

# COMMISSION ACTION

NCPC File No. 6331



**THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION**  
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

Constitution Avenue and Madison Drive between 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Streets, NW  
Washington, DC

Submitted by the Smithsonian Institution

April 7, 2011

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*Commission Action Requested*

Approval of comments on revised concept design pursuant to Public Law 108-184 and 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d).

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*Commission Action*

The Commission:

**Comments favorably** on the revised concept design for the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), at the corner of 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Constitution Avenue, Northwest Washington, DC as shown on NCPC Map File No 1.42(38.00)43285.

**Commends** the Smithsonian for addressing the concerns raised at the September Concept Review that have resulted in reductions in the high knolls on the North side of the site, improvements to the service access along 14<sup>th</sup> Street, and sustainability efforts in the landscape and building design.

**Recommends** that in the continued development of the site and building designs, the applicant:

- **Refine service access and east courtyard** to ensure that all elements on the east side of the building fit within existing 85' foot setback and that no additional changes need to be made to the building's position to accommodate the service drive and egress changes.
- **Minimize the building's mass** while maintaining overall design integrity.
- **Reduce the size of the west skylight** to bring it into scale with the landscape and to relate it to other landscape elements and pathways.

- **Study** night lighting in the context of the Washington Monument and the National Mall as the glazing and skin are further refined.
- **Continue to analyze** the geotechnical conditions at the project site and the surrounding Washington Monument grounds.

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Deborah B. Young  
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission