

Boston College Neighborhood Improvement Fund

For Brighton and Allston

Application Cover Sheet, 2016

(Note: this form is a fillable .pdf and may be filled out electronically)

Total Amount Requested \$ 100,000.-

Applicant Organization Name:	<u>VFW Post 669</u>		
Organization Address:	<u>P.O. Box 355</u>	City: <u>Allston</u>	Zip: <u>02134</u>
Contact Person:	<u>Kathleen Rushe</u>		
Title:	<u>Volunteer Public Art Consultant</u>		
Telephone Number:	<u>617-834-4593</u>		
E-Mail Address:	<u>Kathleenrushe@hotmail.com</u>		
Is Applicant a 501(C) (3) organization?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
IF YES:			
Federal Employer Identification Number:	_____		
Executive Director:	_____	Phone Number:	_____
Email Address:	_____		
Fiscal Agent (if applicable):	_____		

Application submission(s) must be authorized and signed by an authorized signatory of the Organization.

Robert Dunn, Adjutant, VFW, Post 669<sup>#</sup>

Name and title of Authorized Signatory:

Robert Dunn

Signature of Authorized Signatory:

# **BC NIF Proposal: Major General George W. Casey Memorial Amphitheater**

## Applicant Information

### **1. Key Personnel:**

Kathleen Rushe, Volunteer Advisor to VFW Post #669 on Public Art  
Robert Dunn, Adjutant, VFW Post #669

### **2. Partner Organizations:**

City of Boston, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Fund for Parks

### **3. About VFW Post #669:**

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post #669 is the sole remaining VFW post representing Allston-Brighton veterans who have served in our nation's foreign wars. VFW Post #669 has actively promoted the creation of veterans' monuments and memorial ceremonies in Allston-Brighton for several decades.

## Project Information

### **1. Proposed Project:**

The VFW Post #669 is requesting that the City of Boston Department of Parks and Recreation dedicate an amphitheater at Smith's Park in Allston to the memory of Major General (MG) George W. Casey. MG Casey was one of the highest ranking US soldiers to sacrifice his life in Vietnam. (VFW Post #669 believes that MG Casey was the highest ranking US service member killed in Vietnam, though this requires further investigation and confirmation.) MG Casey was raised on Franklin Street, graduated from Boston Latin School, attended Harvard College, and graduated from the US Military Academy at West Point. He was the Commanding General of the First Cavalry Division when he was killed in a helicopter crash in 1970. He died in a combat zone in Vietnam on his way to visit wounded US soldiers.

Smith's Park is owned by the City of Boston. A three-phase renovation of the park will be completed over the next few years. Phase I will involve creation of a new amphitheater for community performances, ceremonies, and other events (see attached map depicting Phase I efforts). Completion of Phase I is anticipated in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, which ends in June 2018. As a result of feedback received from the Department of Parks and Recreation, VFW Post #669 expects that the City of Boston's Parks Commission will name the amphitheater after MG Casey and provide for an appropriate element that memorializes his heroic story when it considers the request in a matter of weeks. (It's important to note that while the current plan for Smith's Park definitely call for an amphitheater, the naming of it for MG Casey is a decision that will be made by the Parks Commission.)

The VFW Post #669 is seeking \$100,000 from the BC NIF to assist the City of Boston in the creation of the amphitheater and an appropriate memorial feature that calls attention to MG Casey's legacy.

## **BC NIF Proposal: Major General George W. Casey Memorial Amphitheater**

### **2. Public Benefits of the Project:**

The amphitheater will advance an important goal of the BC Neighborhood Improvement Fund (NIF) in creating a venue for public engagement in Allston-Brighton. Civic and cultural life will be enhanced by this project through the ceremonies, performances, and other convocations that will occur at this site for decades to come. By helping to advance desperately needed improvements in one of Allston-Brighton's largest parks, a NIF grant will also enhance the aesthetic quality and user experience of the public realm.

