



DIANA APCAR MONUMENT

 THE FIRST MONUMENT TO A HISTORICAL WOMAN IN YEREVAN



DIANA APCAR MONUMENT



NATIONAL CENTER
DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
www.national.center

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The first Armenian diplomat who served in Japan.
She was the first appointed female Consul in the world.



DIANA APCAR

Writer, humanitarian, philanthropist and person guided by God

www.dianaapcar.am



MONUMENT OF DIANA APCAR IN YEREVAN

Sketch & The Model

May 28, 2024, Competition Submission Date

Monument Dimensions

About 3,3 x 2,0 x 2,0 meters
(Including the pedestal)

Monument Materials

Bronze Sculpture

Granite or Marble for pedestal

Tempered glass for the red sun

Estimated Opening Date

October 17, 2025
(Diana Apcar's birthday)



Embassy of
Japan in Armenia



NATIONAL
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About DIANA APCAR

Diana Apcar (or Abgar; Armenian: Դիանա Աբգար, 17 October 1859 – 8 July 1937) was a diaspora Armenian writer and humanitarian, was appointed Honorary Consul to Japan during the short-lived First Republic of Armenia (1918-1920). She is the first Armenian woman diplomat and the first woman in the world to be appointed as Honorary Consul.

Born in Burma (Myanmar) to descendants of Armenians from New Julfa, she attended school in India. In 1890 Diana Apcar moved to Japan with her husband. In 1918, Armenia gained independence, and it was only in 1920 that this independence was recognized de facto on an international level. One of the countries that recognized Armenia's independence was Japan. Out of respect for her tireless work on behalf of her people over a decade, Hamo Ohanjanyan, the Republic's Foreign Minister, appointed Diana Apcar Honorary Consul to Japan.

By 1920, Diana had written nine books, seven of which addressed the Armenian Question and its right for self-determination. She also wrote over 100 articles discussing global politics, focusing on the impact of imperialism on smaller nations under imperial rule and its effects on global peace.



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COMPETITION FOR THE BEST PROJECT

About DIANA APCAR Monument Competition

The unique Diana Apcar Monument project is important for Armenia. This will be the first MONUMENT celebrating a historical woman in the City of Yerevan. The project is organized by the National Center Development Foundation and team. The installation of the Monument will be in the park named after Diana Apcar in the center of the Yerevan.

- Together with the State Academy of Fine Arts of Armenia, we held a competition among students, teachers and sculptors to select the best model of the future Monument.
- Based on the results of the competition, 8 projects for the model of the future Diana Apcar Monument were proposed. The project team and jury members selected one work that best met certain criteria and had a high creative quality.
- The competition was Anonymous, no one knew or had the data of the participants. The winning project was approved by representatives of the Foundation, the project team and the jury. It must be said that the project team includes Diana Apcar's great-great-granddaughter, who is her direct heir, and her official biographer, who lives in Japan.
- On May 28, it was announced to all participants in the competition that a work had been selected that clearly corresponds to the vision of the image of Diana Apcar and can be embodied as a Monument in the Park.
- At the moment, working conditions are being formed with a potential sculptor who proposed the best model. A preliminary calculation of the estimated cost of the final work is carried out and a contract with working conditions is formed.
- A presentation with the approved model of the future Monument to Diana Apcar was sent to the Yerevan City Hall.

Diana Apcar Monument

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Criteria and expectations for the Diana Apcar Monument

Considering the importance of the Project for the City and the significance of the person, Diana Apcar, the organizers defined certain criteria and a vision for the future Monument.

According to the organizers:

Diana's CHARACTER should be clearly communicated in the statue.

- Diana's look and position should be confident and dignified.
- She should be perceived as a strong-willed person, with a powerful but kind and noble character.
- Diana's look should be sublime and confident.
- She should sit firmly and upright, showing her values.
- Diana was complex: both radical and conventional. She argued for a free Armenia and criticized world powers. Yet she was deeply committed to her Christian faith and practiced conservative moral values.
- Diana worked tirelessly. The statue should communicate Diana's dynamic will and express her energy. One might show her body slightly turned to the side, suggesting action and aspiration for the future.

