

COMMISSION ACTION

NCPC File No. 5907



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL
TIDAL BASIN, WEST POTOMAC PARK
Washington, D.C.

Submitted by the National Park Service

December 1, 2005

Commission Action Requested by Applicant

Approval of concept design plans pursuant to Public Law 104-333, Public Law 105-201, and Public Law 99-952, as amended and the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 8905).

Commission Action

The Commission:

Comments favorably on the overall design concept for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial **except for:**

- The horizontal bridge of the Memorial Walk, adjacent to the “Mountain of Despair,” which destroys the intended strong visual relationship between the signature “Mountain of Despair” and “Stone of Hope.”
- The narrow entrance portal through the “Mountain of Despair” because it creates the potential to impede visitor movements through the memorial’s main entrance.
- The Ranger and Visitor Information Kiosk.

Recommends that, the NPS and the MLK Foundation, as they develop preliminary design plans for the memorial:

- Redesign the entrance portal between the Mountain of Despair to remove the bridge of the Memorial Walk that interrupts views to the Stone of Hope and beyond, and to provide more space for visitor movement in this entry area.

- Provide more detailed photo simulations that clearly indicate the visual impact that the berm of the proposed memorial would have on views to the Tidal Basin and beyond.
- Coordinate with NPS on the size, location, and programmatic requirements for the Ranger and Visitor Information Kiosk.

Deborah B. Young
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission