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## **Oregon District memorial committee convened, memorial fund created**

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Today, a small group met to begin discussions of creation of a permanent memorial to commemorate the August 4 tragedy in Dayton's Oregon District.

The group was convened by Mayor Nan Whaley to take steps to preserve the memory of the victims, honor survivors, and celebrate the community's resilience. Additional members may be added to the committee; the initial group is listed below.

As has been the case in other cities that experienced similar tragedies, the creation of the memorial will be a long-term process and will rely on community input—from victims' families, survivors, people who live and work in the Oregon District, and the broader community. The full process for determining the specifics of the memorial will be determined after consulting other cities and existing best practices. This process will be announced to the public once determined.

"This memorial will become a very important site for grieving and remembrance," said Mayor Whaley. "That is why it is especially important that our community plans together, plans carefully, and has respect for the people who were directly affected by the shooting. Many of those who live and work in the District are still struggling with the tragedy, and we want to be respectful and plan for a permanent memorial with the blessing of those who were and still are closest to the event."

Many people interested in donating art or talents have reached out to various organizations with ideas for a memorial. All of these ideas and contributions are deeply appreciated and will be vetted through the final process. In order to ensure that all relevant stakeholders are able to give feedback, anyone with ideas for the memorial or who would like to donate art should contact Darius Beckham at [darius.beckham@daytonohio.gov](mailto:darius.beckham@daytonohio.gov) or 937-333-3659.

The Dayton Foundation has created a fund for those who would like to support creation of the permanent memorial. Donations may be directed to fund #8375 at [www.thedaytonfoundation.org](http://www.thedaytonfoundation.org) or sent by mail to The Dayton Foundation (1401 S. Main St., Suite 100, Dayton OH, 45409).

**Initial Committee Members**

Sandy Gudorf, Downtown Dayton Partnership

Sandy Hunt, Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office, Victim Witness Division

Rob Jones, Ferncliff Cemetery and Oregon District resident

Chris Kershner, Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce

Dan "Wiley" Lafferty, Oregon District business owner

Michelle Lovely, Dayton Foundation

City Commissioner Chris Shaw

Natalie Skilliter, Corner Kitchen and Oregon District Business Association

Austin Smith, Ned Peppers and Hole in the Wall

Mike Parks, Dayton Foundation

Mayor Nan Whaley

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