



APPENDIX C
PUBLIC SCOPING REPORT





SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
SOUTH MALL CAMPUS MASTER
PLAN

PUBLIC SCOPING REPORT

June 2015

Prepared by:



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1) PROJECT SUMMARY

The Smithsonian Institution (SI) is developing a Master Plan for the South Mall Campus on the National Mall in Washington D.C. The South Mall Campus encompasses the Smithsonian campus from the Freer Gallery of Art on the west to the Hirshhorn Gallery and Sculpture Garden on the east, between Independence Avenue and the National Mall (see Figure 1 in Appendix A). The proposed Master Plan is subject to the review of the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) under the National Capital Planning Act. NCPC is the lead federal agency and is working in cooperation with the SI to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The purpose of the proposed action is to develop and implement a Master Plan that will better align Smithsonian facilities with their strategic plan, increase public access, and realize benefits from the efficiencies of an integrated plan. Integrated planning for projects within the South Mall Campus will allow the Smithsonian to optimize the benefits of connections between the projects and to take advantage of cost and space saving synergies between facilities. A primary goal of the Master Plan is also to improve and expand visitor services and education by providing spaces for public gatherings and programming as well as retail and food service.

The project is needed to provide a coordinated approach to revitalize, replace, and renovate current buildings and building systems, such as mechanical and electrical systems, within the South Mall Area that are reaching the end of their useful life. The Master Plan is also needed to improve access to, circulation within, and visibility of the South Mall Campus. Specific needed improvements will be made in the following areas:

- Smithsonian Castle
- Quadrangle Building
- Arts and Industries Building
- Sackler Gallery and the African Art Museum
- Hirshhorn Museum
- Visitor Center and Public Programs
- Visitor Experience

Objectives of the Master Plan are to:

- Provide a cohesive, integrated campus with the SI Castle as the Gateway to the SI as a whole on the National Mall
- Provide conformance with the SI security policy and federal building and perimeter security requirements
- Allow for the safe and efficient movement of collections from delivery to exhibition
- Expand SI's capacity to provide access to a wide range of digital and in-person educational programs
- Improve space to meet the goals of the programs located within the South Mall (HMSG, NMAfa, FGA, AMSG)

- Maintain and enhance the Smithsonian Gardens' ability to extend the museums' exhibits and learning environment in a public garden setting while shaping the overall visitor experience of the SI
- Conform to SI's historic preservation policy including applicable Secretary of the Interior Standards for Historic preservation
- Maximize reliability and durability of the SI's building systems for uninterrupted operations
- Locate loading and service areas underground and away from pedestrian circulation, where possible
- Provide for expanded and improved retail space and special events support to enhance the visitor experience
- Provide a sustainable environment for visitors, staff, volunteers and collections
- Responsive to adopted plans including those for the Monumental Core, the National Mall, Department of Agriculture, and the Southwest EcoDistrict

2) PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS SUMMARY

Public involvement and participation is an essential element of the NEPA and NHPA processes by engaging citizens in the decision-making process through planning and development. NEPA regulations require an "early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action." To determine the scope of issues to be analyzed in depth in the Environmental Assessment for the project, on December 2, 2014 SI and NCPC announced a scoping period from December 16, 2014 through January 30, 2015 (Appendix B). The announcement was sent via electronic mail to community groups and individuals who were identified as having potential interest in the project (Appendix C). A public scoping meeting was also held on December 16, 2014 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the Smithsonian Castle Commons area on the first floor. The SI also has created a project website located at <http://www.southmallcampus.si.edu>. This scoping announcement and scoping materials were placed on the project website. In addition, NCPC has a project page on its website (<http://www.ncpc.gov/project/southmall/>) that links to the SI website. NCP sent an e-card to its mailing distribution list announcing the public scoping meeting. Members of the public were invited to submit comments in writing via mail, email or on the Master Plan website (<http://www.southmallcampus.si.edu>). The SI also provided an Informational Briefing to the Commission of Fine Arts on January 22, 2015.

a) Public Scoping Meeting

On December 16, 2014 a public scoping meeting was held at the Smithsonian Castle. The meeting provided a forum for the project team to present the proposed action to the public and explain the NEPA and NHPA processes. The meeting began at 5:00 pm and continued until 7:00 pm. Meeting attendees were asked to sign-in upon arrival and were given an agenda of events for the evening.

The meeting began with an open house to allow attendees to view informational displays of the NEPA and NHPS processes and the potential Master Plan alternatives. At around 5:30 pm, the SI and their project team gave attendees a presentation outlining, in further detail, the NEPA/106 processes and the various potential alternatives for the Master Plan (Appendix D). After the presentation concluded, the audience was given an opportunity to ask questions. The meeting was then opened up to an open house format to again allow attendees to further view the informational displays and investigate the project in further detail. SI and consultant staff were on hand to address additional questions and receive public comments. Comment forms were made available at the meeting and a court reporter was on-hand to record the oral testimony of meeting attendees (Appendix E).

A total of 63 individuals signed-in at the public scoping meeting (Appendix F). Five formal written comments were provided by the public at the meeting (Appendix G). The written comments received at the public meeting were as follows:

- Desire for the Smithsonian to extend the public scoping period (3 comments)
- The loading dock situation should be addressed because of safety issues (1 comment)
- Support for design concepts (1 comment)

b) Public Scoping Meeting Transcript

A stenographer was on hand at the public scoping meeting to record the oral presentation given by the SI and their staff and to record verbal comments from attendees. Based upon the oral testimony received at the scoping meeting, the public in attendance asked questions regarding the larger context of the Master Plan in relation to the Mall, the range and feasibility of the alternatives and the potential removal of the Haupt Garden. The following is the summary of the verbal comments and testimony received during the public meeting.

- Want to ensure historical plans like the L'Enfant Plan were included in the historical impacts
- Who contributed to the development of the Master Plan and did the Board of Regents approve the Master Plan?
- Provide further clarification on communication and access between the buildings of the South Mall Campus
- Anticipated costs of each alternative and sources of funding
- Encouraged a longer public comment period to give time for the public to fully understand all aspects of the Master Plan
- Would like to ultimately pick and choose favorable items from each alternative
- Concerned about connectivity and openness to the Mall
- Will upgraded technologies and building systems be implemented?
- Expressed concern regarding the removal of the Haupt Garden
- How will national security be considered in the Master Plan designs?
- Update on the Arts and Industries Building
- Timeframe for implementation of Master Plan
- Projects will be disruptive and inconvenient for visitors

- Request clarification on Section 106 and how it will be resolved considering the lifespan of the Master Plan

c) Informational Briefing to the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

The SI also provided an Informational Briefing about the Master Plan to the Commission of Fine Arts on January 22, 2015. Meeting minutes from the meeting were provided to the SI (Appendix H). The Commission expressed support for the concept for transforming the quadrangle, but the conceptual precedent for the proposed design should extend beyond A.J. Downing's curvilinear landscape for the Mall with more consideration given to the Haupt Garden. The Commission recommended that careful consideration of how the project's new elements interact with the existing museums as the central landscape and museum entrances are developed as a concept design, and encouraged careful study of the conditions of physical interaction with and visibility through the long arrays of skylights. Commission members supported the idea of enhancing the physical connections to the Hirshhorn Museum across the campus and underground to the sculpture garden. However, they agreed the enclosed character of the Hirshhorn site is a central feature of the design and they recommended that the fundamental role of the walls in creating a protected landscape and setting for the museum should be retained.

d) Nature of Written Comments Received During the Scoping Period

A total of 81 pieces of correspondence were received during the scoping period (Appendix I). Correspondences were received from the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, Florida, Maine, and New York. In addition, the Commission of Fine Arts January 2015 meeting minutes have been included with the scoping comments.

One federal government office, the National Park Service (NPS) provided comments on the project. The NPS in their correspondence requested to be a consulting party with the SI and NCPC. The NPS also commented about their concern regarding projects that have the potential to affect NPS land, their interests under Section 110(f) of the NHPA with respect to the Castle and the Arts and Industries Building, and concerns over the expedited schedule for the NEPA and NHPA compliances. The NPS also asked how the SI and NCPC will integrate the NPS in the NEPA and 106 processes.

Nine correspondences were received from civic associations and special interest groups. These include:

- Committee of 100 on the Federal City
- National Coalition to Save Our Mall
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Waterfront Gateway Neighborhood Association
- American Society of Landscape Architects
- Bethesda Community Garden Club
- University of Maryland
- American Folk Art Museum
- Guild of Professional Tour Guides

Generally, the correspondence received was in support of renovations to update and modernize the Smithsonian Castle and not in support of the removal of the gardens

within the South Mall Campus. The comments received were placed into different categories based on the theme of the comment. Below is a summary of the comments received in each category.

Museum Accessibility (13 Correspondences)

- Not in favor of removing pavilion entrances to Sackler and Museum of African Art
- Improved signage is the preferable method to address accessibility concerns
- Agree accessibility is an issue
- Not in favor of underground improvements
- In favor of underground improvements
- Does not see a need for improved connectivity between the museums

Arts and Industries Building (13 Correspondences)

- In favor of converting the building into a visitors center instead of constructing a new underground space

Budget (6 Correspondences)

- Concerns about the potential cost of implementing the Master Plan
- Need more clarification on the cost of each alternative

Castle Renovations (25 Correspondences)

- Renovations, seismic upgrades and system updating should be top priority while preserving the historical integrity of the castle
- Not in favor of new underground construction

Historic/Design Concerns (18 Correspondences)

- Not in favor of "dip" design; thinks it detracts from views of the castle and surrounding buildings
- Fear design does not fit with rest of mall or follow historical planning documents
- Want further studies on how design concepts would impact historically significant structures and features on the South Mall Campus
- Expressed concern with introducing natural light to art collections which may cause damage
- Concerned that design conflicts will detract from renovation needs of the Castle
- The National Park Service voiced concerns with historical implications of the Master Plan and requested to be a cooperating agency under the project

Environmental (4 Correspondences)

- Think climate change and sea-level rise should be considered in design concepts
- Support adding trees and vegetation to achieve environmental goals
- Encourage implementing renewable energy resources in design concepts

Gardens (52 Correspondences)

- Do not support the removal of any of the gardens in the south mall campus

Hirshhorn (10 Correspondences)

- Not in favor of lowering of the walls surrounding the sculpture garden
- Support renovations to allow access from the Mall

Other Notable comments

- Generally unsupportive of the entire Master Plan
- Support for Master Plan and design concepts
- Would like the Smithsonian to explore other potential planning and expansion options on the Mall
- Consider the possibility that low visitor rates are not due to accessibility issues but instead a lack of interest for alternative art museums
- A U.S. firm should have been hired to design the Master Plan
- The loading dock situation should be addressed

In addition to the written comments, 68 questions were received requesting clarification on various aspects of the Master Plan. Questions were asked about the following topics:

- The strategic plan
- Origination of the Master Plan
- Overall planning
- Alternatives
- Castle renovations
- Arts and Industries Building
- Freer Building
- Historical resources
- Sackler Gallery
- Ripley Building
- The gardens
- Renwick Gates
- Hirshhorn Museum

3) COMMENT ANALYSIS

Table 1: Correspondence Count by Organization Type

Organization Type	Number of Correspondences	Percentage
Federal Government	1	1.23%
Non-Governmental	10	12.35%
Unaffiliated Individual	70	86.42%
TOTAL	81	100

Table 2: Correspondence Distribution by Correspondence Type

Type	Number of Correspondences	Percentage
Letter	5	6.17%
Email	71	87.66%
Comment Form	5	6.17%
TOTAL	81	100

Table 3: Correspondence Distribution by State

State	Number of Correspondences	Percentage
DC	31	38.27%
Maryland	6	7.41%
Virginia	4	4.94%
Florida	1	1.23%
New York	3	3.70%
Maine	1	1.24%
Unidentified	35	43.21%
TOTAL	81	100%

Table 4: Major Comment Topics

Topic	Number of Correspondences	Percentage
Proposed garden removal concerns	52	64%
Castle Renovation is priority	28	35%
Historical/design concerns	18	22%
Improve signage to improve accessibility	15	19%
Convert AIB to Visitor's Center	15	19%
Proposed Hirshhorn design concerns	10	12%
Not consistent with Mall or planning document designs	8	10%



Appendix A: Figures



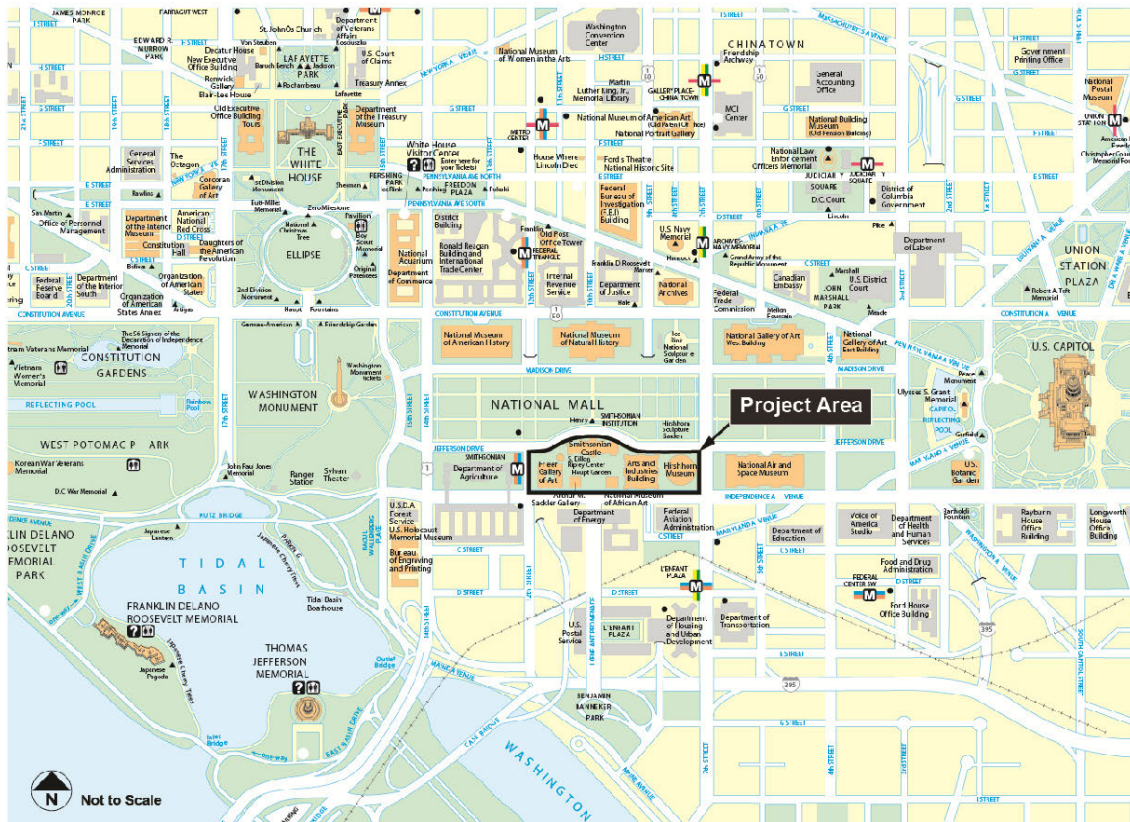


Figure 1: Project Area

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Appendix A:
Scoping Announcement





Smithsonian Institution



National
Capital
Planning
Commission

Dear Interested Party:

The Smithsonian Institution (SI) is developing a Master Plan for the South Mall Campus located on the National Mall in Washington D.C. The South Mall Campus encompasses the Smithsonian campus from the Freer Gallery of Art on the west to the Hirshhorn Gallery and Sculpture Garden on the east, between Independence Avenue and the National Mall. The purpose of the Master Plan is to improve the alignment between Smithsonian facilities and their strategic plan, increase public access and realize benefits from the efficiencies of an integrated plan. Preparing a Master Plan will allow the SI to optimize the benefits of connections between projects and to take advantage of cost and space saving synergies among facilities. A primary goal of the Master Plan is also to improve and expand visitor services and education by providing spaces for public gatherings and programming as well as retail and food service.

The Master Plan is needed to provide a coordinated approach to revitalize, replace and renovate current buildings and building systems, such as mechanical and electrical systems, within the South Mall area that are reaching the end of their useful life. The Master Plan is also needed to improve access to, circulation within, and visibility of the South Mall Campus

The proposed Master Plan is subject to the review of the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) under the National Capital Planning Act. NCPC will serve as the lead responsible federal agency and work in cooperation with the SI to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NCPC, in cooperation with the SI, will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the environmental impacts of a range of alternatives for the Master Plan, in accordance with NEPA. The preparation of the EA will enable the SI and NCPC to evaluate and analyze the environmental impacts of the Master Plan and alternatives under consideration. At the same time, the SI and NCPC will be conducting consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act to take into account the effects of the Master Plan on historic properties.

With this notice, NCPC and SI are announcing the start of the public scoping period for the preparation of the EA in compliance with NEPA requirements. The SI and NCPC invite you to attend a joint NEPA/Section 106 meeting that will take place on **Tuesday December 16, 2014 at the Smithsonian Castle in the Commons space on the first floor from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm**. The meeting will be an "open house" format. A brief presentation about the Master Plan will begin

at 5:30 pm and will include a discussion of the purpose and need statement, proposed alternatives under consideration, and issues to be analyzed in the EA.

NCPC and SI will accept comments concerning the alternatives and scope of issues to address in the EA from **December 16, 2014 until January 30, 2015**. Interested parties are also invited to participate in the consultation under Section 106 process. Comments received during the scoping period will be used to refine alternatives and inform the EA analysis. Beginning December 16th, SI and NCPC will be accepting comments at the public scoping meeting, in writing via mail or email, or on the Master Plan website:

<http://www.southmallcampus.si.edu>

Liz Edelen Estes, Project Director
Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan
c/o Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
6110 Frost Place
Laurel, MD 20707
liz.estes@stantec.com

We look forward to seeing you on **December 16th at the Smithsonian Castle Commons located at 1000 Jefferson Drive SW , Washington, DC**. To request accessibility services, please contact the Smithsonian via email at SpoffordM@si.edu or 202-633-6558, one week in advance of the program. Your participation is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions regarding NCPC's review of the Master Plan or the NEPA or Section 106 process, please contact Jennifer Hirsch at jennifer.hirsch@ncpc.gov or at 202-482-7239.



Appendix B:
Email Distribution List



Smithsonian South Campus Master Plan
Draft Stakeholder List

Group	Name	Title	Email
Review Agencies			
National Capital Planning Commission (NCP)	Marcel C. Acosta	Executive Director	marcel.acosta@nrcdc.gov
	Shane Dettman	Director, Urban Design and Plan Review Division	shane.dettman@nrcdc.gov
	Elizabeth Miller	Director, Physical Planning Division	elizabeth.miller@nrcdc.gov
	Jennifer Hirsch	Federal Preservation Officer	jennifer.hirsch@nrcdc.gov
	Diane Sullivan	Senior Urban Planner	diane.sullivan@nrcdc.gov
	Cheryl Kelly	Urban Planner	cheryl.kelly@nrcdc.gov
	Dereth Bush	Urban Planner	dereth.bush@nrcdc.gov
	Thomas Luebke	Secretary	tluebke@nrcdc.gov
	Frederick Lindstrom	Assistant Secretary	flindstrom@nrcdc.gov
	Sarah Batcheler	Architect, Shipstead-Luce Act	sbatcheler@nrcdc.gov
State Historic Preservation Office			
DC Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	David Maloney	State Historic Preservation Officer	david.maloney@dc.gov
	Andrew Lewis	Senior Historic Preservation Specialist	anne.brockett@dc.gov
Tribal Historic Preservation Office			
Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), Delaware Nation	Nekole Alligood	Director	nalligood@delawarenation.com
	Kandess Batone	Office Assistant	kbatone@delawarenation.com
Public Agencies			
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	Brian Lusher		blusher@achp.gov
Architect of the Capitol	Ari Novy	Executive Director, US Botanic Garden	anovy@aac.gov
	Matthew Brown	Director	terry.bellamy@dc.gov
	Jeffrey H. Powell	Acting Associate Director, Public Space Regulation Administration	jeffrey.powell@dc.gov
	Megan Kanagy		megan.kanagy@dc.gov
DC Department of Transportation	Faisal Hameed		faisal.hameed@dc.gov
	Lezlie Rupert		lezlie.rupert@dc.gov
	Jamie Henson		jamie.henson@dc.gov
	Jonathan D. Rogers	Transportation Planner	jonathan.rogers2@dc.gov
DC Office of Planning	Ellen McCarthy	Acting Director	ellen.mccarthy@dc.gov
	Chris Shaheen	Neighborhood Planning Manager	chris.shaheen@dc.gov
	Andrea Limauro	Ward 2 Planner	andrea.limauro@dc.gov
National Archives and Records Administration	Patricia Zingsheim		Patricia.Zingsheim@dc.gov
	Richard Judson	Federal Preservation Officer	richard.judson@nara.gov

**Smithsonian South Campus Master Plan
Draft Stakeholder List**

National Gallery of Art	Darrell Wilson Susan Wertheim	Administrator Chief Architect	d-wilson@nga.gov s-wertheim@nga.gov
National Park Service	Peter May	Associate Regional Director, Lands, Planning, and Design	peter_may@nps.gov
	Robert Vogel	Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks	bob_vogel@nps.gov
	Perry Wheelock Catherine Dewey	Acting Chief of Resources	perry_wheelock@nps.gov Catherine_Dewey@nps.gov
	Sean Kennealy	Chief of Professional Services	Sean_Kennealy@nps.gov
	Susan Spain	Project Executive, National Mall Plan	susan_spain@nps.gov
	Kathryn Smith	National Historic Landmark Coordinator	kathryn_smith@nps.gov
US Department of Agriculture	Tom Hoffman	Director, Facilities Management Division	ThomasH.Hoffman@dm.usda.gov
	Robert Snieckus	National Landscape Architect	Robert.Snieckus@wdc.usda.gov
General Services Administration	Haren Dhokai	Architect, Office of Operations	Haren.Dhokai@dm.usda.gov
	Mina Wright	Director, Office of Planning & Design Quality	mina.wright@gsa.gov
	Nancy Witherell	Regional Historic Preservation Officer	nancy.witherell@gsa.gov
	James Ashe	Environmental Planning and Compliance	jashe@wmata.com
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority	Keith Anderson	Director	keith.anderson@dc.gov
District of Columbia Department of the Environment	Phetmano P. Phannayong		pphetmano.phannayong@dc.gov
District of Columbia Department of Public Works	William Howland	Director	william.howland@dc.gov
District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Dept.	Chief Mark Wynn	Fire Marshal	markwynn@dc.gov
DC Chamber of Commerce	Anthony A. Lewis	Chairman	
US Environmental Protection Agency	Barbara Rudnick	Environmental Scientist	rudnick.barbara@epa.gov
Other Interested Parties			
American Institute of Architects, DC Chapter	Mary Fitch	Executive Director	mfitch@aiaadc.com
Committee of 100 on the Federal City	Laura M. Richard	Chair	info@CommitteeOf100.net
	Don Hawkins		donhawkins@comcast.net
	Stephen Hansen		stephen.hansen1@gmail.com
Cultural Landscape Foundation	Pat Tiller		Pat.Tiller@prodigy.net
	Charles Birnbaum	Founder and President	charles@clcf.org
Cultural Tourism DC	Steven E. Schulman	Executive Director	sschulman@culturaltourismdc.org
DC Preservation League	Rebecca Miller	Executive Director	rebecca@dcpreservation.org

**Smithsonian South Campus Master Plan
Draft Stakeholder List**

Guild of Professional Tour Guides of Washington, DC	Tom Whitley			
NPS Concessionaire	Dick Swihart	National Mall & Memorial Parks		dick_swihart@nps.gov
National Association of Olmsted Parks	Katherine Adams	Executive Director		adamskatherine@naop.org
National Coalition to Save Our Mall	Judy Scott Feldman			
National Trust for Historic Preservation	Elizabeth Merritt			betsy_merritt@nlhp.org
	Rob Nieweg			nieweg@savingplaces.org
	Southern Field Office			sfo@nlhp.org
Preservation Action	Meagan Baco			mbaco@preservationaction.org
Society of Architectural Historians	Pauline Saliga	Executive Director		psaliga@sa-h.org
Society of Architectural Historians, Latrobe Chapter	James A. Jacobs	President		janiacobs@hotmail.com
Trust for the National Mall	Caroline Cunningham	President		information@nationalmall.org
US Capitol Historical Society	Ronald A. Sarasin	President		
US Holocaust Memorial Museum	Tom. A. Bernstein	Chairman		
Victorian Society in America	Tina Strauss	President		info@victoriansociety.org
Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission	Daniel J. Feil	Executive Architect		dfeil@eisenhowermemorial.org
Potomac Electric Power Company	James Pringle			jpringle@pepco.com
Washington Gas	Terry McAlister (Allan Melizza)			AMelizza@washgas.com
	Thomas Fryer, PE			TFryer@washgas.com
	Andrew Hickey			AHickey@washgas.com
District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority	George Hawkins			ghawkins@dcwasa.com
Local Elected Representatives				
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C	John Tinpe	SMD 2C01		2c01@anc.dc.gov
	Harold Kloster	SMD 2C02		2c02@anc.dc.gov
	Kevin Wiley	SMD 2C03		2c03@anc.dc.gov
	Stacy Cloyd	SMD 6D02		6D02@anc.dc.gov
	David Garber	SMD 6D07		6D07@anc.dc.gov
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6D	Rhonda N. Hamilton	SMD 6D06		6D06@anc.dc.gov
	Andy Lifsky	SMD 6D04		6D04@anc.dc.gov
	Sam Marrero	SMD 6D01		6D01@anc.dc.gov
	Roger Moffatt	SMD 6D05, Chair		6D05@anc.dc.gov
	Rachel Reilly Carroll	SMD 6D03		6D03@anc.dc.gov
District of Columbia Office of the Mayor	The Honorable Ms. Muriel Bowser	Mayor		eom@dc.gov

Smithsonian South Campus Master Plan
Draft Stakeholder List

District of Columbia City Council	Phil Mendelson, Chair	Chair	pmendelson@dcouncil.us
	Vincent Orange	Councilmember	vorange@dcouncil.us
	David Grosso	Councilmember	dgrosso@dcouncil.us
	Anita Bonds	Councilmember	abonds@dcouncil.us
	Elissa Silverman	Councilmember	essilverman@dcouncil.us
	Mary M. Cheh	Councilmember	mchehie@dcouncil.us
	Kenyan McDuffie	Councilmember	kmcduffie@dcouncil.us
	Yvette M. Alexander	Councilmember	yalexander@dcouncil.us
	Jack Evans	Councilmember	jevans@dcouncil.us
	Brianne Nadeau	Councilmember	bnadeau@dcouncil.us
	Charles Allen	Councilmember	callen@dcouncil.us
	Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton		
	Lauren Dudley		lauren.dudley@mail.house.gov
DC Delegate			



Appendix C:
Public Meeting Presentation





Smithsonian Institution
South Mall Campus Master Plan



Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan

Environmental Assessment &
Section 106 Consultation
Public Scoping Meeting

Welcome



Tonight's Agenda

- Welcome/Introductions
- Purpose of the Meeting
- Project Introduction
- National Environmental Policy Act Overview
- National Historic Preservation Act Overview
- Concept Alternatives
- Next Steps/Schedule
- Open Discussion/Comments



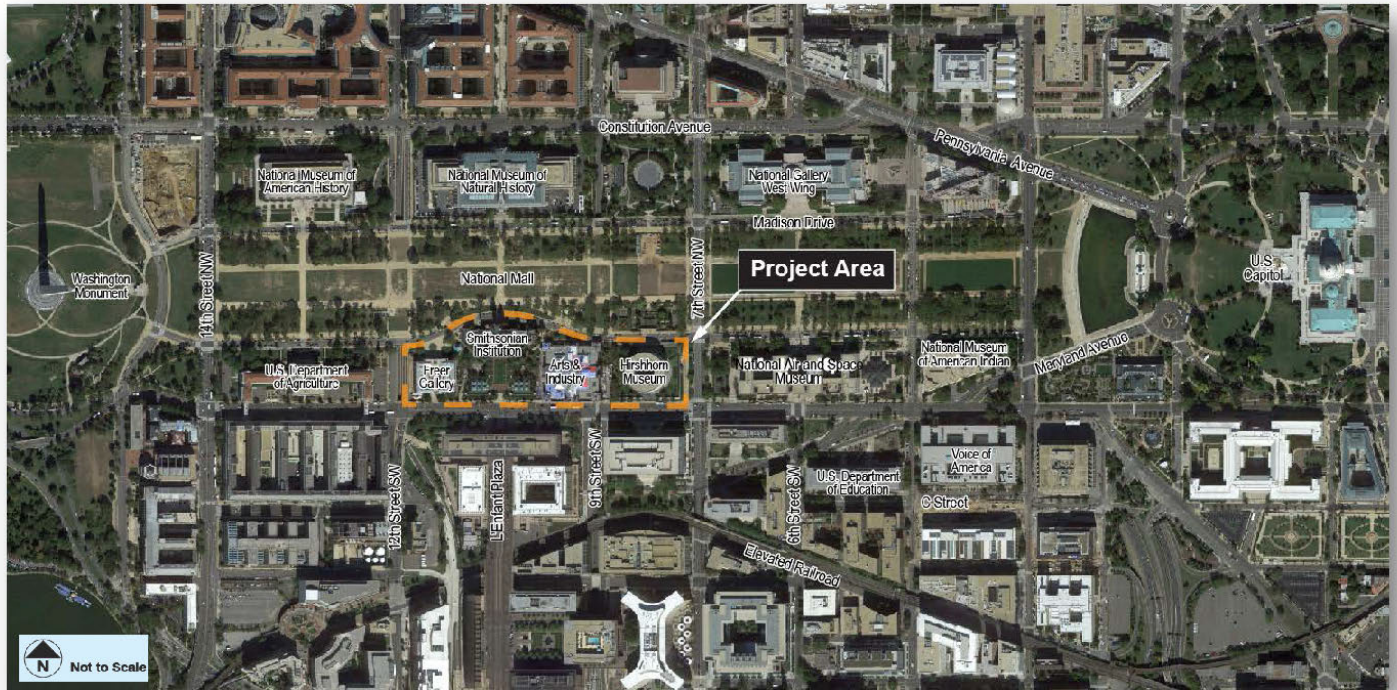
Purpose of Tonight's Meeting

- ❖ The purpose of this meeting is to gather early public input on proposed alternatives and issues to be evaluated in the Environmental Assessment.
- ❖ You may talk directly with members of the Smithsonian and BIG project team as well as with NCPC staff who are collaborating with us to complete NEPA and Section 106 processes.
- ❖ Comments may be made in writing or with the stenographer.





Project Location





Project Overview & Background

- In 2012, Smithsonian Steering Committee developed project goals and priorities for the South Mall area.
- Existing conditions survey was conducted that included testing initial planning options for their feasibility in meeting Smithsonian requirements.
- Master Plan alternatives have been developed and are presented tonight.
- The Smithsonian and NCPC acting as the lead agencies, have initiated work on an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Section 106 to evaluate the impacts of these plan alternatives.





Purpose and Need for the Project

Purpose:

- Align facilities with SI strategic plan
- Increase public access
- Realize benefits from the efficiencies of an integrated plan
- Improve and expand visitor services and educational programs by providing spaces for public gatherings and programming as well as retail and food services

Need:

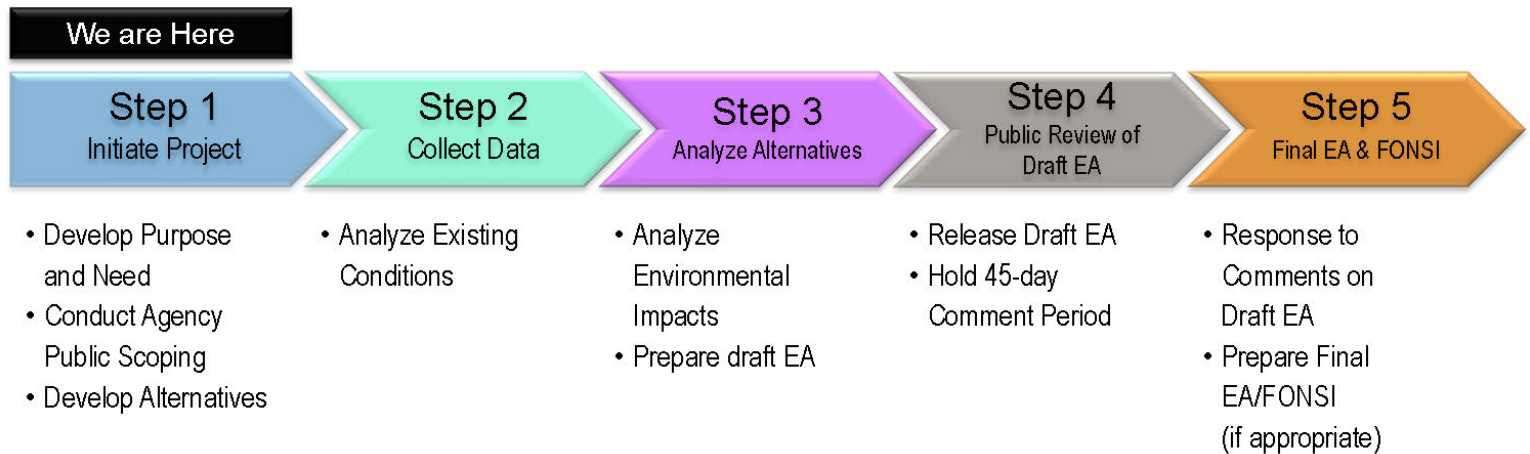
- Revitalize buildings and replace building systems at the end of their useful life
- Improve access, circulation, and visibility



December 16, 2014



National Environmental Policy Act Process





Potential Environmental Issue & Impact Topics

- Historic Resources
- Cultural Landscapes
- Archeology
- Views
- Visitor Experience
- Planning Policies
- Sustainability
- Vegetation
- Lightscape Management
- Traffic
- Bicycle and Pedestrian
- Cumulative Effects
- Geotechnical issues
- Storm water management
- Circulation
- Hazardous Materials
- Solid Waste
- Air Quality
- Noise



December 14, 2014



Potential Environmental Issue & Impact Topics

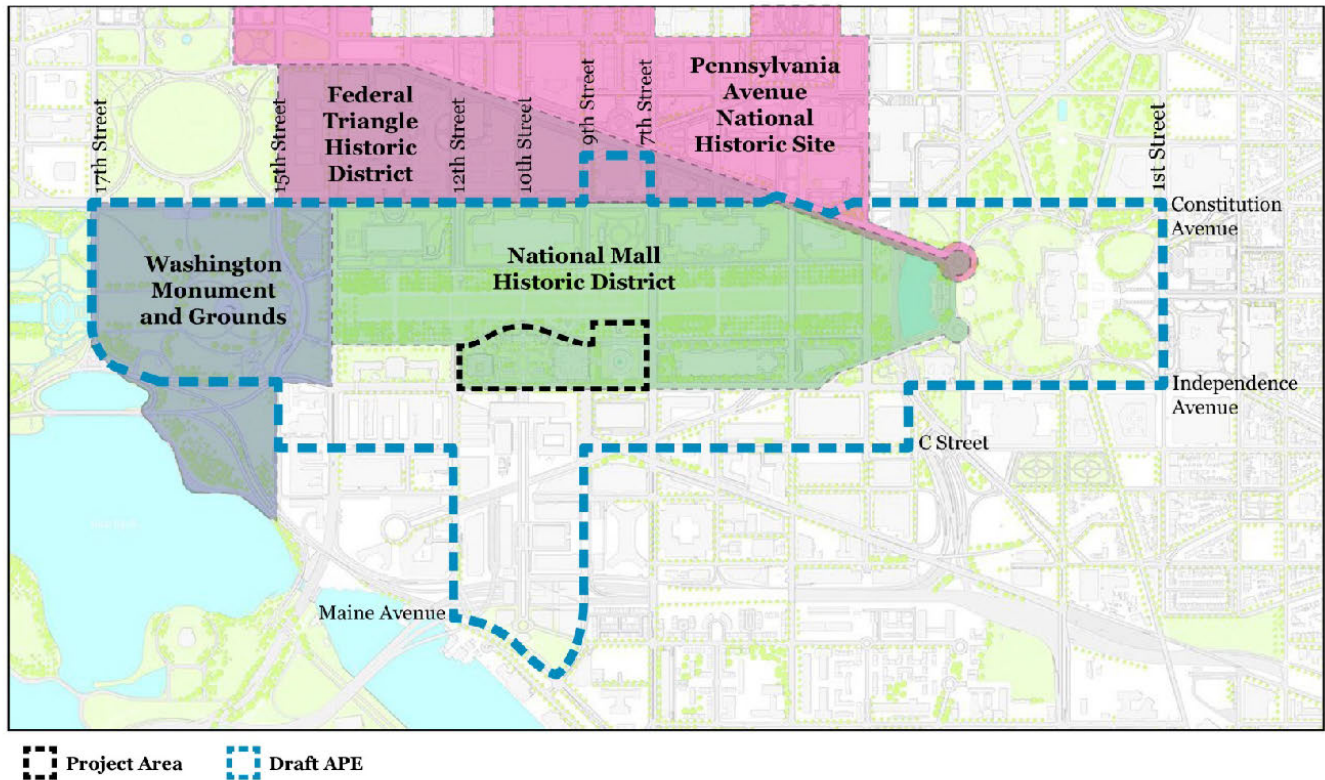
- Historic Resources
- Cultural Landscapes
- Archeology
- Views
- Visitor Experience
- Planning Policies
- Sustainability
- Vegetation
- Lightscape Management
- Traffic
- Bicycle and Pedestrian
- Cumulative Effects
- Geotechnical issues
- Storm water management
- Circulation
- Hazardous Materials
- Solid Waste
- Air Quality
- Noise



December 10, 2014

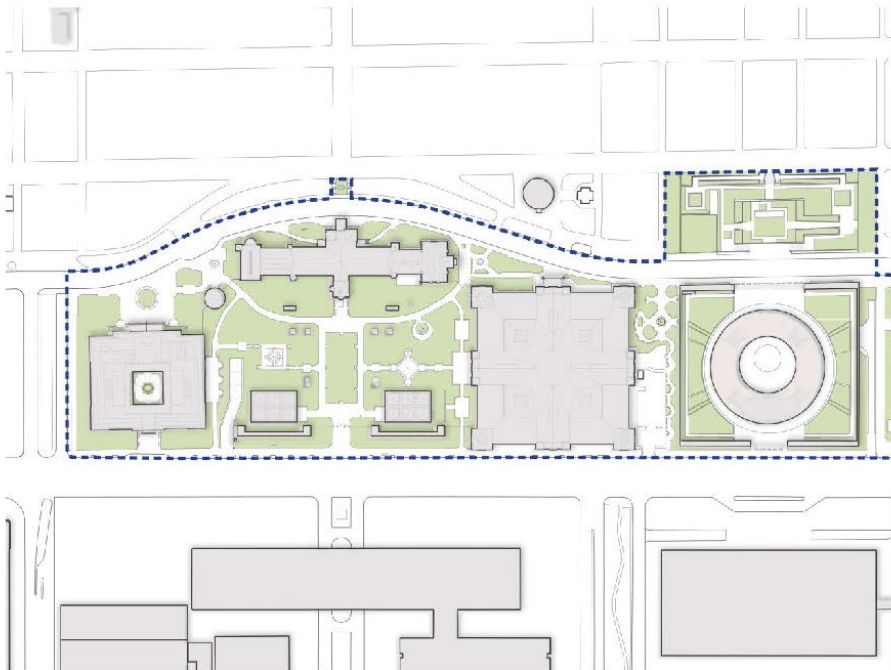


Draft Area of Potential Effects (APE)





Historic Resources in Campus Area



L'Enfant Plan/Plan of the City of Washington

D.C. Inventory, National Register,
National Historic Landmark

National Mall Historic District

D.C. Inventory, National Register

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Downing Urn, and Joseph Henry Statue contribute to district

Smithsonian Institution Building "Castle"

D.C. Inventory, National Register,
National Historic Landmark

Arts and Industries Building

D.C. Inventory, National Register,
National Historic Landmark

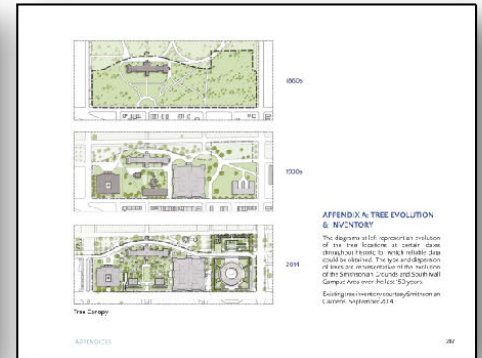
Freer Gallery of Art

D.C. Inventory, National Register

December 16, 2014



Cultural Landscape Report



The purpose of the Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) is to:

1. Document history of South Mall Campus Area;
2. Describe the existing conditions;
3. Assess the significance and integrity of the site; and
4. Provide recommendations for treatment and management.



Cultural Landscape Report



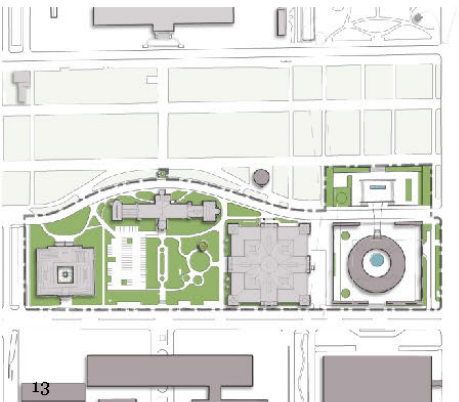
1850s-1890s

- Smithsonian Castle
- Downing Plan for Mall
- U.S. National Museum (Arts and Industries)
- Army Medical Museum



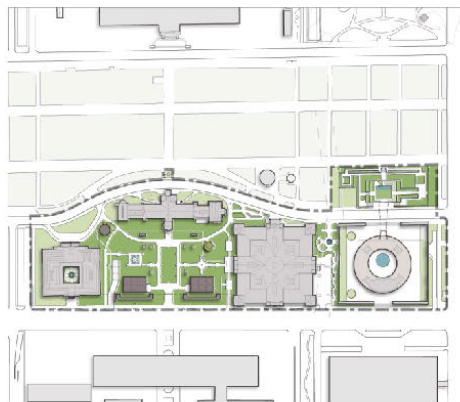
1900s-1940s

- McMillan Plan
- Freer Gallery
- Aircraft Building
- Mall Roads and Plantings
- Jefferson Drive



1950s-1970s

- Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden
- Victorian Garden and Parterre



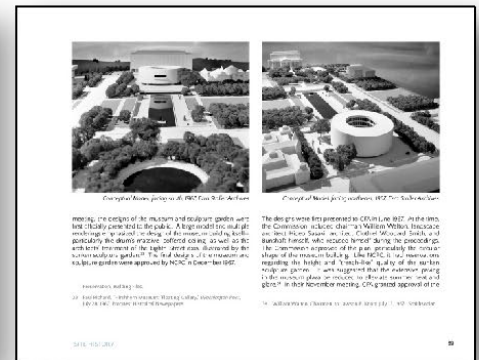
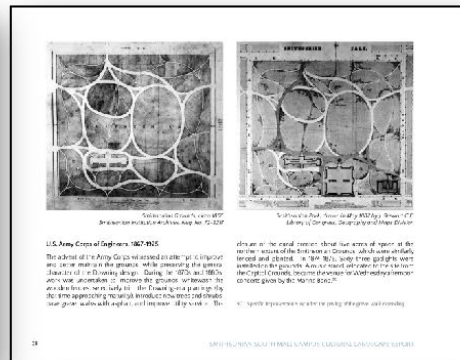
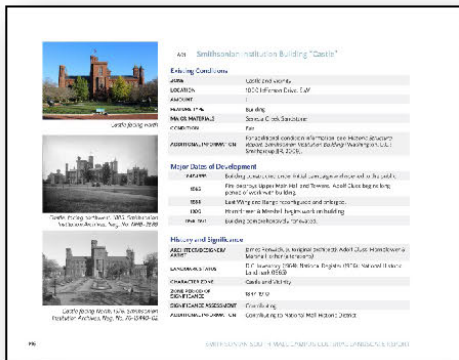
1970s-1980s

- Quadrangle and Haupt Garden
- Ripley Garden
- Folger Garden

December 16, 2014



Cultural Landscape Report



The CLR is anticipated to be completed in early spring 2015.

The findings of the CLR will serve to inform both Section 106/NEPA consultation and the Master Plan design.



SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES

Alternative A : No Action



- Basic Maintenance and repair to maintain systems and prevent major damage or deterioration of facilities
- No major renovations, restoration or new facilities or services
- Provides a baseline for comparison of impacts of the action alternatives

Alternative B : Minimal Improvements



- Replacement of Existing Building Mechanical Infrastructure
- Existing Quadrangle Pavilion entries remain
- Minor Castle Renovation and Seismic retrofit without underground expansion
- Quadrangle roof membrane repaired

Alternative C : Moderate Improvements



- New Central Loading and Mechanical Facilities for Campus
- Reconfigured Quadrangle building with Mall Oriented Entries
- Major Castle Renovation and Restoration including seismic upgrade and Underground Expansion
- Reconfigured & Expanded Haupt Garden to take advantage of relocated loading dock

Alternative D : Major Improvements



- New Central Loading and Mechanical Facilities for Campus
- Reconfigured Quadrangle building with Mall Oriented Entries
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- Hirshhorn Sculpture Gallery beneath reconfigured Sculpture Garden



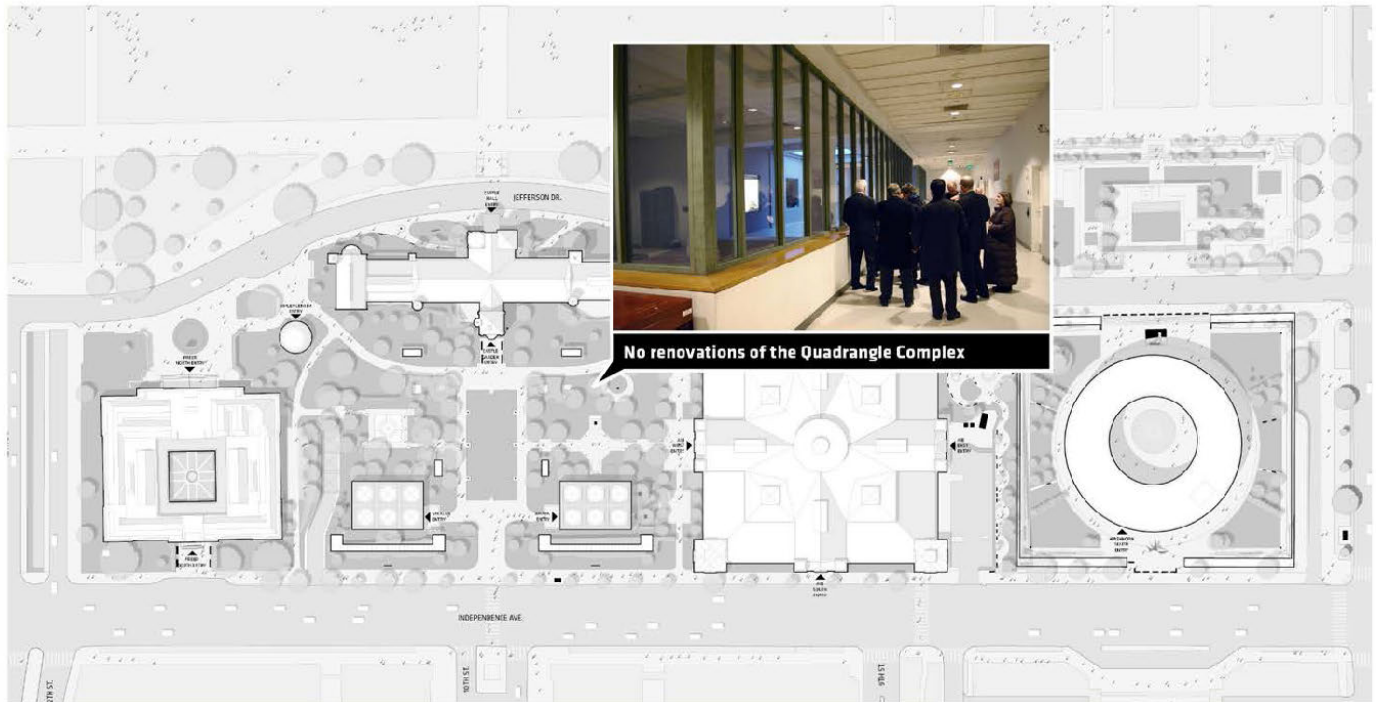
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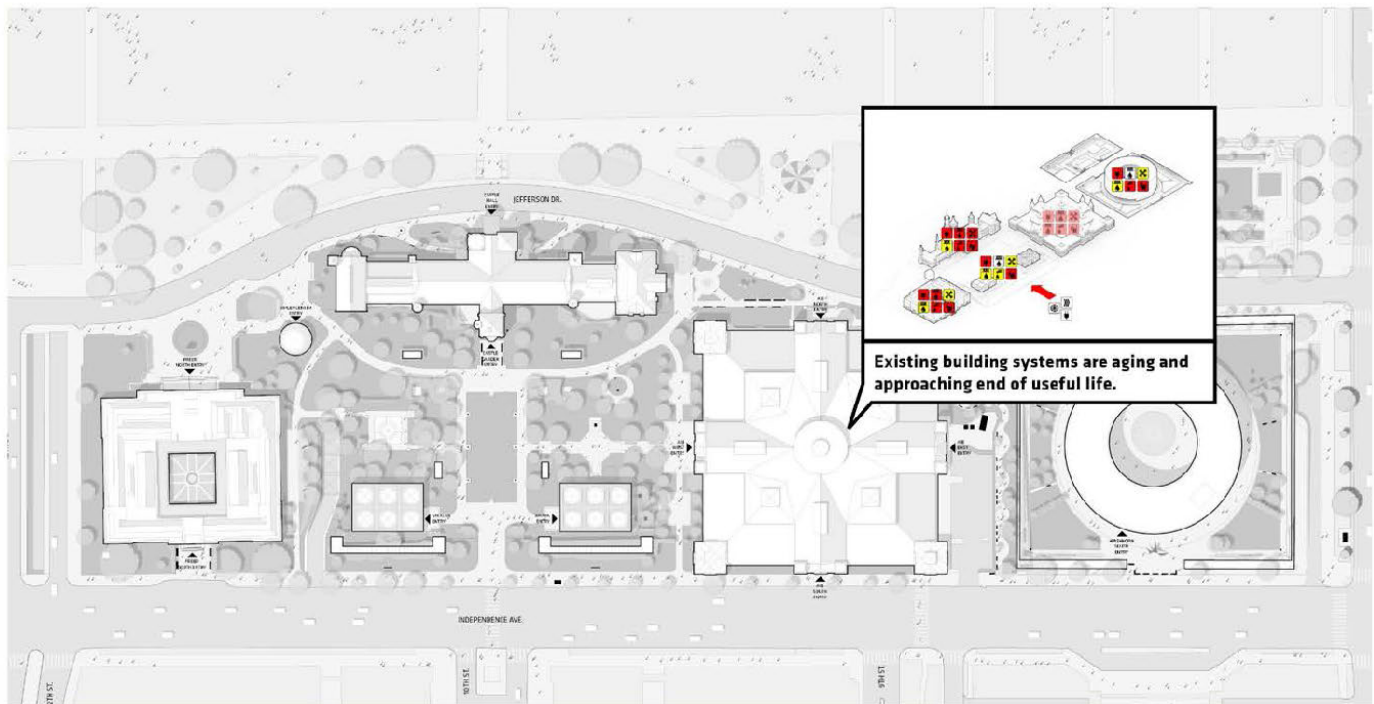
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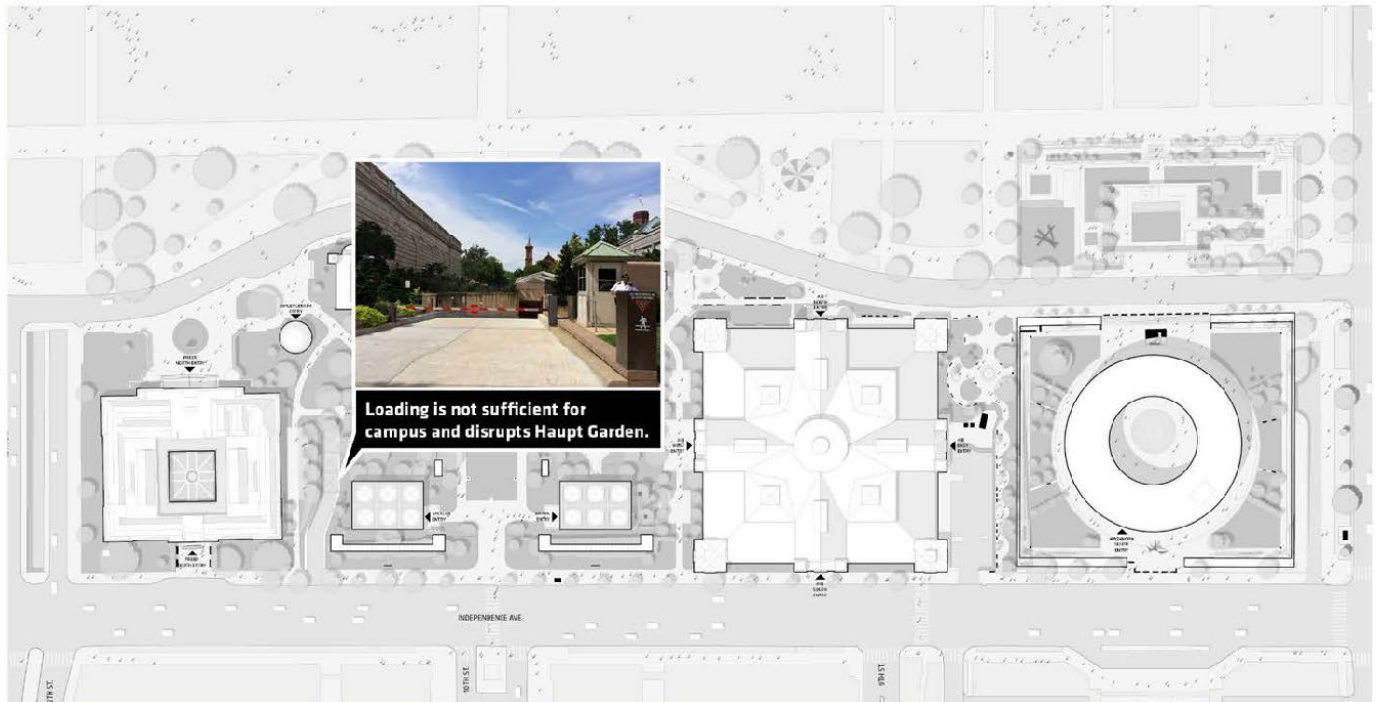
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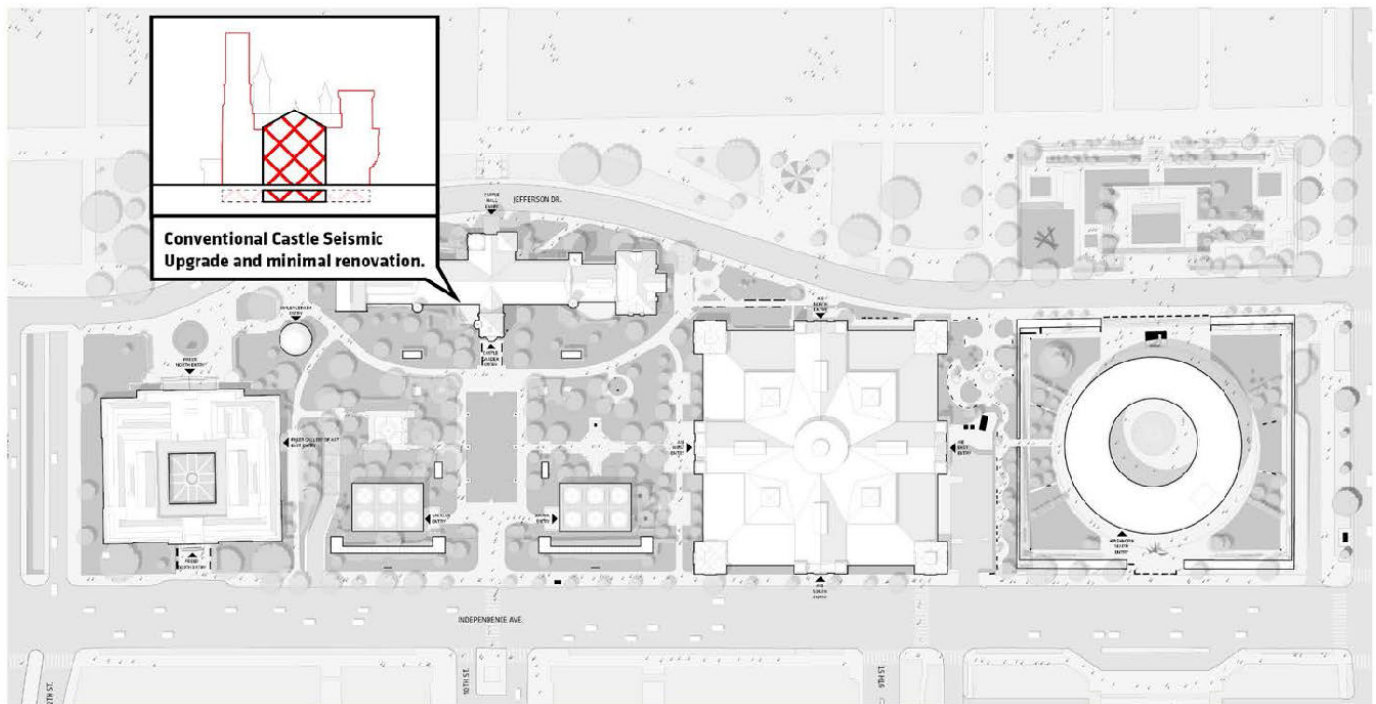
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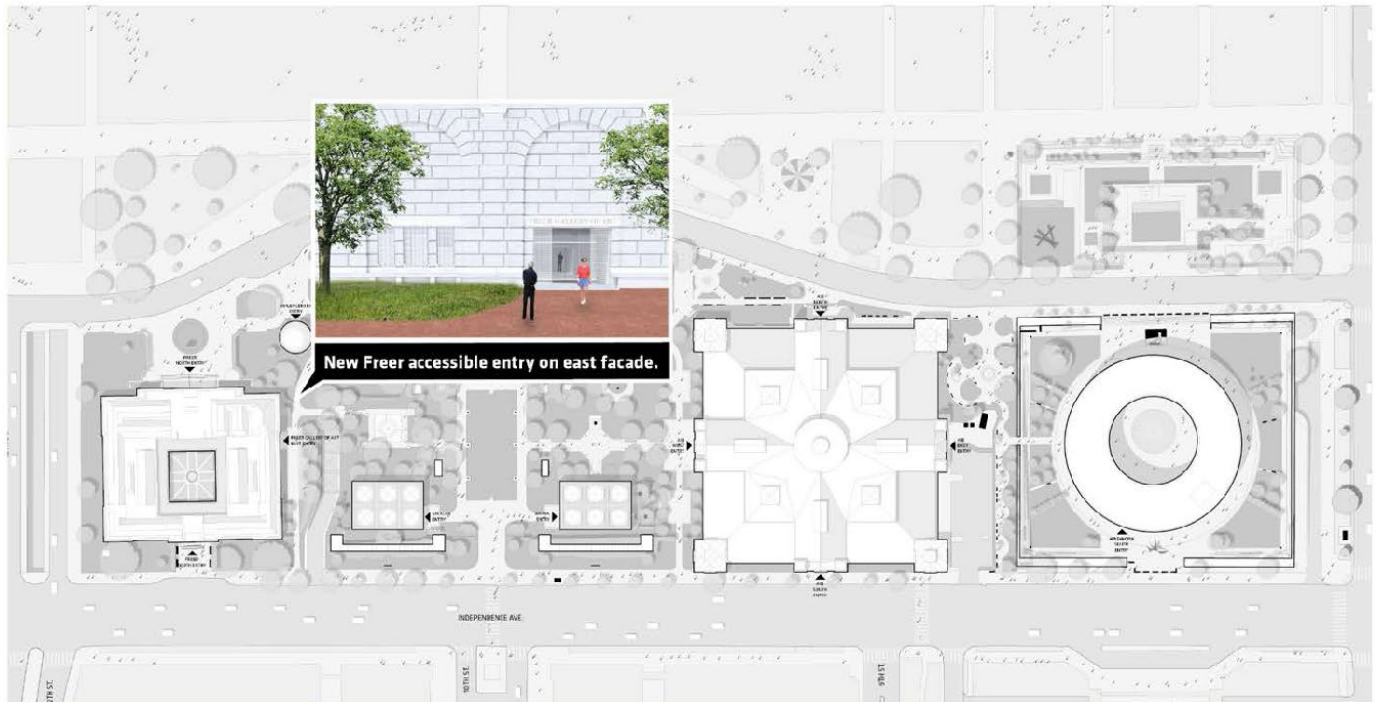
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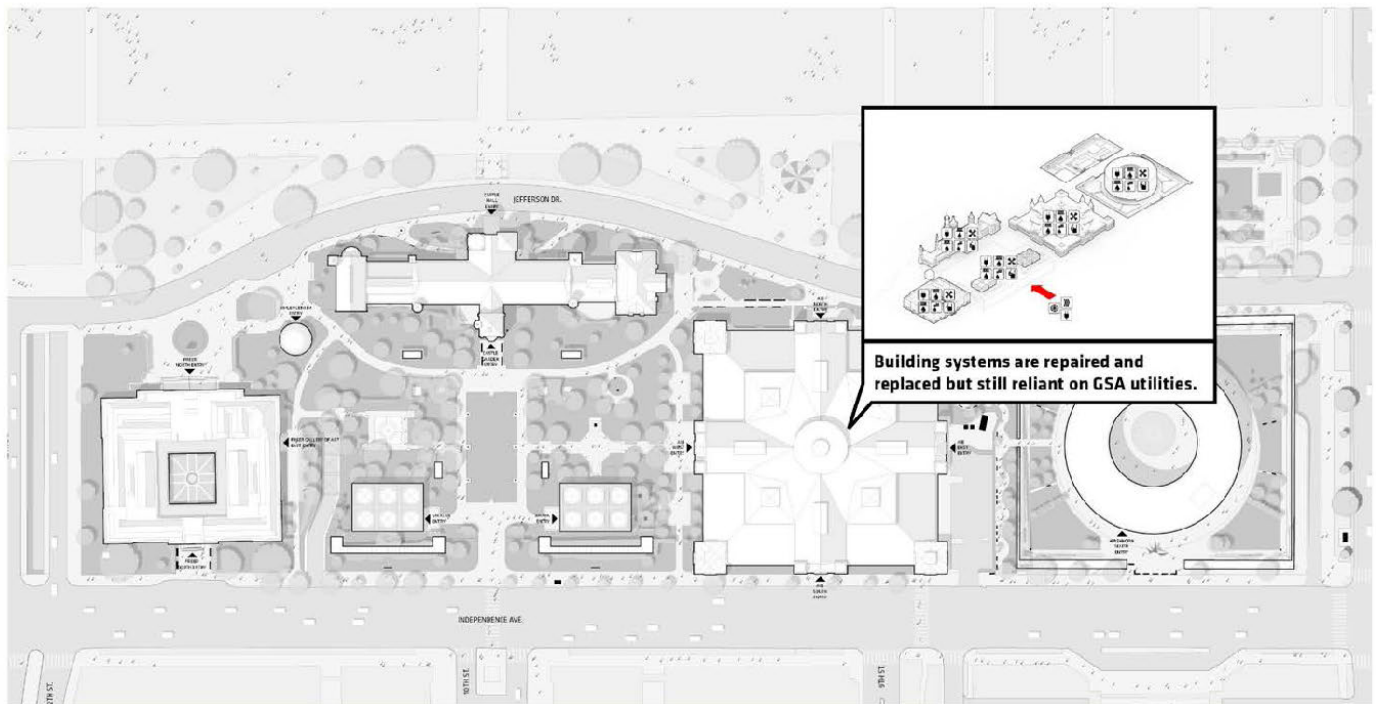
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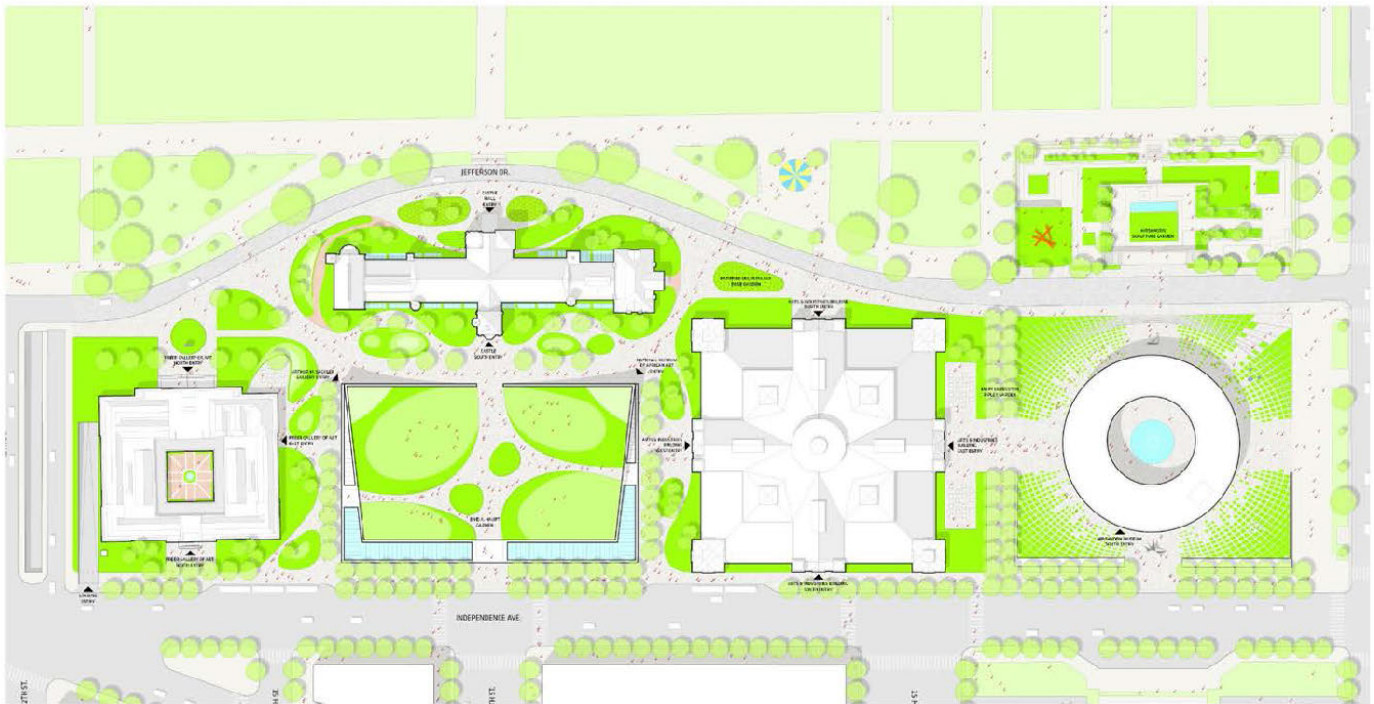
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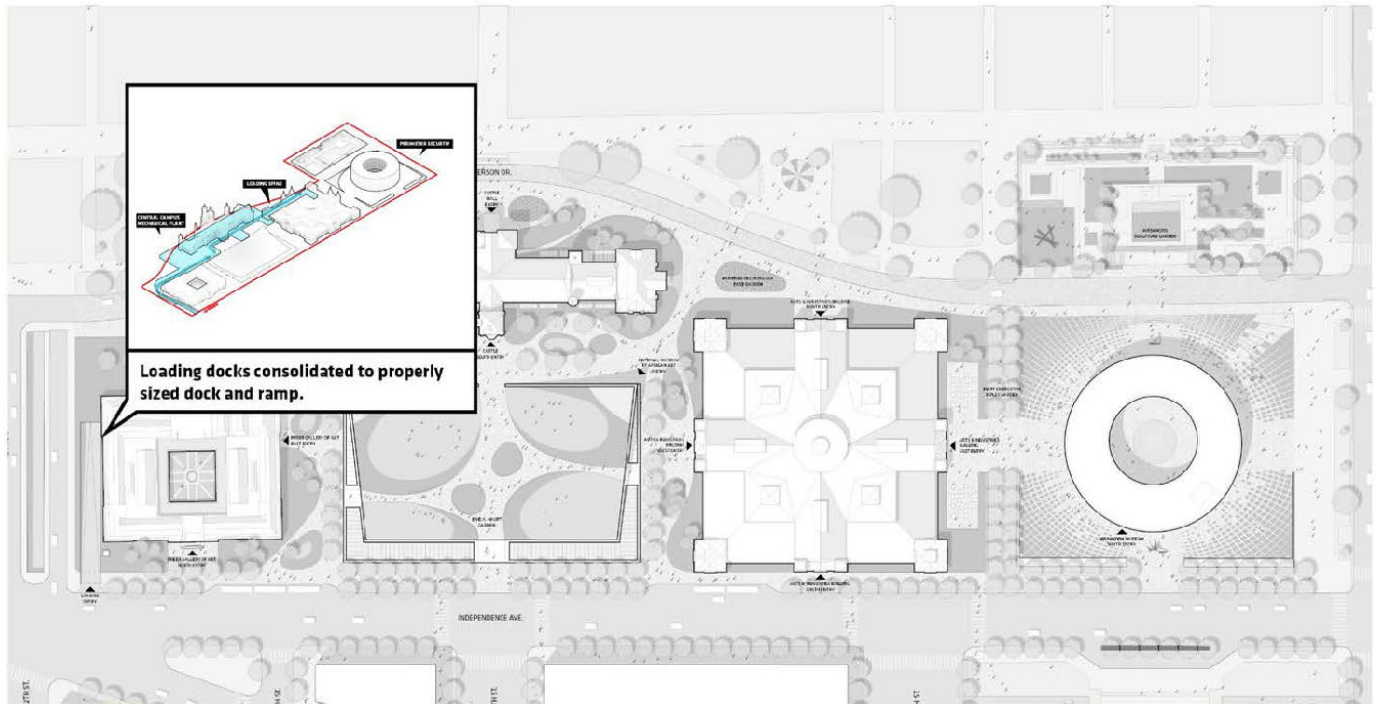
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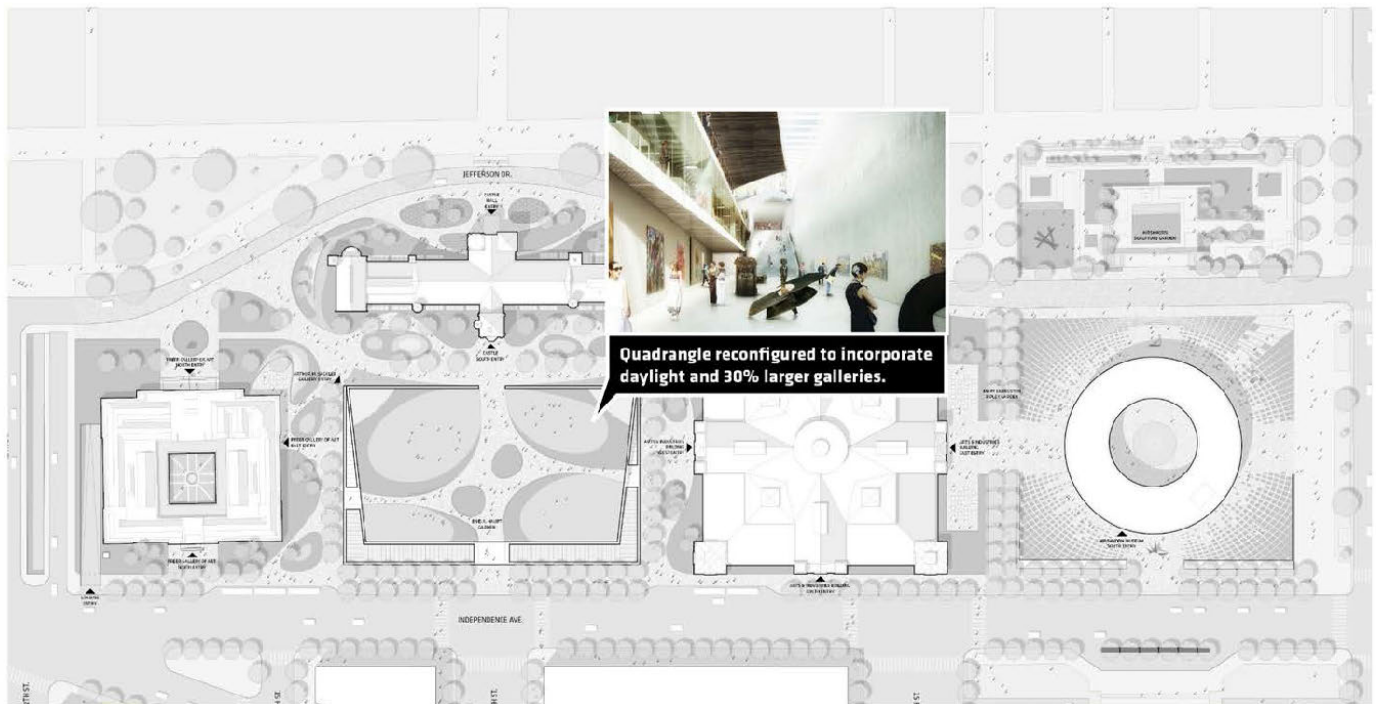


ALTERNATIVE C : MODERATE IMPROVEMENTS

- New Central Loading and Mechanical Facilities for Campus
- Reconfigured Quadrangle building with Mall Oriented Entries
- Major Castle Renovation and Restoration including seismic upgrade and Underground Expansion
- Reconfigured & Expanded Haupt Garden to take advantage of relocated loading dock



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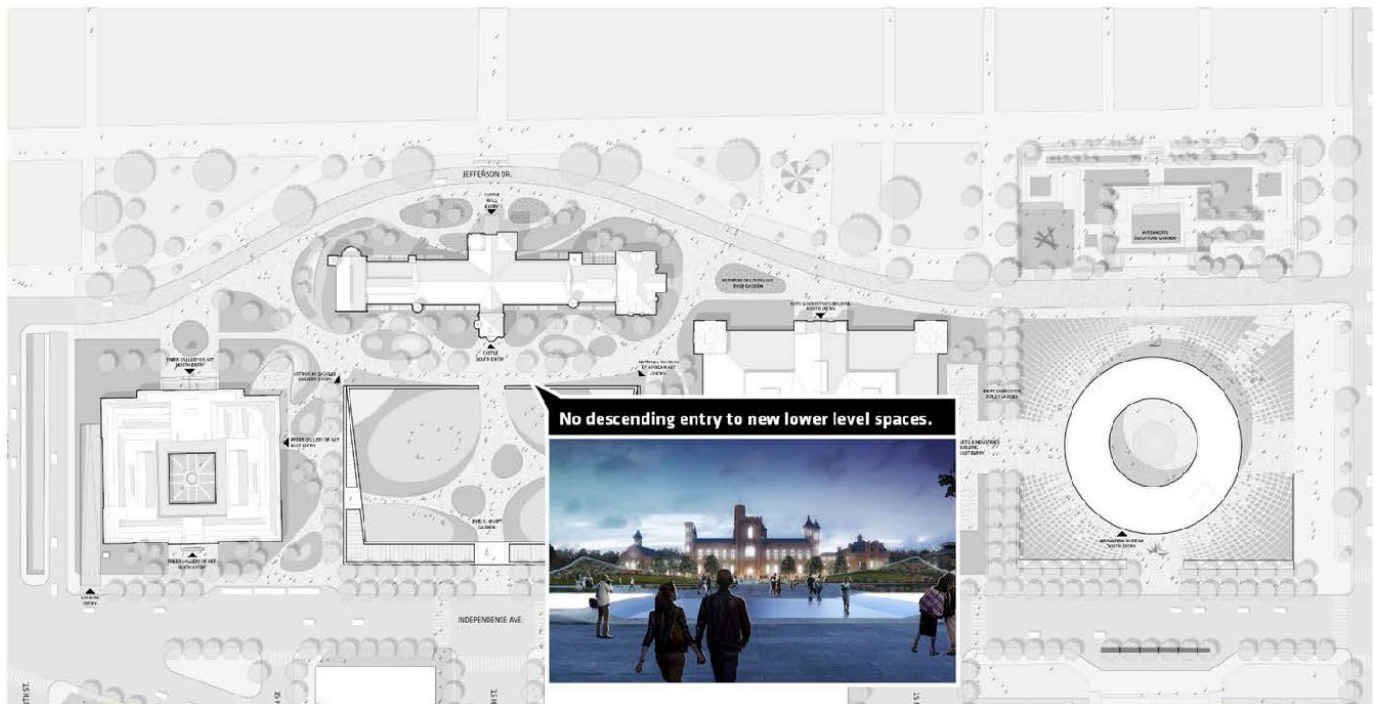
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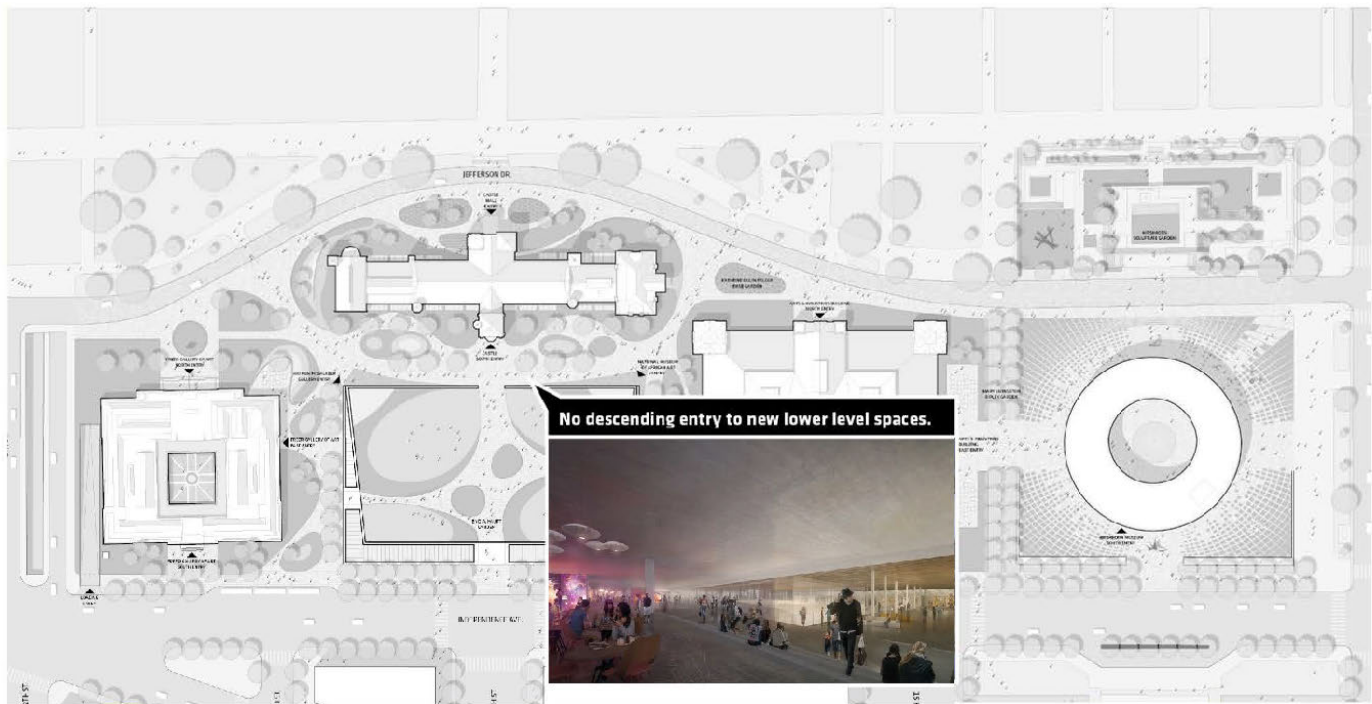
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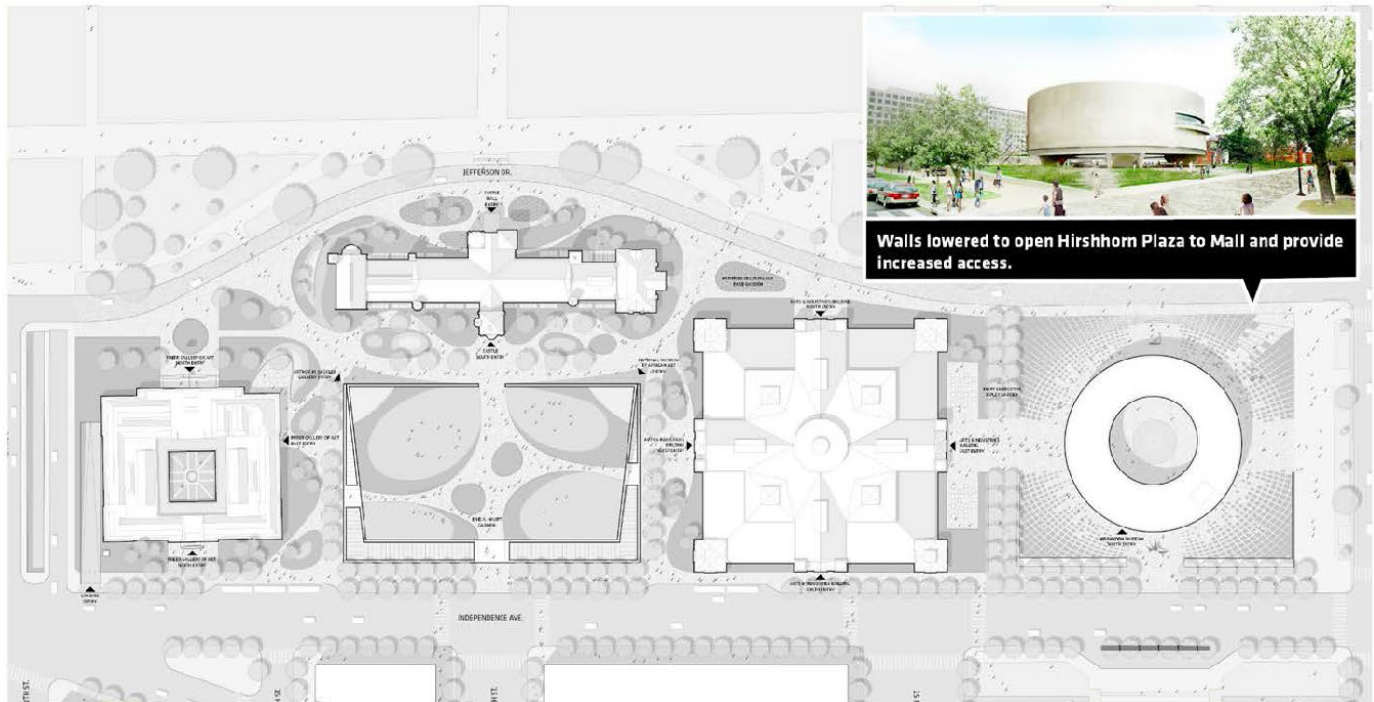
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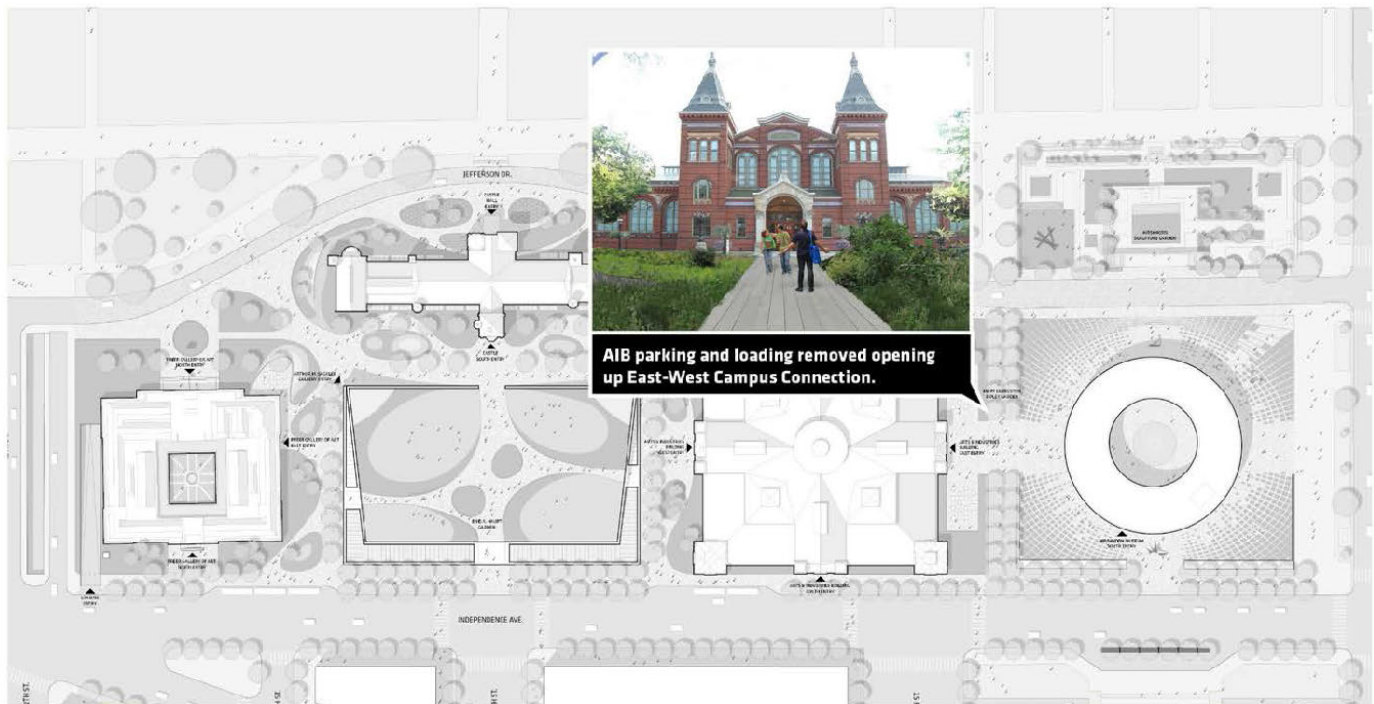
