

"If you tried to give rock and roll another name, you might call it 'Chuck Berry.'" — John Lennon

"Chuck Berry is the most important figure in Rock & Roll, without a doubt."

— Taylor Hackford, Academy Award winning-Director for "Ray."

PRESS RELEASE

December 7, 2009

Efforts are underway in St. Louis to erect a statue honoring native son and rock and roll pioneer Chuck Berry. The cause is being spearheaded by Joe Edwards, owner of the landmark restaurant and music club, Blueberry Hill, and KMOX radio host, Charlie Brennan.

The statue of Berry, who still lives and performs in St. Louis, will be placed on Delmar Boulevard in University City. Harry Weber, sculptor of Lewis and Clark, Bob Gibson, Doug Flutie, and others is creating this bronze work.

This statue will recognize the achievements of the man who spread a musical revolution from the streets of St. Louis to Europe and Asia and beyond. Consider:

Chuck Berry was the first person inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. His inscription reads: "While no individual can be said to have invented rock and roll, Chuck Berry comes the closest..."

Eric Clapton, Brian Wilson and Mick Jagger have acknowledged Berry's influence on their own work. Rolling Stone Keith Richards said, "... I lifted every lick he (Berry) ever played!"

From a May 2009 story in Rolling Stone: "In the pecking order of rock & roll survivors, Bob Dylan sees himself as number two, behind only Chuck Berry."

As film director Taylor Hackford asks, "How many geniuses of American culture has St. Louis produced in the 20th century? It's a handful of truly great people that you look at and say, 'Oh my God! Our culture is because of these people.'"

All donors will receive a personal invitation to the statue dedication ceremony in 2010.

Contributions will be handled by the St. Louis Walk Of Fame, a non-profit organization founded by Joe Edwards in 1988 to showcase the cultural heritage of St. Louis.

Checks should be made out to "Chuck Berry Statue" and mailed to Chuck Berry Statue, c/o St. Louis Walk of Fame, 6504 Delmar, St. Louis MO 63130 USA. Donate online at <http://chuckberrystatue.com>. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 for the creation, display and lighting of this piece.