Art on Call is a city-wide effort led by Cultural Tourism DC to restore DC's abandoned police and fire call boxes as neighborhood artistic icons.
Police and fire call boxes were installed throughout the capital starting in the 1860s. They began to become obsolete with the introduction of the 911 emergency call system in the 1970s, and the working electronic components were all removed by 1995. Yet the call boxes remained, too large and heavy to remove and subject to deterioration from weather and vandalism.

This public arts project is a city-wide effort led by Cultural Tourism DC in partnership with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and the District Department of Transportation to restore Washington, DC's historic abandoned police and fire Call Boxes as neighborhood artistic icons.

The SW Call Box project is a way of celebrating and remembering Southwest's history and its residents. The Call Boxes will create a link between history and culture while also keeping an eye to the future. All Southwest Call Boxes have been painted two shades of blue reflecting the water and sky so important to our waterfront, with touches of pink suggesting the world-famous Cherry Blossoms decorating our neighborhood each Spring.

Cultural Tourism DC

For more information or if you would like to participate please email swcallboxproject@gmail.com
Southwest DC: Home of the Cherry Blossoms
Southwest Neighborhood Assembly

UNVEILING CEREMONY OF HISTORIC CALL BOX ART

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2009 2:30 PM

Disabled American Veterans Building
Southwest Neighborhood Assembly
Unveiling Ceremony of Historic Call Box Art

Program

Musical Prelude
Maryland Brass Ensemble, "Mostly Ragtime", Perry Klein, Director:
Members: Michael Arrington, Paul Weiss and Perry Klein, Trumpets;
Lorin Krusberg, French Horn; Thomas Palmatier, Trombone; Andrew
Green, Tuba.

Welcoming Remarks
Peter Atlee, Vice President, Southwest Neighborhood Assembly,
Master of Ceremonies

Local Sponsors:
Diane Mayhew, President, National Cherry Blossom Festival
Carolyn Mitchell, President, Southwest Neighborhood Assembly
Annette L. Gantt, President and CEO, Earth Conservation Corps

Recognition:
Call Box Committee members
Coralie Farlee, President, River Park Friends
Cultural Tourism
Disabled American Veterans: David W. Gorman, Executive Director;
Tom Wilbourne, Emily Hall
Robert Marshall & Lillian Iversen
Call Box Artists
Local Businesses: Jenny's, Phillips, Starbucks, Safeway, Frager's

Speakers
J. Forest Hayes and Chris Taylor, Office of Community Relations
and Services, Exec. Office of the Mayor
Charles Allen, Chief of Staff, Councilmember Tommy Wells
(Ward 6)
Remarks from At-Large Councilmembers
Sgt. Nicholas Breuel, Historian, DC Metropolitan Police
Department
Alan Etter, Spokesman, DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services

Unveiling of Police and Fire Call Boxes
Nick Breuel, Alan Etter, Local Sponsors, & Call Box Committee
members.

Musical Postlude
Maryland Brass Ensemble, "Mostly Ragtime", Perry Klein, Director
History of Call Boxes
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About the Art on Call Program
This public arts project is a city-wide effort led by Cultural Tourism DC in partnership with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and the District Department of Transportation to restore Washington, DC's historic abandoned police and fire call boxes as neighborhood artistic icons.

About the Southwest DC Art on Call Project
The SW Call Box project is a way of celebrating and remembering Southwest's history and its residents. The Call Boxes will create a link between history and culture while also keeping an eye to the future. All Southwest Call Boxes have been painted two shades of blue reflecting the water and sky so important to our waterfront, with touches of pink suggesting the world-famous cherry blossoms decorating our neighborhood each spring.

Call Box Committee
Peter Atlee, SWNA Vice-President, Call Box Committee & Master of Ceremony
Lida Churchville, SWNA History Task Force, Call Box Committee Chair
Barbara Ehrlich, Call Box Committee & Waterfront Liaison
Douglas Galbi, Call Box Committee & Videographer
Perry Klein, SWNA Technology Task Force, Call Box Committee & Music Director
Nancy Masterson, Call Box Committee & Public Relations
Corinne Scott, Call Box Committee & Public Relations
Mary Ternes, Call Box Committee & Public Relations

Recognition of Supporting Organizations and Individuals
Disabled American Veterans (DAV) for their generosity in giving us space and support for our unveiling ceremony.
River Park Friends and their president, Coralie Farlee for funding our publicity needs.
Jenny's Asian Fusion for refreshments
Phillips Flagship Restaurant for refreshments
Starbucks Coffee for refreshments
Safeway Store for refreshments
Frager's Hardware for flowers and unveiling ribbons.
Robert Marshall for postcard design of Cherry Blossom call box artwork.
Lillian Iversen for postcard design of the Cherry Blossom call box tour map
Cultural Tourism for support of our call box work
Councilman Tommy Wells and his staff for supporting our call box efforts.
Call Box Committee members who supported the effort through thick and thin.
The National Cherry Blossom Festival members who gave us reason to succeed.
Andy Litsky, ANC Chair, for his support of everything we put forward.

Visit swdcblog.com for up-to-date information about the Southwest neighborhood.