



BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS, AND EXPLOSIVES HEADQUARTERS
ART INSTALLATION
Square 710, New York and Florida Avenues, NE
Washington, DC

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

March 30, 2006

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, I approve the preliminary and final site development plans for the art installation at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, under construction in Square 710 at New York and Florida Avenues, NE, as shown on NCPC Map File No 42.00(38.00)41993.

* * *

The General Services Administration (GSA), on behalf of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), has submitted preliminary and final site development plans for the installation of a wind-activated sculpture in the reflecting pool in the garden courtyard of the new headquarters building. The crescent-shaped pool is immediately inside the garden wall. The sculpture, a particle wave, is designed by Ned Kahn. The building, designed by Moshe Safdie and now under construction, is sited within a perimeter garden wall on the north elevation, facing the intersection of New York and Florida Avenues, NE. The Commission approved final site and building plans for the building in 2003, anticipating future review of the sculpture and several other details of the garden courtyard elements.

The sculpture is a long tilting arc, suggestive of a breaking wave, rising out of the water to a height of twelve feet in the center and extending across and descending into the water to a length of seventy-five feet. The surface of the arc (including the lower portion of it that will be underwater) will be composed of thin, stainless steel disks, five inches in diameter, hinged to move with the wind. The stainless steel disks will reflect the water and sky and create varied patterns and rhythms in different wind conditions.

The project was coordinated by attending agencies at the March 15, 2006 Coordinating Committee meeting. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, GSA has evaluated this project and determined that it is a Categorical Exclusion. Staff has independently reviewed the project information and has determined the project is a categorical exclusion in conformance with the NCPC requirements under §8(C)(21) of the Commission's Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures.

No further review under Section 106 is required, as the garden and pool are non-historic elements of the larger undertaking, which was reviewed in total by the D.C. State Historic Preservation Office, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Commission in 2003. The Commission of Fine Arts reviewed and approved the sculpture at its March 16, 2006 meeting.

I commend GSA for this addition to its inventory of works of art in and around federal public buildings through its Art and Architecture program.

Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP
Executive Director