Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library
Renovation Project

Section 106 Consulting Party Meeting
19 November 2014
Agenda

Introduction
MLK Landmark Designation and Design Guidelines
Design Alternatives
Discussion and Questions
Next Steps
NEPA SCOPING COMMENTS

Range of Alternatives
   Explore additional alternative to extend building by repeating the existing building envelope

   Comments of support and opposition to various alternatives

Design
   Increase visibility, light, openness of building

Land Use
   Architectural program of library
   Use of 3-story addition

Commemoration
   Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Section 106 Process

1. Define the Undertaking/Initiate Section 106
2. Identify Consulting Parties
3. Involve the Public
4. Define the Area of Potential Effect (APE)
5. Identify Cultural Resources within the APE
6. Assess Effects on Significant Resources
7. Apply Criteria of Adverse Effect
8. Continue Consultation
9. Draft an Agreement Document, if needed

We are here
Area of Potential Effects (APE) Draft

Individual Landmarks

1. MLK Jr. Library 901 G Street NW
2. Victor Building 724-26 9th Street NW
3. Mercantile Savings Bank 719-21 10th Street NW
4. Daniel Webster School 723-29 10th Street NW
5. Washington Hebrew Congregation 816 8th Street NW (Greater New Hope Baptist Church)
6. Greyhound Bus Terminal 1100 New York Avenue NW
7. Masonic Temple 604 H Street NW (National Museum of Women in the Arts)
8. McLachlen Building 1001 G Street NW
9. Woodward & Lothrop 1025 F Street NW
10. Saint Patrick’s Church 619 10th Street NW
11. Equitable Cooperative Building Association 915 F Street NW
12. Old Masonic Temple 901 F Street NW
13. Patent Office 901 F Street NW
14. Ford’s Theatre 511 10th Street NW
15. Atlantic Building 950 F Street NW
16. National Union Building 918 F Street NW
17. Washington Loan and Trust Company 900 F Street NW
18. LeDroit Block 800 Block of F Street NW
19. General Post Office 601 13th Street NW (General Land Office)
20. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Co. 722 and 720 12th Street NW (Old Main Building and Dial Exchange)
21. Homer Building 601 13th Street NW

Selected Areas:

- DC Inventory and/or National Register
- Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site
- Downtown Historic District
- Downtown Historic District Boundary Expansion (Pending)

EHT Traceries, Inc. September 17, 2014
Mies van der Rohe is widely acknowledged as one of the 20th century's greatest architects. By emphasizing open space, new assemblies and an honesty and expression of materials, he helped define modern architecture. His architecture is based on classic proportions and pure forms with structure that generates uninterrupted spaces.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library is one of few International Style buildings in Washington, D.C., and the only one of Mies's library designs to be implemented.

Construction began a year after Mies's death in 1969, and the building was completed in 1972. After his death, it was necessary to revise the design to respond to certain budgetary and functional considerations.

In June 2007, the DC Historic Preservation Review Board added the property, including the exterior building and plaza and the interior public spaces on the ground floor as an historic landmark to the DC Inventory of Historic Sites. In the same year, it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

MLK expresses key principles of Mies's work, including an exposed steel skeleton, curtain wall technology, rectilinear forms, clear open spaces, and a recessed loggia around the ground floor perimeter.
Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. Both a Baptist minister and civil-rights activist, Dr. King had an important impact on race relations in the United States, beginning in the mid-1950s. Among many efforts, King headed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

SCLC’s advocacy of boycotts and other forms of nonviolent protest played a pivotal role in ending the legal segregation of African-American citizens in the South and other areas of the nation, as well as the creation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Dr. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, among several other honors.

Dr. King was assassinated in April 1968, and continues to be remembered as one of the most lauded African-American leaders in history, often referenced by his 1963 speech, “I Have a Dream.”

Dr. King ignited passion for social change and for civil discourse. MLK was the first memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. dedicated in DC following his assassination.
As part of the local designation, the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) recommended that DCPL prepare a set of guidelines to guide the future maintenance and stewardship of the library.

The MLK Design Guidelines were created by DCPL and the Historic Preservation Office and were adopted by HPRB in 2012.

The DC landmark designation protects the building and its lot and requires review and approval for changes proposed to its exterior, including landscape, as well as to the public spaces, including the lobby, vestibule, great hall, and reading rooms of the ground floor interior.

Three zones were established with varying levels of appropriate preservation treatments: Restoration Zone, Rehabilitation Zone, and Renovation Zone.
ludwig mies van der rohe

MARTIN LUTHER KING JUNIOR

ARCHITECTURE

ARCHIVES

RESEARCH

MIES VAN DER ROHE

rebirth of mlk library

dr. martin luther king jr.

research

RESEARCH THROUGH DESIGN THROUGH RESEARCH
LEGACY
Librarian Keeps Dream Alive

The main library of the District of Columbia is named in honor of Brother Martin Luther King, Jr. Under the direction of a small group of librarians, the library of the main library's main building is used as an active community resource. Music, theater, art, lectures, literary events, outreach programs, and much more make the library a living testament to the vision of Dr. King.