The STATUE should be made of Bronze.

- The statue should have a slight aging effect. One might use a patina to darken the color of the sculpture.
- Diana's clothes should be aristocratic, with a classic and formal look. She wore Victorian era clothing; however, this does not mean that she needs to be depicted in this clothing.
- Diana's hairstyle should have parallels with a classic style. Consider that she always wore her hair up, pulled back in a bun.
- Pay attention to the position of Diana's hands, her upright sitting posture and her gaze.
- The bronze figure must be a full-size volumetric figure.
- Approximate dimensions of the monument: 2,5 (width) x 4,5 (height) in meters (including architectural elements and additional details).

The Monument design should communicate simple elegance with a coordinated use of materials and appropriate relevant SYMBOLS.

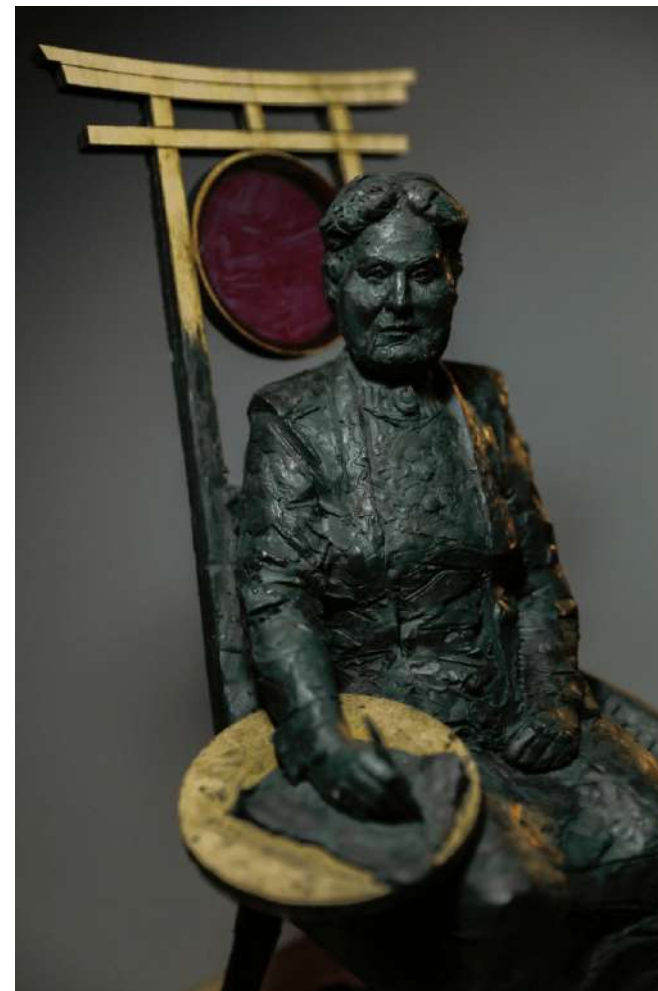
- Diana was committed to the Christian faith. Show Christian symbols either on the sculpture or on the architectural elements of the Monument.
- Diana lived most of her life in Japan. Show the Japanese rising sun, 3 or 4 times larger than her head, behind Diana's head in the background. Given its position, it could also communicate as a halo, a testament to her Christian life, considerable charitable works, and the concept of the Everyday Saint. (The material could be glass or a stone such as porphyry, or other material.) This sun-shape can also be backlit.
- Do not overload the sculpture with excessive elements. Elements may be depicted on the Architectural Forms of the Monument.
- A pedestal may be used to elevate the Diana sculpture.