This amphitheater and its memorial to MG Casey will also showcase a unique neighborhood story. MG Casey joins another Allston-Brighton resident, Colonel Thomas Gardner, hero of the Battle of Bunker Hill, in the annals of American military history. While Colonel Thomas Gardner is memorialized in the name of a local school, there are few indications in the neighborhood that a two-star Major General grew up here, not so long ago, and gave his life in Vietnam. His story should be understood by all who visit Smith's Park.

The City is investing significant capital in Phase I of the Smith's Park rehabilitation. The City anticipates spending more than \$3 million for Phase I alone. However, the City parks budget faces serious constraints and the quality of the amphitheater and the Casey memorial would be greatly improved if funding was obtained beyond that committed by the City. It is the VFW's understanding that the amphitheater, without a memorial element that tells the story of MG Casey, would cost at least \$150,000 for the simplest design. The development costs could be significantly higher for a more robust design, and there would be an additional cost for a memorial stone or other public art feature that calls attention to MG Casey. The total cost may be in the \$300,000 to \$400,000 range.

As part of the VFW's effort to demonstrate community support to the City, a variety of neighborhood volunteers (some were members of the VFW but most were not) collected signatures in support of this effort to memorialize MG Casey at Smith's Park. More than one hundred signatures from Allston-Brighton residents were obtained.

*The VFW will not accept or expend any funds that may be awarded. Instead, the organization anticipates that any funds awarded by the BC NIF would be transmitted directly to the City of Boston or the "Fund for Parks", which supports efforts to improve Boston's public parks.*

### **3. Need for NIF Funding:**

In conversations with the Department of Parks and Recreation, it is clear that a very high-quality amphitheater would require greater funding than the city's capital budget for parks has available for this effort.

### **4. Future Phases:**

As mentioned above, the rehabilitation of Smith's Park in Allston is a three-phase undertaking. The VFW is seeking funding only for the amphitheater and MG Casey memorial feature in Phase I. The VFW does not intend to seek BC NIF funding for any other aspect of the Smith's Park rehabilitation.

## **BC NIF Proposal: Major General George W. Casey Memorial Amphitheater**

### **5. Timeline:**

The City of Boston Department of Parks and Recreation indicates that planning for Phase I of the Smith's Park improvement project is well underway and will be completed by the end of this calendar year. Actual construction will be completed during FY 2018 (no later than June 2018).

### **6. Maintenance:**

The City of Boston will be responsible for the maintenance of the amphitheater.

### **7. Project Life Span:**

The VFW anticipates that the amphitheater and a memorial feature will be constructed of durable materials with a life span of several decades.

## **Materials**

### **1. Budget:**

The City is investing significant capital in Phase I of the Smith's Park rehabilitation. The City anticipates spending more than \$3 million for Phase I alone; \$3.3 million is currently allocated for this effort in the City's FY 17 capital budget for parks. However, the City parks budget faces serious constraints and the quality of the amphitheater and the Casey memorial would be greatly improved if funding was obtained beyond that committed by the City. (The City is contemplating an enhanced Phase I for Smith's Park that would cost more than \$5 million.) It is the VFW's understanding that the amphitheater, without a memorial element that tells the story of MG Casey, would cost at least \$150,000 for the simplest design. The development costs could be significantly higher for a more robust design, and there would be an additional cost for a memorial stone or other public art feature that calls attention to MG Casey. The total cost may be in the \$300,000 to \$400,000 range, with \$100,000 potentially coming from the BC NIF.

The VFW would gladly seek from the City a more detailed breakdown of Phase I's total cost and the range of costs associated with the proposed amphitheater and memorial.

### **2. Funding Sources:**

It is the VFW's understanding that the City of Boston has committed more than \$3 million in capital funding to Phase I of the Smith's Park improvement effort.