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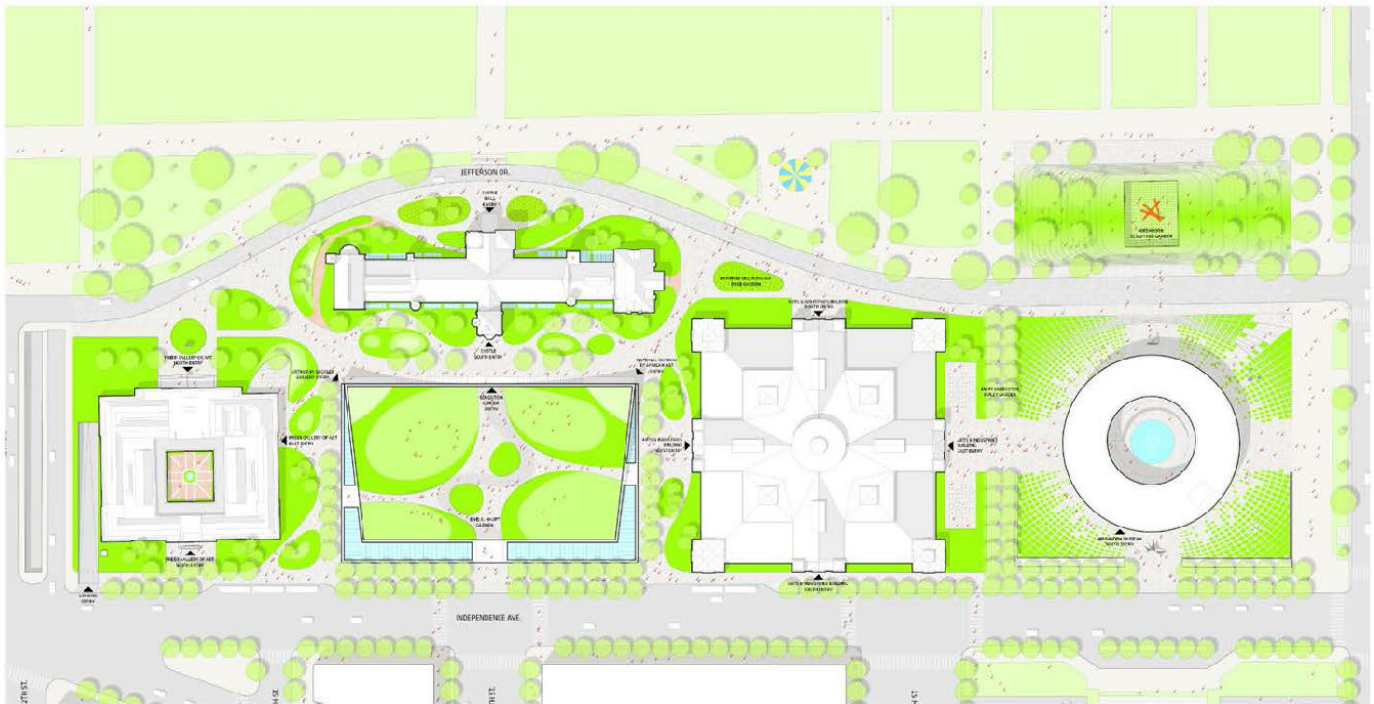
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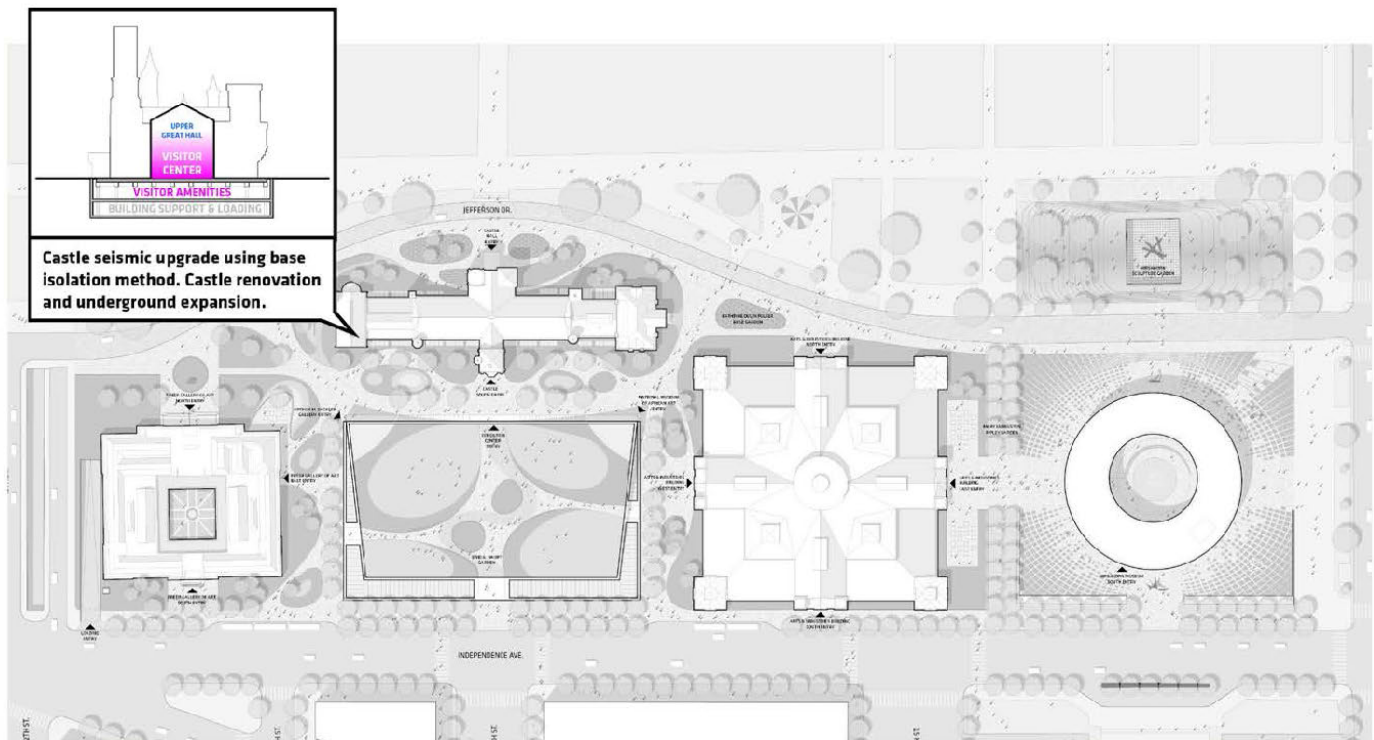
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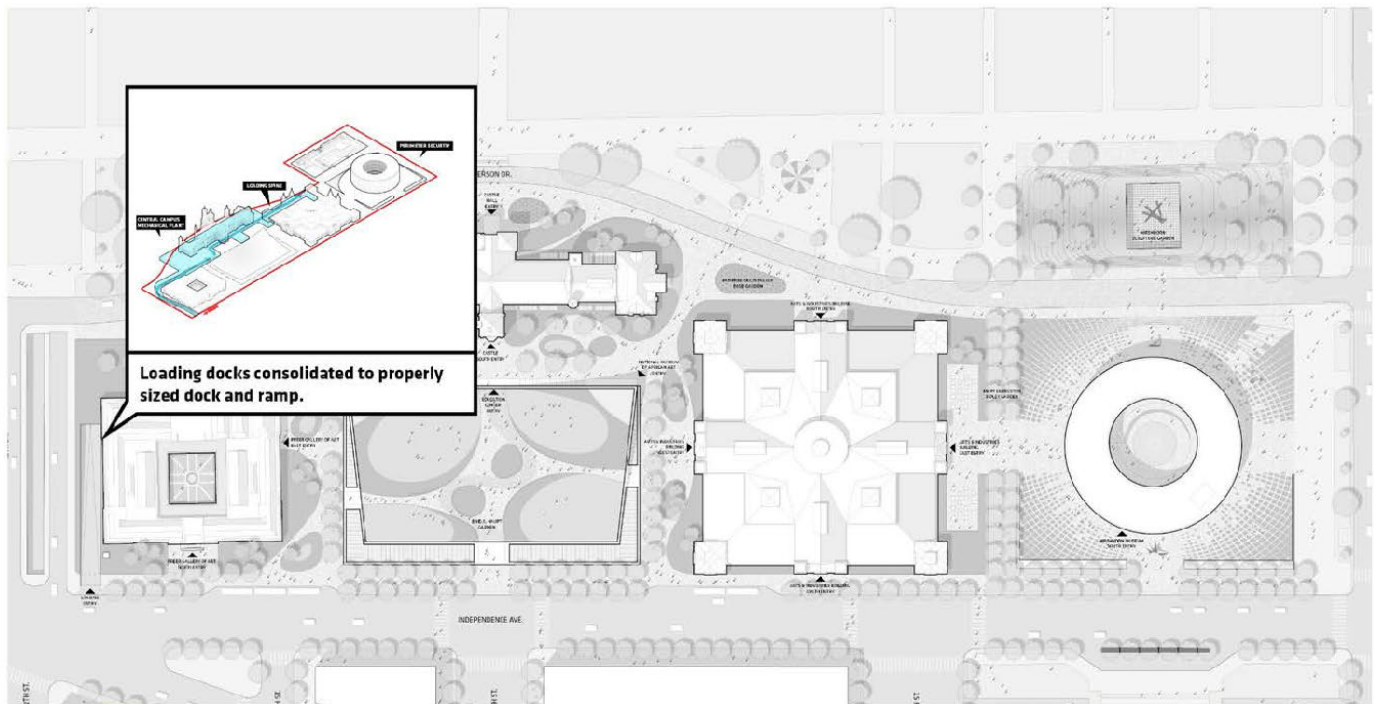
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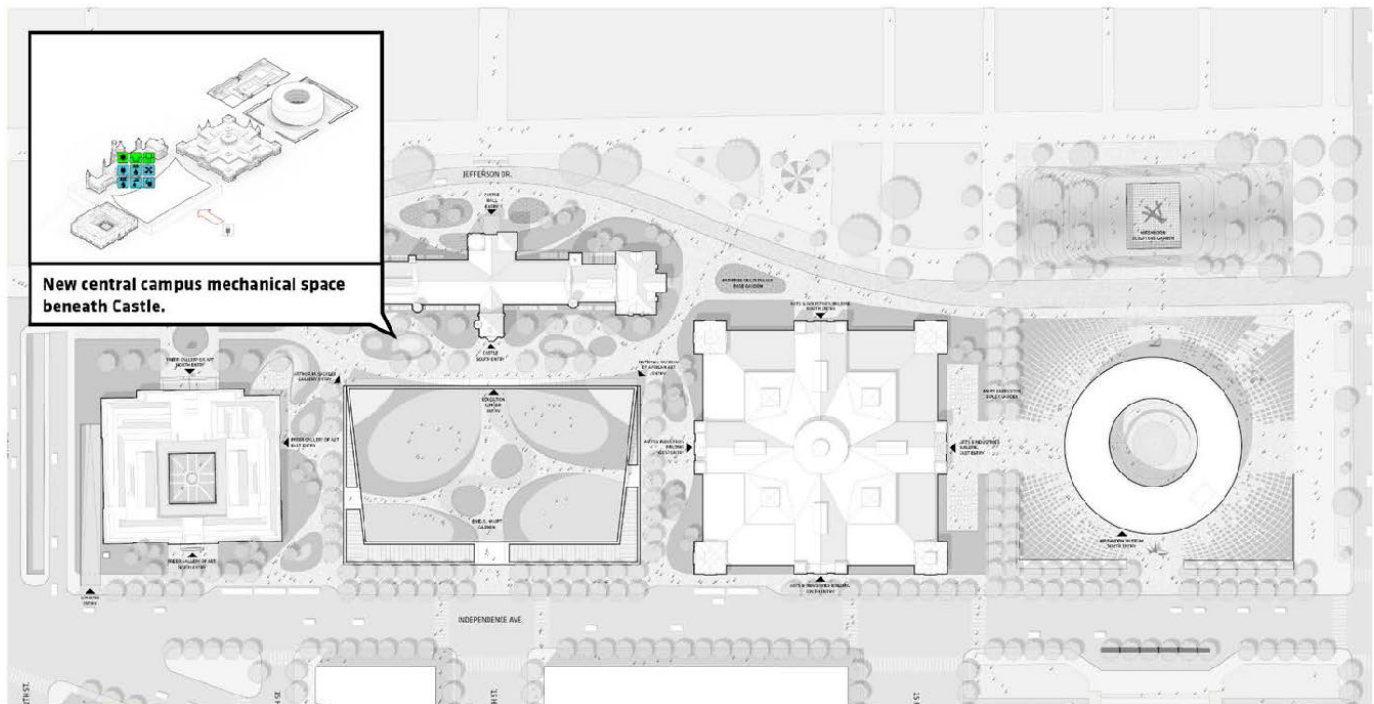
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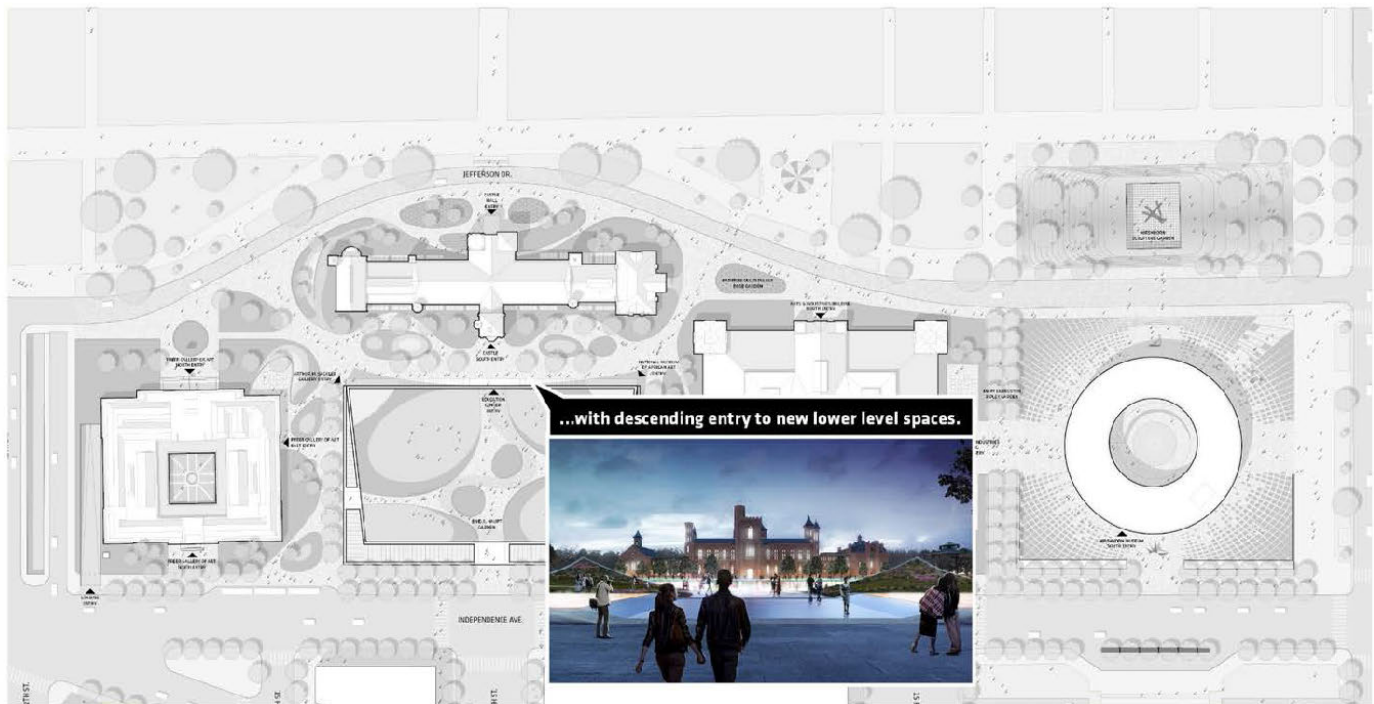
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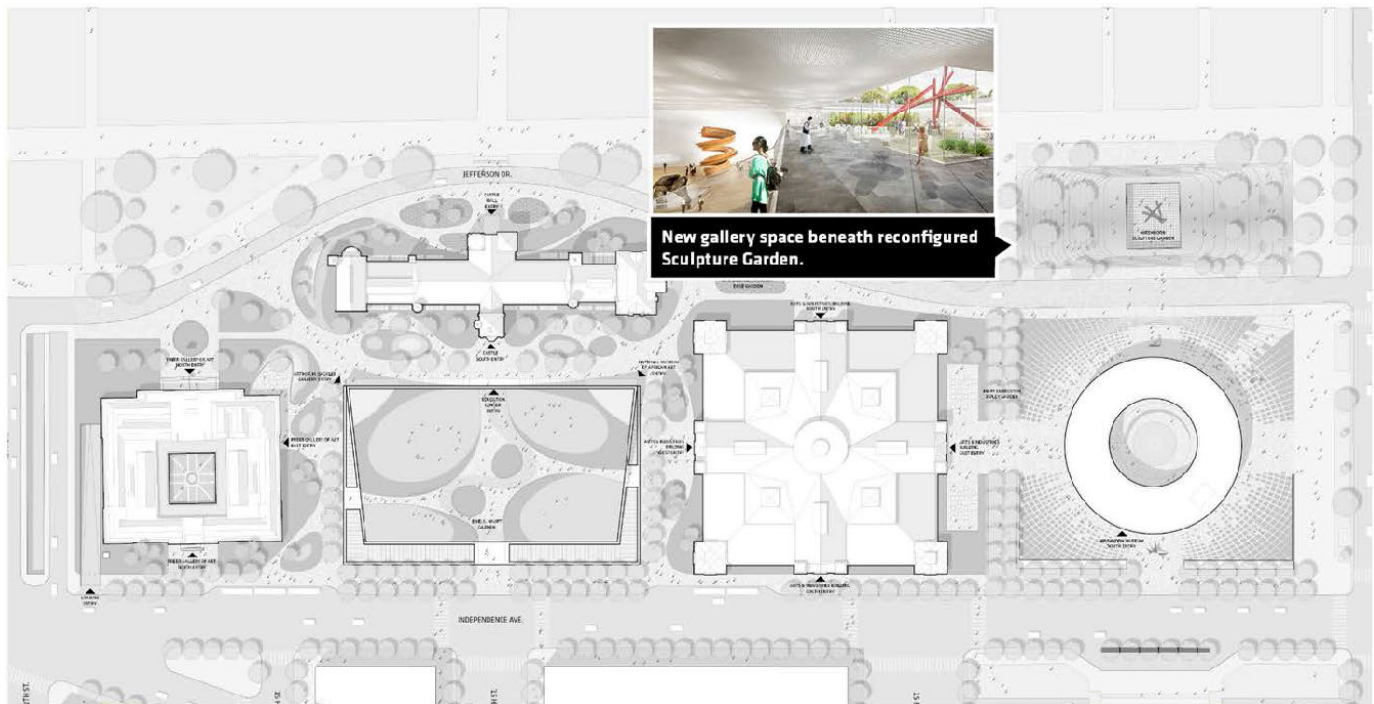
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Schedule/Next Steps:

