

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC LIBRARIES
ANACOSTIA BRANCH LIBRARY REPLACEMENT
1930 18th Street, SE
Washington, DC

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

December 23, 2004

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, I approve the preliminary and final design plans for the proposed replacement of the Anacostia Branch Library of the District of Columbia Public Libraries, located in Southeast Washington, DC, to include demolition and new construction within the footprint of the existing building, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 82.00(38.00)41521, and urge the applicant to implement the green roofing proposal under discussion for a portion of the lower central roof section funded through a grant from the Anacostia Watershed Protection Program.

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As one of the first libraries to be replaced under its capital construction program, the District of Columbia Public Libraries (DCPL) proposes to demolish the aging Anacostia Branch Library, in operation since 1956, and to construct a new one in the existing footprint. To realize the library's vision as "a recognized force in the community for engaging the mind, expanding opportunities, and elevating the quality of life," libraries will be designed and reconstructed to be safe, comfortable, and to inspire reading, learning and personal growth.

The DCPL proposes to replace an existing library of approximately 17,000 square feet with a new library of approximately 15,000 square feet on one level designed with an open floor plan to allow more efficient useable floor space. Eight angled head-in parking spaces, including two that are accessible, would be located at the rear of the library, accessed by a one-way drive-through from 18th Street. As a result of input gained from a series of focus group sessions and

community meetings, the drive-through would be curved as a traffic calming measure in response to community concerns that opening 18th Street to one-way straight-through traffic might encourage teens to race and crash cars. The main entrance would be on the south side of the building facing Good Hope Road.

The proposed building facade would be faced with brick and split faced concrete masonry units (CMU), accented with bands of glazed brick and split-faced CMU in contrasting colors. The roof would be divided in three sections; lower in the middle. Outer sections would slope upward from the center, creating vertical surface for glazed clerestory at southern exposure and at northern corner to light the interior from above. There is a proposal for green roofing under consideration for a portion of the lower central roof to be funded with assistance through a grant from the Anacostia Watershed Protection Program. Aluminum curtain wall glazed with evergreen glass and butted at corners, chosen for transparency day and night, would make pedestrians feel safe while contributing to a contemporary feeling and building image.

The Coordinating Committee coordinated the proposal at its meeting on December 8, 2004. As a District of Columbia agency project, outside of the central area of the District on non-federal property, the National Environmental Policy Act does not apply to the proposed construction. The District of Columbia has reviewed the action and determined that it qualifies as an exempted action in accordance with the implementing rules of the District of Columbia Environmental Policy Act of 1989. The library is outside the Anacostia Historic District and is not determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Since it is outside the Central Area, it is not subject to Section 106 review.

Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP
Executive Director