COMPETITION WINNER PROJECT

VOLUMETRIC MODEL OF THE DIANA APCAR MONUMENT

Competition Winner, Potential Project



VOLUMETRIC MODEL OF THE DIANA APCAR MONUMENT

Competition Winner, Potential Project



VOLUMETRIC MODEL OF THE DIANA APCAR MONUMENT

Competition Winner, Potential Project

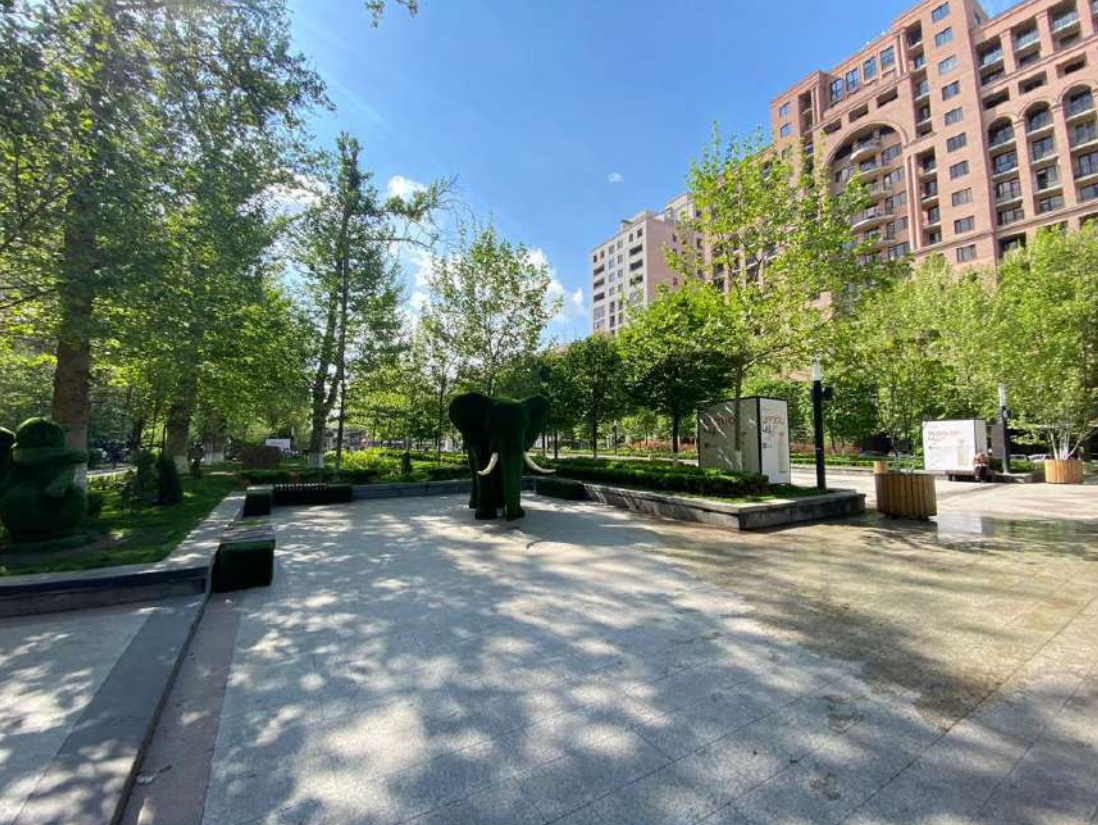


Description of the Sculptor's Project Model

I began to create a layout, having previously studied the important biographical moments of Diana Abgar's life, her activities and, of course, taking into account the competition criteria and requirements.

I identified three key points for me when working on the model:

- Diana Apkar's pro-Armenian activities as a diplomat, reporting on the genocide at various international platforms. She saved hundreds of children and families from genocide, gave them shelter, and became a great mother for them. The present layout, which I have tried to outline, expresses the various qualities of the character of Diana Abgar. I depicted Diana Abgar sitting, slightly sideways, confident, with an enthusiastic look, with which I expressed her strong-willed type. With her right hand she writes down her books, and with her left hand she clenches a fist, which is a symbol of confidence and strong-willed action.
- I also used Japanese symbols in the form of the Rising Sun at the back of Diana's head, which also looks like a halo, emphasizing her Christian values and faith.
- To sum up Diana Abgar's complete look, I pointed out her patriotism through the silhouette images at the back. These are human figures that reflect hundreds of collective images of children and families that Diana saved from genocide.



DIANA APCAR PARK



***The placement of the Diana Apcar Monument in the park will be approved by the Yerevan city authorities. The National Center Foundation offers several options for consideration in order to make the best decision.**

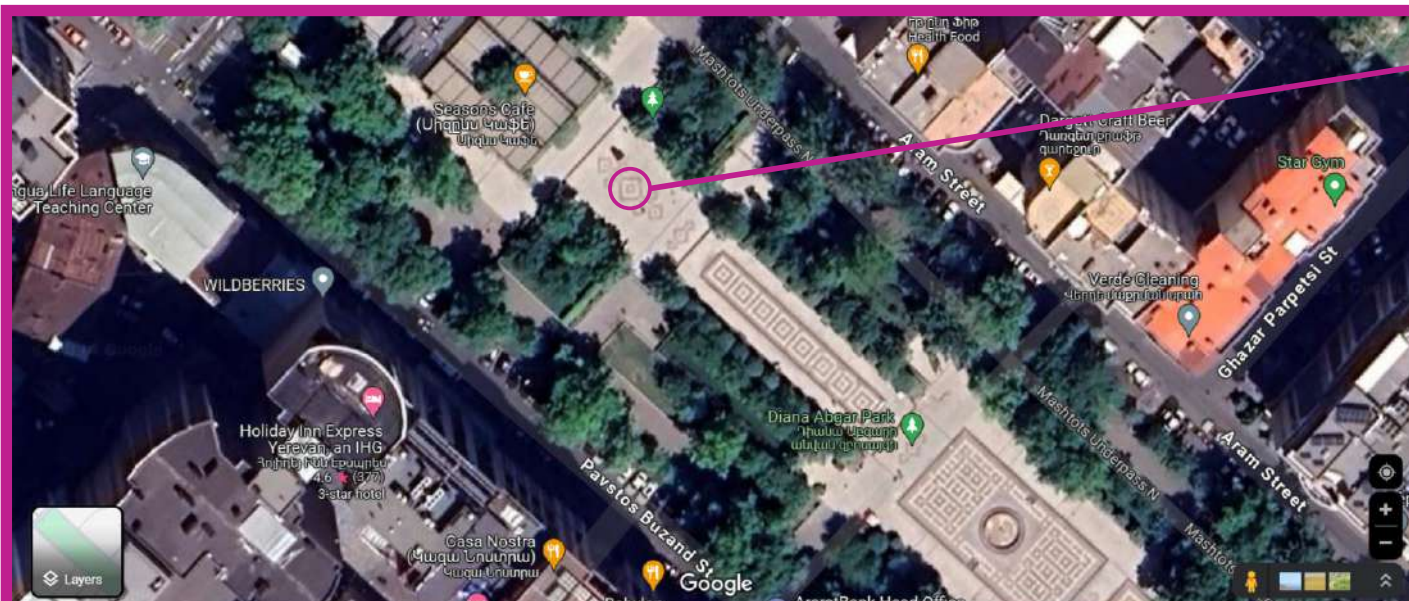


**DIANA APCAR
MONUMENT**

POTENTIAL LOCATION



Potential installation site №1 in Diana Apcar Park



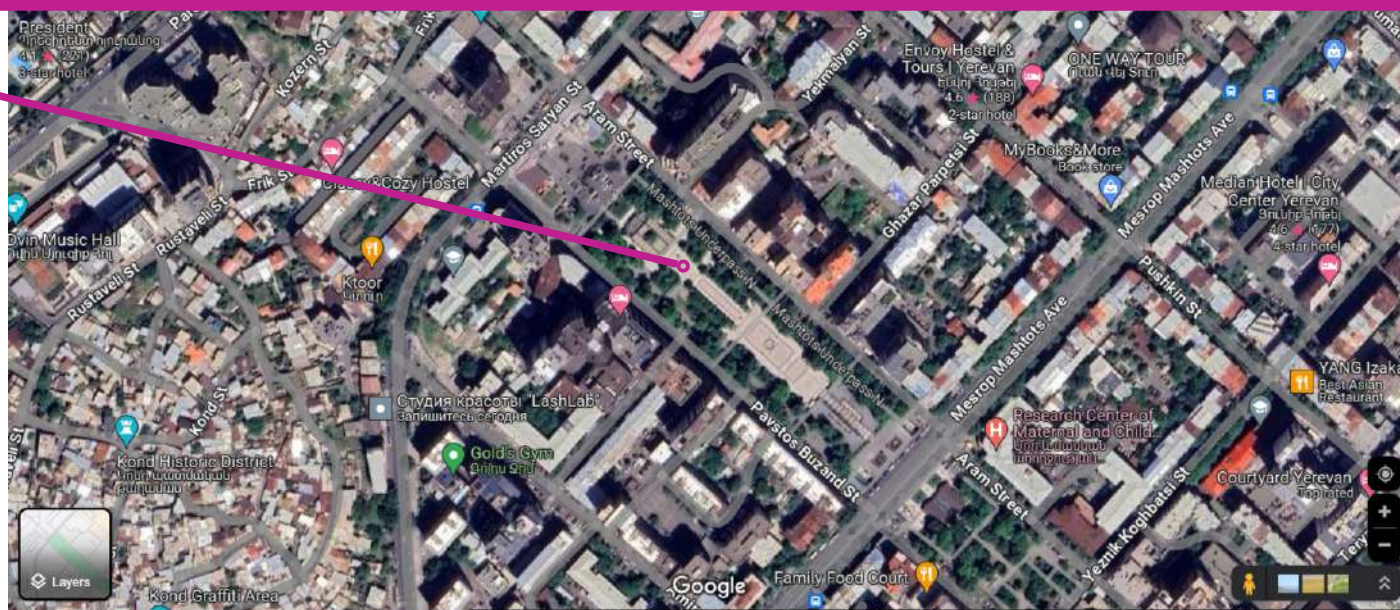
POTENTIAL LOCATION IN THE PARK

This location is highly desirable:

- Along the central line of Diana Apcar Park.
- Next to the Seasons Cafe, in the center of a wide open area.
- This location will show the importance of Diana and attract the attention of park visitors.

PARK VIEW & POTENTIAL LOCATION

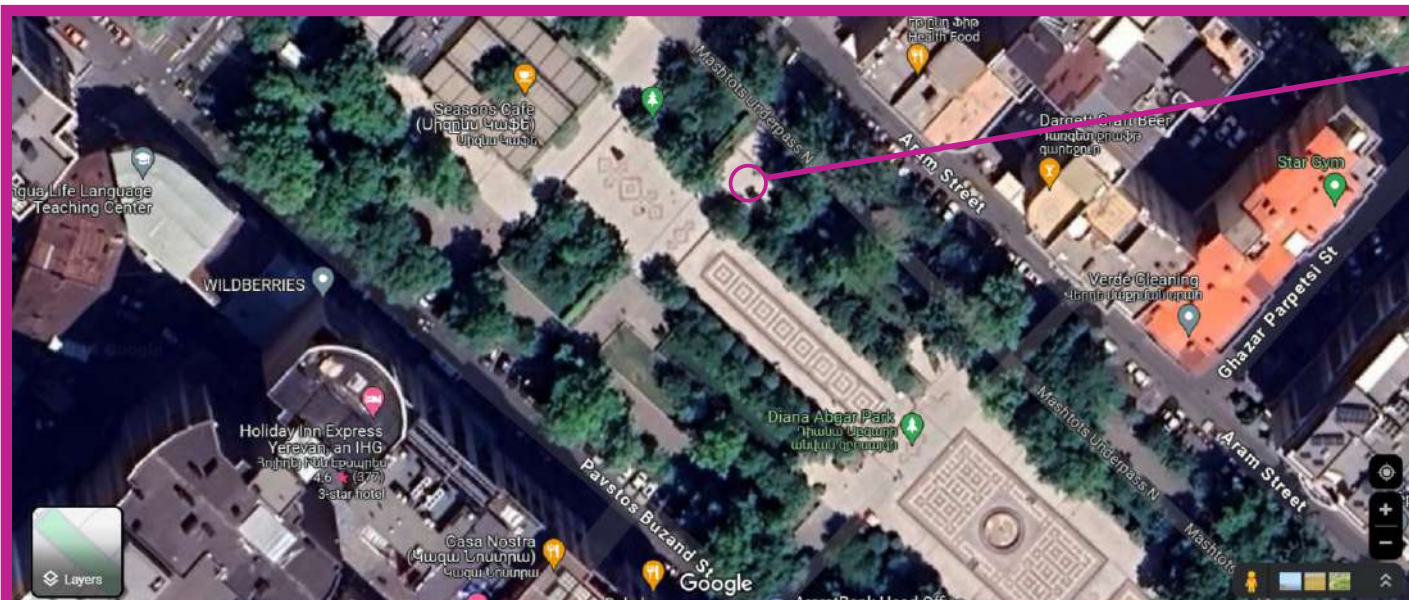
This map shows the most appropriate placement of the Monument in Diana Apcar Park. It would be correct to place the Monument on the upper side of the park, closer to Saryan Street.