Milestone	Date
Public Meeting	Tonight
End of Public Scoping Period	January 30, 2015
Begin Preparation of Environmental Assessment	Winter 2014/2015
EA Public Comment Period (45 days)	Spring 2015
Section 106 Consulting Parties Meeting	Winter 2014–Spring 2015
Preparation of Decision Document	Spring/Summer 2015
NCPC Approval	Fall 2015



Opportunities for Public Comment

Tonight:

Write your comments on the comment cards provided or provide them to the stenographer

Submit comments electronically:

<http://www.southmallcampus.si.edu>
or liz.estes@stantec.com

Submit written comments to:

Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master
Plan
Attn: Liz Estes, NEPA Compliance
c/o Stantec Consulting Services
6110 Frost Place
Laurel, Maryland 20707





Questions



Appendix D:
Public Meeting Transcript



Capital Reporting Company
Public Scoping Meeting 12-16-2014

1

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

SOUTH MALL CAMPUS MASTER PLAN
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

Tuesday,
December 16, 2014

1000 Jefferson Drive, SW
Castle Commons
Washington, D.C.

Reported by: Christine Allen,
Capital Reporting Company

Capital Reporting Company
Public Scoping Meeting 12-16-2014

2

1 P R E S E N T

2 Liz Estes, Project Director,
3 Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

4 Sean Franklin, Project Manager,
5 Bjarke Ingels Group

6 Bill Marzella, Senior Preservation Planner,
7 EHT Tracerics

8 Christopher Lethbridge, Project Manager,
9 Smithsonian Institution

10 Ann Trowbridge, Associate Director for
11 Planning, Smithsonian Institution

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Capital Reporting Company
Public Scoping Meeting 12-16-2014

4

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (5:28 p.m.)

