardship, she had this to say about how she feels about the Penn community:

"Do you feel as though you are a part of the Penn community?"

"Yes!!!!!!"

I know each of my clients. I've been working in the Penn area for 12 years and I feel like I'm part of the campus"

What do Food Truck Workers Think?

They Are Part Of The Penn Community



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

I believe that this monument would greatly serve the monument landscape at Penn. From brief conversations with fellow students and staff, I have seen overwhelming approval and excitement about the idea.

Everyone at Penn eats at and loves food trucks and their amazing workers.

Please help thank and appreciate them.