POTENTIAL LOCATION



Potential installation site №2 in Diana Apcar Park



POTENTIAL LOCATION IN THE PARK

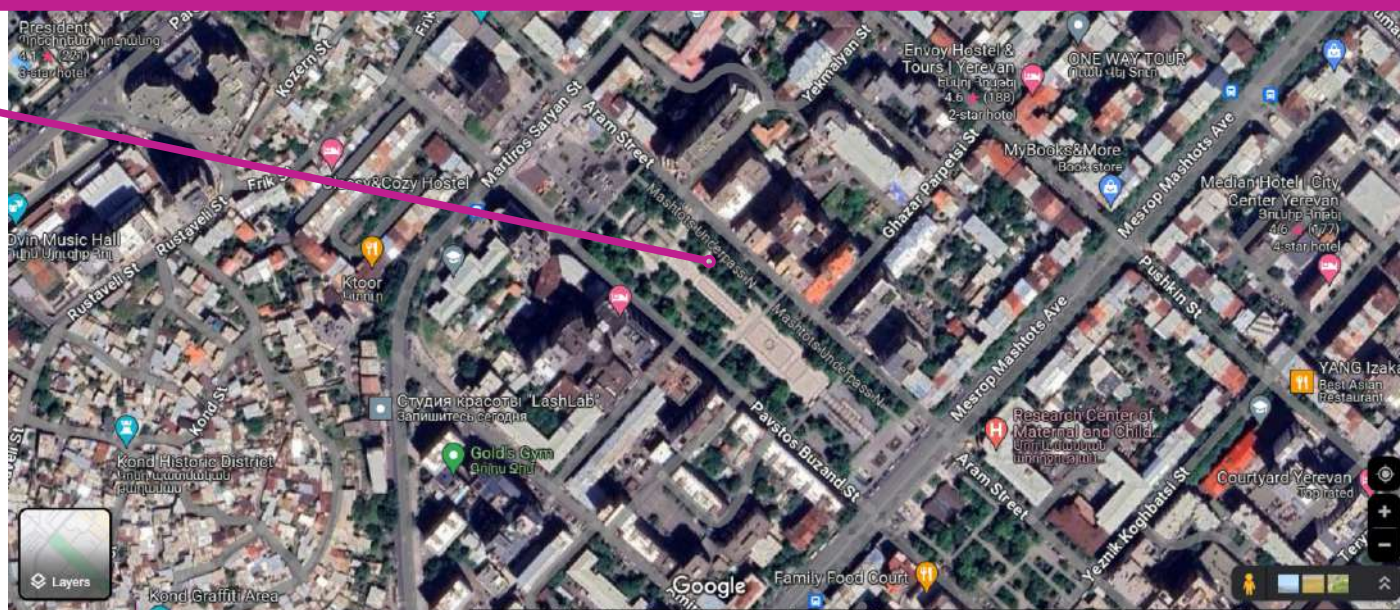
This placement has its advantages

- A quiet, isolated area of the park
- There are seats for park visitors who can admire the Diana Monument.

PARK VIEW & POTENTIAL LOCATION

This map shows an alternative location for the Monument in Diana Apcar Park.

It is on the right side of the park in a quiet area.