### **3. Renderings:**

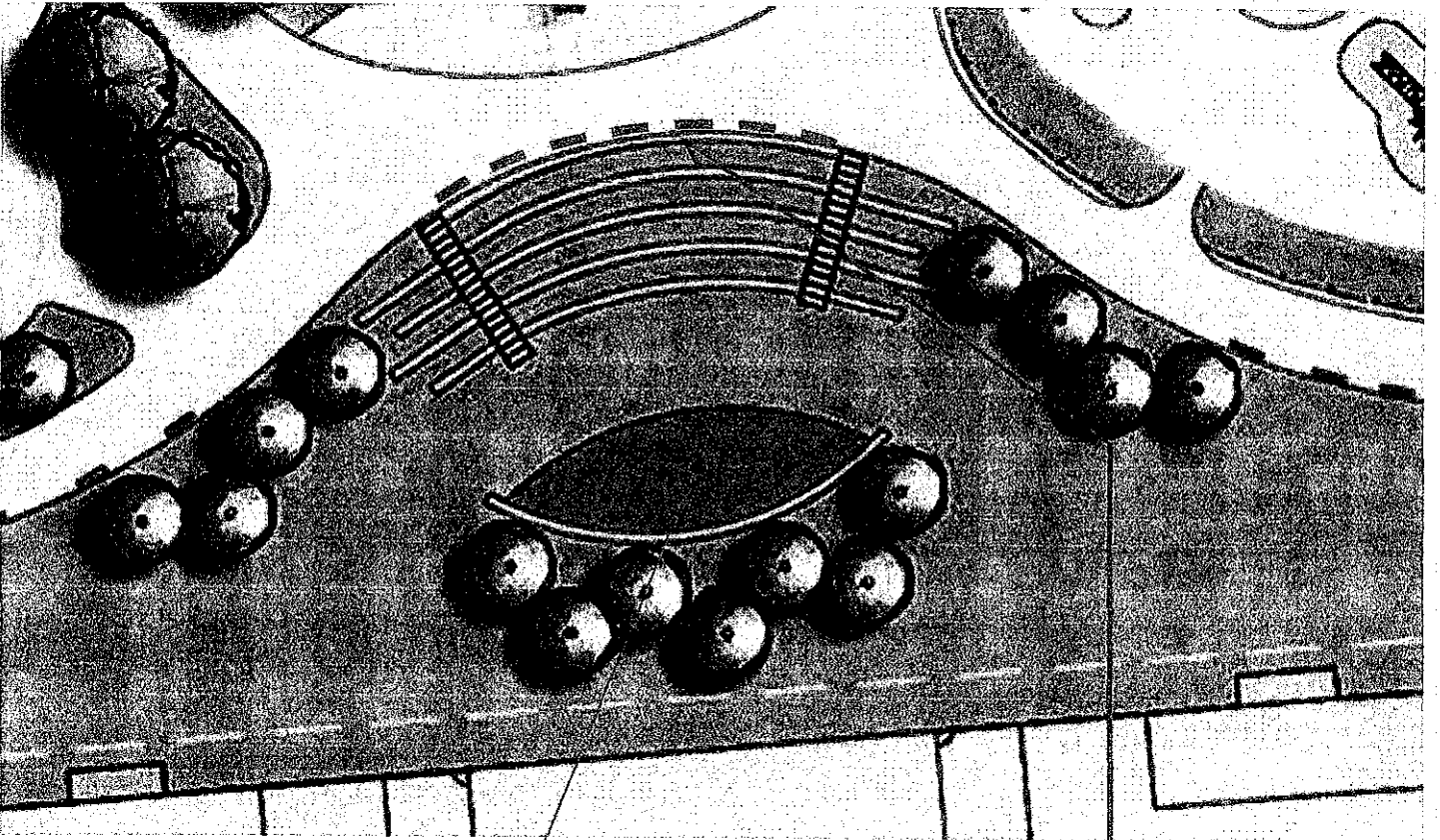
See enclosure for schematic regarding the components of the Phase I rehabilitation at Smith's Park. A specific design for the amphitheater, which is dependent on funding, has not yet been determined. Renderings thus far are purely notional (some are enclosed) and final design work will be completed this Fall.

