

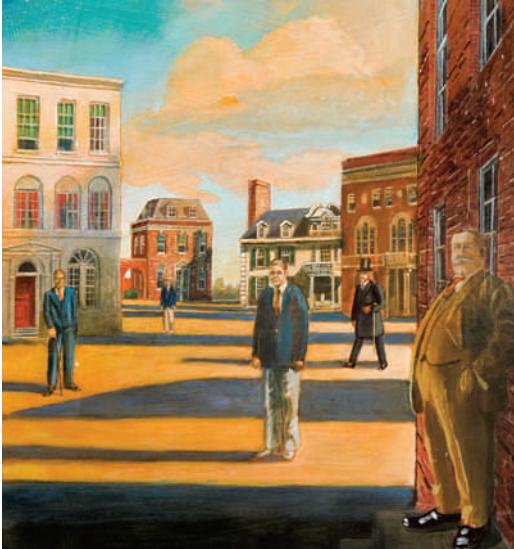


# Closer Inspection



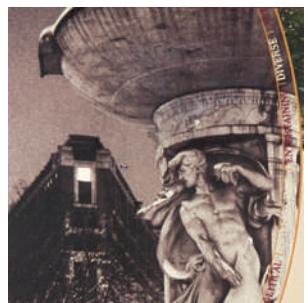
At Kalorama Road and Tracy Place, Waddell paints some of the area's **notable female residents**: Madame Chiang

Kai-Shek, who lobbied for support of Nationalist China; and first ladies Eleanor Roosevelt, Lou Henry Hoover and Edith Galt Wilson.



At Wyoming Avenue and 23rd Street, Waddell's painting features **presidents** Warren G. Harding, William Howard Taft, Herbert Hoover, Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt, all of whom lived in the area.

Dupont Circle's 22 boxes fall under the theme: "Diverse Visions | One Neighborhood." Many focus on the circle's **fountain**, including this box at Massachusetts Avenue and 18th Street, featuring a photo by D.C. resident Colin Winterbottom.



The box at 39th Street and Windom Place in Tenleytown features a reproduction of Lena Frumin's original painting of **The Rest**, the neighborhood's oldest residence, which sits nearby. The home was designated a D.C. Landmark in 1960.



## Connections to the past

What inspired the art in these old D.C. call boxes?

BY SALLY DADISMAN

**Today, getting help** in an emergency probably means reaching for your cellphone; in the 1860s, it meant finding a call box on D.C. streets.

Eventually, the call boxes (red ones were used in case of fires; blue boxes connected police officers with their precincts) became obsolete, but they were too heavy to move and were left to deteriorate.

From 2000 to 2009, Cultural Tourism DC and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities set up grants for neighborhoods to transform the boxes into displays for local artists.

Michael K. Ross, 35, contributed bronze sculptures to a dozen call boxes in Mount Pleasant and Sheridan-Kalorama. "This made me a part of my neighborhood; I was a participant, not just an observer," said Ross, who lived in Mount Pleasant but is now based in San Francisco.

According to Cultural Tourism DC, 145 boxes were redone in neighborhoods such as Forest Hills,

McLean Gardens, Tenleytown and Dupont Circle in Northwest.

The common thread among many of the boxes is a link to each area's rich history — something artist Peter Waddell focused on when creating art for his nine boxes.

"They get to the heart of living in Washington," Waddell said. "It's our ... proximity to the past that fascinates me."

At Mount Pleasant Street and Park Road, Ross sculpted **Civil War casualties** arriving at Mount Pleasant Hospital. "This peaceful neighborhood was in the middle of tumultuous human drama," Ross says.



In this box at Decatur Place and 22nd Street (one of 16 in Sheridan-Kalorama), Ross's statue depicts a **policeman** on his beat. Ross estimates he spent about 18 months on his call box projects, including researching local history, before creating his pieces.