POTENTIAL LOCATION



Potential installation site №3 in Diana Apcar Park



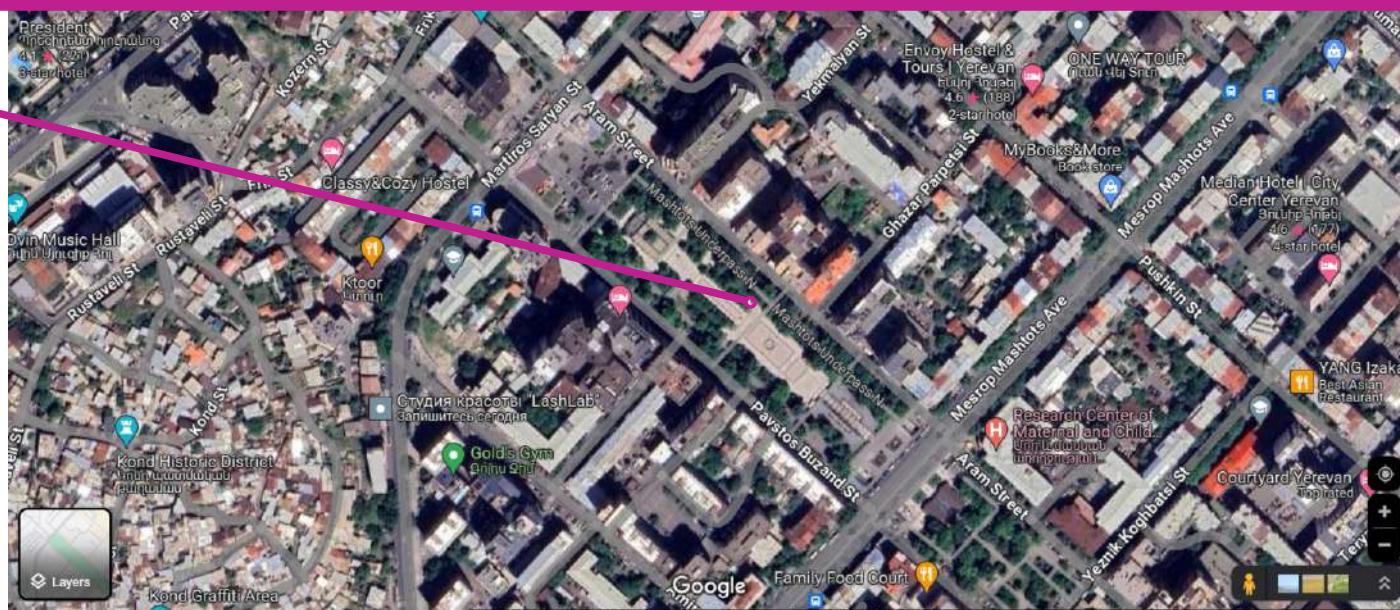
POTENTIAL LOCATION IN THE PARK

- Small isolated area of the park
- It's next to the pulpulaks

PARK VIEW & POTENTIAL LOCATION

This map shows an alternative location for the Monument in Diana Apcar Park.

It is on the right side of the park.





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