# GENERAL GEORGE W. CASEY MEMORIAL at Smith Field Amphitheater

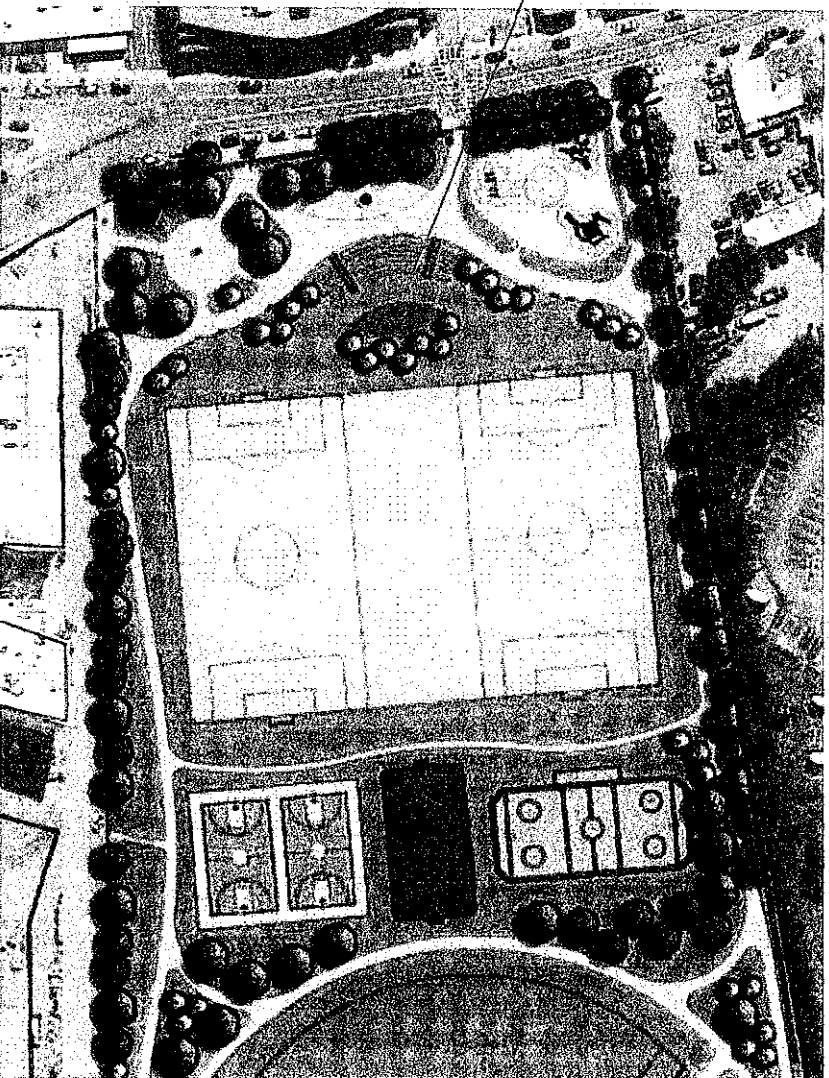
Allston, MA

Proposed location of General George W. Casey Memorial and associated interpretive elements.

The design of the amphitheater is being discussed through a community process under the auspices of the Boston Parks & Recreation Department. Incorporation of a General Casey Memorial has gained positive feedback through this process.