1987 news article about Librarian Hardy Franklin introducing the MLK painting in the Great Hall

Mayor-Commissioner Walter Washington, groundbreaking ceremony, 1968

Mayor-Commissioner Walter Washington and Librarian Harry Peterson, 1968

RESEARCH TO CONNECTION WITH LIBRARY AND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
space for children

space for events

hospitality

books and reading

interactive spaces

THE LIBRARY OF THE PAST

THE LIBRARY OF THE FUTURE

space for events

space for children

hospitality

books and reading

interactive spaces

USE OF LIBRARY SPACES RESEARCH
Design Alternatives Presentation
ALTERNATIVES

A
NO ACTION - EXISTING LIBRARY

B.1
RENOVATION WITH 5TH FLOOR EXISTING SCREEN EVENT SPACE

B.2
RENOVATION WITH 5TH FLOOR RECTILINEAR EVENT SPACE

B.3
RENOVATION WITH 5TH FLOOR CURVILINEAR EVENT SPACE
B.4

RENOVATION WITH 5TH FLOOR EXTRUDED EVENT SPACE

C

RENOVATION WITH 5TH FLOOR CURVILINEAR EVENT SPACE + 3 STORY ADDITION
Areas of Design Engagement

1. New Public Cores  
2. Current Loading Dock Enclosure  
3. Building Enclosure  
4. Site Walls along G Place and 9th Street  
5. Engaging G Place  
6. Bicycle Kiosk Area  
7. Open floors East to West and North to South  
8. Roof Terrace and Events Space
“No action” Alternative would continue basic maintenance and repairs.
B.1  RENOVATION WITH 5TH FLOOR  EXISTING SCREEN EVENT SPACE

B.2  RENOVATION WITH 5TH FLOOR RECTILINEAR EVENT SPACE

B.3  RENOVATION WITH 5TH FLOOR CURVILINEAR EVENT SPACE

B.4  RENOVATION WITH 5TH FLOOR EXTRUDED EVENT SPACE
M+J and Mecanoo studied many options for the composition of an addition.

Important considerations:

1. To keep the proportions of the horizontal Mies building, and not extend the building vertically
2. The shift in the city grid at G Street makes the southeast corner of the building special
3. Making the roof accessible to the public offers a destination and takes advantage of city views.
4. A simple beam with a solid end does not compete with the library.
B-C 1st flr option 2
existing Great Hall event space

B-C Great Hall event space option 1

B-C Great Hall event space option 2
B.1  RENOVATION WITH 5TH FLOOR EXISTING SCREEN EVENT SPACE

B.2  RENOVATION WITH 5TH FLOOR RECTILINEAR EVENT SPACE

B.3  RENOVATION WITH 5TH FLOOR CURVILINEAR EVENT SPACE

B.4  RENOVATION WITH 5TH FLOOR EXTRUDED EVENT SPACE

B-C  5th flr
Criteria of Adverse Effect 36 CFR § 800(5)(a)(1)

An adverse effect is found when an undertaking may **directly or indirectly** alter any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify it for inclusion in the National Register in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property’s **location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association**.
Examples of Adverse Effects 36 CFR § 800(5)(a)(2)

1. Physical destruction or damage
2. Alterations that are inconsistent with the Secretary’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, including restoration, rehabilitation, repair, maintenance, stabilization, hazardous material remediation, and provision of handicapped access
3. Removal of the property from its historic location
4. Change of the character of the property's use or of contributing physical features within the property's setting
5. Introduction of visual, atmospheric, or audible elements that diminish the property’s integrity of the property’s significant historic features
6. Neglect or deterioration (except in certain religious or cultural cases)
7. Transfer, lease, or sale of property out of Federal ownership or control without adequate preservation controls
Discussion of Adverse Effects

Potential Indirect Effects
1. Surrounding historic resources
2. L'Enfant Plan

Potential Direct Effects
In addition to indirect effects to surrounding historic resources, NCPC and DCPL have identified potential adverse effects to the following character-defining features of MLK Library:
1. Form and massing
2. Curtain-wall glazing system
3. Plaza paving
4. Site walls
5. Core enclosure and cladding
6. Great Hall and first-floor public spaces
7. Upper-floor circulation and reading rooms
Next Steps

This presentation will be posted to the NCPC website at the following URL:

http://www.ncpc.gov/project/mlklibrary/

Consulting parties and the public may submit questions or comments on these materials by Wednesday, December 3. Comments and questions can be addressed to:

Jennifer Hirsch, Federal Preservation Officer, NCPC
jennifer.hirsch@ncpc.gov