











**129 WALNUT STREET** 

- 1 Walnut Street Allee
- 2 Edwin Hotel Outdoor Dining3 Flexible Seating Zone

- Bikeshare Station
  Light Pole
  Relocated Dog Statue
- 7 Stone Plaza
- 8 Seat Walls / Benches
- 9 Gathering Stair10 Integrated Walkway
- 11 Garden Room

#### **OPTION 1**

Walnut Street Plaza Chattanooga, Tennessee



EDWIN HOTEL

 $(\mathbf{1})$ 

## Ed Johnson Memorial

Remembrance Reconciliation Unity ED.JOHNSON BORN 1882. DIED MAR.19.1906 *"Memorials by their very nature emphasize and encourage our look back to history and construct a manifestation of our collective memory.* 

In the Ed Johnson Memorial **Remembrance** of the past centers around a tragic historical event which occurred on the Walnut Street Bridge on March 19, 1906 in Chattanooga, Tennessee."



"Our intention is to go beyond Remembrance and create an opportunity to promote racial healing, encourage Reconciliation in Chattanooga, Tennessee, heal the rift in the community and provide hope for Unity as a society in our future generations."



## The Ed Johnson Memorial Shall

- Acknowledge the lynching of Ed Johnson
- Honor the courageous work of the attorneys
- Recognize the US Supreme Court case which established federal oversight of state level civil rights cases
- *Provide a place for people to reach out Reconciliation*
- Encourage unity between different communities through a process of engagement, dialogue and interaction

"We propose to Unite the Community of Chattanooga through active rituals and public ceremonial participation in the process of establishing the Memorial



*Ideas imagined but are not limited to the following:* 

- **Procession from the Jail** site to memorial site
- Soil from Ed Johnson's grave ceremonially interred in the memorial site
- Wall of Memory Ceremony where people's hand written wishes, prayers, confessions and testimony can be written down and read aloud then interred into the site in a sealed container next to Ed Johnson's soil.
- Annual **Day of Unity Ceremony** in the Oval at the foot of the Bridge



#### Without Truth there can be no actual Remembrance

• We use the term Remembrance but we were not physically there. In essence this reinforces that we are all somehow connected to our past collectively as a society and what happens in the past affects and impacts upon the present and future. The EJM tells the story to educate people about the truth of the story of Ed Johnson.

#### Without Acknowledgement there can be no Reconciliation

• The ED Johnson Memorial represents our attempt to no longer ignore or conceal mistakes the past but face them admit responsibility for our past actions as a society.

### Without Justice there can be no Unity

• Through the current processes we undertake to transform our collective consciousness. It is our desire and hope to atone for past actions which divided us and initiate a process of healing so that we may all come together as one.



## "God bless you all. I am a innocent man"

### With these words at t he time of his death Ed Johnson embraced the humanity of those who persecuted and murdered him

With these words Ed Johnson exhibited the great capacity to look beyond hate and division and call upon a higher aspect of our nature

With these words Ed Johnson gave us and future generations a path forward towards common understanding "God bless you all. I am a innocent man"

With these words, Ed Johnson gave us the inspiration for the Memorial. Even at the moment of death he found courage to reach out and Embrace

the world in the spirit of love and forgiveness.



# "The Embrace"

is symbolic of Ed Johnson's embrace of truth, love and hope for a better future in the face of hate, violence and injustice."

"When we gather at this place of remembrance we shall be embraced by the spirit of Ed Johnson. In return we shall embrace his legacy and memory in the spirit of reconciliation. The memorial encourages those who enter to face our past and to face each other; to engage in dialogue, embrace one another and come together in the spirit of unity."



