Enlargement of Proposed Amphitheater Area

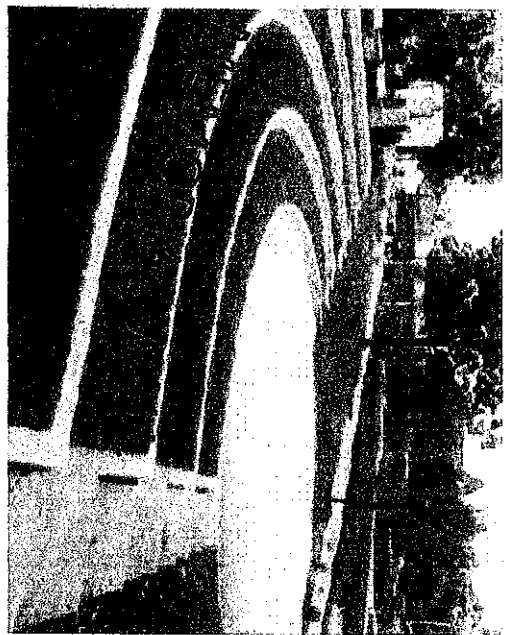


Smith Field Master Plan: Phase One Scope

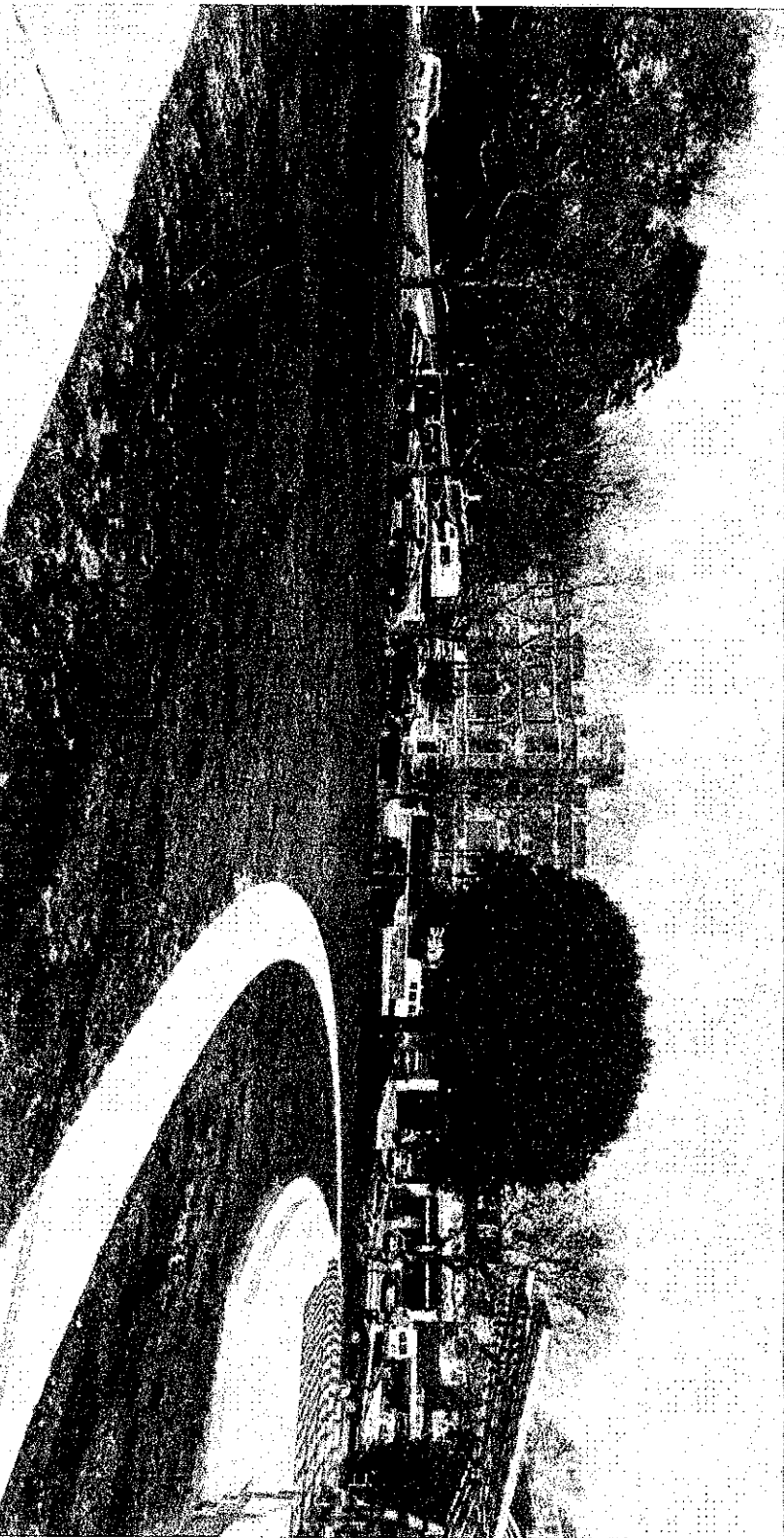
Proposed Memorial Wall Locations with Various Amphitheater Configurations



Grass Stage Amphitheater with Grass Terrace Seating



Paved Stage Amphitheater with Grass Terrace Seating



Structured Stage Amphitheater with Grass Terrace Seating