3 MS. TROWBRIDGE: Good evening, everyone.

4 I'd like to welcome you to the Environmental
5 Assessment and Section 106 Public Scoping Meeting
6 for the Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan.

7 We are excited to share our project and
8 hear your comments and your questions. We are
9 conducting these public review processes in
10 collaboration with the National Capital Planning
11 Commission.

12 Before we get started, I'd like to take
13 care of a few housekeeping items. Restrooms are
14 located in Schermer Hall where the boards are on
15 display. If you have not signed in at one of the
16 sign in tables, please do so you can be on our
17 list for additional meetings and correspondence.

18 I'd like to introduce the teams working
19 on the project. First, if staff from National
20 Capital Planning Commission could stand and
21 identify yourselves. I also see NCPC Commissioner
22 Peter May here tonight.

Capital Reporting Company
Public Scoping Meeting 12-16-2014

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**Capital Reporting Company
Public Scoping Meeting 12-16-2014**

5

1 Smithsonian staff working on the
2 project, please stand and identify yourselves.
3 Thank you.

4 Also, we have our team from the Bjarke
5 Ingels Group, the architect for the project.
6 Please stand up and identify yourselves. Thank
7 you.

8 You will be able to speak with members
9 of the team after the meeting and outside with the
10 boards if you have further questions.

11 Tonight's agenda, which you see in front
12 of you, is pretty simple. We're going to tell you
13 a little bit of background about the project, why
14 we are doing it, what issues and problems and
15 needs at the Smithsonian it addresses.

16 We will also provide some information on
17 the NEPA National Environmental Policy Act
18 process, and Section 106 of the National Historic
19 Preservation Act process, which we are conducting,
20 and this is the scoping session for.

21 We will also tell you a little bit about
22 the alternatives under consideration in the NEPA.

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1 We will also tell you the tentative list of
2 environmental issues that we will evaluate against
3 the alternatives. If you think we should be
4 identifying some other issues, you may make those
5 known in your comments. We will also be sharing
6 with you a draft of the Area of Potential Effect
7 for the Section 106 process.

8 I'd like to ask you to hold your
9 questions to the end of the meeting. We will then
10 have people ask questions with the microphone.
11 Following that, we may have some additional time
12 before we close at 7:00 to discuss and ask
13 questions and make comments near the plans out in
14 Schermer Hall.

15 We want to let you know that comments
16 should be made either in writing or during the
17 microphone part of tonight's session or on the
18 website that we have set up, and we will flash
19 that address up at the end of the session.

20 The comments period lasts until January
21 30. It will not be the last opportunity to
22 comment on the project. We will also be preparing

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1 a draft EA, and there will be opportunities for
2 public comment then.

3 Because this is a Master Plan with a 10
4 to 20 year implementation period, individual
5 projects will also have their Section 106
6 processes and agency review, et cetera.

7 The project location, we are talking
8 about the South Mall area of the Smithsonian's
9 Campus, which extends from 7th Street on the East
10 to 12th Street on the West, and from Independence
11 Avenue to the South, to the National Mall on the
12 North.

13 It includes a number of buildings,
14 including the Freer Gallery, the Smithsonian
15 Institution Building known as "The Castle," the
16 Arts and Industry Building, the Quadrangle
17 Building, which incorporates the Ripley Education
18 Center, the National Museum of African Art, and
19 the Arthur Sackler Galleries, and the Hirshhorn
20 Museum and Sculpture Gardens.

21 In addition, the study area includes
22 four garden areas, the Enid Haupt Garden, the

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8

1 Folger Rose Garden, the Mary Ripley Garden, and
2 the Hirshhorn Sculpture Garden.

3 We started this project several years
4 ago. It became clear to the Smithsonian
5 leadership that many of the buildings and museums
6 in the site area had need for major projects and
7 the best approach would be to plan comprehensively
8 to create an integrated plan for this whole
9 contiguous area of our Campus.

10 As you may be aware, most parts of the
11 Smithsonian Campus on the Mall consists of
12 individual buildings separated from each other by
13 streets and the National Mall itself under the
14 jurisdiction of the Park Service or District of
15 Columbia Department of Transportation.

16 This area that we are looking at for the
17 South Mall is the one contiguous area where we
18 have multiple buildings and gardens and museums on
19 one side. Because of that, our Master Plan is
20 subject to review by NCPC, and we hope to present
21 a final plan for them in the fall.

22 Once we identified the need for a Master

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9

1 Plan and formed a Steering Committee at the
2 Smithsonian, we prepared for hiring an architect
3 by figuring out internally what our priorities
4 were for the project. We then hired Bjarke Ingels
5 Group and their team through a Federal selection
6 process.

7 They started work in March 2013. Most of
8 the first year of their work was spent in
9 gathering information on existing conditions,
10 analyzing the existing buildings, drawings, the
11 documents, the history, meeting with stakeholders
12 throughout the Smithsonian, directors of museums,
13 the director and staff of Smithsonian Gardens, our
14 Visitors Services Director, our Business
15 Enterprises staff, a whole myriad of Smithsonian-
16 wide stakeholders were consulted.

17 They then developed a number of
18 alternatives, and the Steering Committee has
19 identified one of those as its preferred
20 alternatives. It's the one labeled "D" and the
21 one presented in our press conference last month.

22 Since September, we have been working

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1 with the external agencies to initiate the public
2 process, and NCPC is our partner in this, and will
3 be part of the NEPA and 106.

4 The purpose of the project from the
5 Smithsonian's standpoint in a broad way as a
6 Master Plan is to better align our facilities with
7 our Strategic Plan. Key among the elements of
8 that Strategic Plan is that the Smithsonian has
9 become a much more collaborative institution.

10 It is no longer each museum separate on
11 its own bottom. We have many, many more programs,
12 many exhibits. You have probably seen some of
13 them, such as The Lost Birds Project in the
14 gardens, which was a collaboration of several
15 Smithsonian entities. That is happening all across
16 the Smithsonian. It means we want to be better
17 connected between our buildings.

18 We also want to realize the energy
19 efficiencies and staffing efficiencies and service
20 efficiencies of better connectivity, more shared
21 programs and spaces.

22 We have a desire to increase public

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11

1 access to the museums, to our Visitor Information
2 Center, to our gardens. We need more space for
3 garden programming and education. The Smithsonian
4 Gardens have become an accredited institution
5 under the American Association of Museums. They
6 have needs for programs in addition to maintaining
7 the gardens for individual enjoyment and
8 contemplation.

9 We also have a number of needs within
10 our buildings, where this building, for instance,
11 has long postponed way overdue restoration of its
12 fabric, as well as replacement of its building
13 systems, upgrades for seismic improvements.

14 We are lucky that when the earthquake
15 occurred, we sustained damage but no injuries to
16 staff or public, but we really want to improve
17 upon the safety of this building as well.

18 We have needs for more space for
19 education programs, more space for amenities. We
20 want to restore the great spaces of this building
21 and others.

22 Before I continue, I'd like to introduce

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1 Liz Estes of Stantec. They are our environmental
2 consultants. She will tell you a little bit about
3 the NEPA process.

4 Liz?

5 MS. ESTES: Thank you, Ann. The
6 National Environmental Policy Act, Federal actions
7 covered by NEPA include actions taken directly by
8 Federal agencies including NCPD's approval of the
9 Smithsonian's Master Plan.

10 NEPA requires Federal agencies to
11 consider impacts of their proposed activities,
12 programs, and projects on the environment. NEPA
13 provides a means to evaluate compliance with a
14 multitude of Federal environmental laws and
15 regulations.

16 Currently, we are in the scoping period
17 of the NEPA analysis, and this scoping period, as
18 Ann mentioned, will last until January 30. We
19 welcome all of your comments on the project, on
20 what you hear tonight, and all of your thoughts.

21 We will take the information from
22 tonight as well as throughout the scoping period

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1 and will be drafting a scoping report. That
2 scoping report will analyze the comments received,
3 and we will provide that to the project team for
4 them to consider as they further develop the
5 Master Plan.

6 After we refine the alternatives, we
7 will then move to collecting data on the existing
8 conditions as well as use the information that BIG
9 has already collected, and then we will move to
10 analyzing the alternatives and the impacts of the
11 alternatives on the environment. We anticipate
12 that to occur January/February/March of next year.

13 In spring of 2015, we anticipate having
14 the EA open to the public for public review and
15 comment, and that will allow you all another 45
16 day comment period to provide your comments on the
17 analysis that has been done. We look towards the
18 summer of 2015 to providing a decision document on
19 the NEPA analysis.

20 As Ann mentioned, we have a variety of
21 environmental impact topics and issues that we
22 will be taking a look at, and we welcome any

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1 additional input on other items that you all feel
2 we should be looking at. We have listed them here
3 and we also have them on the boards out in the
4 hallway.

5 Now, I can turn it over to Bill Marzella
6 with EHT Traceries, and he will go over Section
7 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

8 MR. MARZELLA: Thank you, Liz.

9 Good evening, everyone. Section 106 of
10 the National Historic Preservation Act requires
11 Federal agencies to consider the effects of their
12 actions to historic properties. Those historic
13 properties can include any buildings, sites,
14 districts, objects, or structures that are listed
15 in or even eligible for listing in the National
16 Register of Historic Places.

17 The Section 106 process is one by which
18 an agency can seek the input of stakeholders who
19 are generally known as "consulting parties," to
20 identify and assess and minimize adverse effects
21 to historic properties.

22 Consulting parties, although it is

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1 generally a focused group of stakeholders, can
2 also include the public, and anyone who is
3 interested in becoming a consulting party can do
4 so. Those parties consult through a series of
5 meetings, the goal of which is to identify
6 historic properties, identify and access adverse
7 effects, and to resolve those effects through a
8 variety of strategies.

9 You can see where we are in this
10 process, which is really at the beginning. We
11 have begun to define the undertaking. We have
12 initiated Section 106, and right now we are
13 identifying consulting parties and involving the
14 public during the scoping period.

15 We have also begun to address the next
16 two steps which are to define the areas of
17 potential effects and to identify historic and
18 cultural resources within it.

19 The Area of Potential Effect, as we call
20 it, the APE, is defined as the geographic area
21 within which any undertaking has the potential to
22 directly or indirectly alter the character or use

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1 of a historic property. Every APE is different in
2 its size, shape, and scale, and each is really
3 influenced by the nature and scale of the
4 particular undertaking.

5 In this case, you can see the project
6 area, which is outlined in the dashed black line,
7 and our draft Area of Potential Effect, which is
8 outlined in the blue dashed line. This is not
9 final, subject to change pending your input during
10 the scoping period and during subsequent
11 consultation.

12 This APE, in particular, was designed to
13 capture major East/West views along the National
14 Mall, including the U.S. Capitol Building and the
15 Washington Monument, as well as North/South views
16 along the major 8th Street and 10th Street vistas.

17 We have also begun to identify historic
18 resources within the APE, within the Campus area
19 itself, a portion of both the L'Enfant Plan for
20 the City of Washington, and the National Mall
21 Historic District, overlap with that.

22 Additionally, there are three

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1 individually listed buildings within the Campus
2 area, which are the Smithsonian Institution
3 Building, Castle, the Arts and Industry Building,
4 the Freer Gallery of Art, and additionally the
5 Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Andrew
6 Jackson Downing Urn, and the Joseph Henry Statute
7 are not individually listed, but they do
8 contribute to the National Mall Historic District.

9 The Smithsonian has anticipated a lot of
10 interest in the history and development of the
11 Smithsonian Gardens in relationship to the
12 implementation of the Master Plan. For that
13 reason, my firm, EHT Traceries, working with the
14 landscape architects for the Master Plan, Surface
15 Design, as well as the Smithsonian Gardens and
16 other Smithsonian colleagues to develop a cultural
17 landscape report.

18 The purpose of this cultural landscape
19 report will be to document the history of the
20 South Mall Campus area, to describe and document
21 existing conditions, to assess the significance
22 and integrity of the site and its component

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1 features, and also to provide recommendations for
2 treatment and long term management of the site.

3 A component of this cultural landscape
4 report is the creation of these diagrams that
5 illustrate the amount of change that has occurred
6 on the site over time, and these are also on the
7 boards outside if you would like to look at them
8 in greater detail.

9 You can just see here from the top left
10 image the dramatic amount of change that has
11 occurred from the 1850s when the Smithsonian
12 Castle first opened to the public to the present,
13 including 1987 when the Haupt Garden opened to the
14 public.

15 It is really our hope that this cultural
16 landscape report will serve to facilitate and
17 encourage discussion around the history of the
18 Smithsonian Gardens in the Campus area, and also
19 the discussion around potential adverse effects to
20 those gardens through the Section 106 consultation
21 process.

22 I will be at the boards after the

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1 presentation to answer any questions you may have
2 or if you have any comments. At this point, I'd
3 like to introduce Sean Franklin, the project
4 designer for BIG, to present the alternatives.

5 MR. FRANKLIN: There were four
6 alternatives prepared for tonight and for this EA
7 process. The first of which is Alternative A, the
8 no action alternative. This one is to provide a
9 baseline for comparison of impacts against the
10 other action alternatives. It is no major
11 renovations or restorations to any of the
12 buildings on Campus.

13 The minimal improvements, Alternative B,
14 provides like it is titled minimal improvements
15 across the Campus, including the repair of the
16 Quadrangle roof membrane and minor historic
17 preservation and restoration of the Castle.

18 Alternative C is labeled moderate
19 improvements. This one creates a couple of
20 significant projects, like a new central loading
21 facility and a new central mechanical plant on the
22 Campus, as well as a major renovation for the

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1 Castle, and a reconfigured and expanded Haupt
2 Garden.

3 Alternative D does the same amount of
4 major renovation and expansion underneath the
5 Castle. It also provides the central loading and
6 mechanical facilities. The difference being it
7 provides two extra things, descending entry to the
8 new lower level spaces underneath the Castle, and
9 also a sculpture gallery underneath the Hirshhorn
10 Sculpture Garden.

11 Just to go through these in a little
12 more detail, there will be a lot more details on
13 the boards and we will be able to answer any
14 questions later, but Alternative A, the no action,
15 there is no Castle renovation or restoration.
16 Many of the issues that are current today are
17 still going to be there.

18 There is no renovation or improvement to
19 the Quadrangle complex, just basic maintenance and
20 repairs. The existing building systems of all the
21 Campus buildings are approaching their end of
22 useful life, and these will be maintained as they

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1 are being maintained today.

2 There is also an issue with loading on
3 the Campus that will be maintained. The loading
4 is not sufficient to provide significant delivery
5 of materials to the Freer, the Castle, or the
6 Quadrangle Building, and it also disrupts the
7 Garden.

8 Alternative B provides minimal
9 improvements to those conditions, including a
10 minor renovation of the Castle, and a seismic
11 upgrade to the Castle, but in a conventional way
12 requiring possibly steel or other structural
13 reinforcement inside or out of the building
14 because there is no support of its foundations.

15 There is also a new entry on the East
16 side of Freer that connects to the Garden that
17 will be the new ADA accessible entrance to that
18 building, provided in the minimal improvements
19 plan.

20 Also, the walls around the Hirshhorn are
21 lowered in a minimum way to provide opening up the
22 Hirshhorn a little bit to provide a little bit

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1 more openness to that plaza, in connection from
2 the plaza to the Mall and vice versa.

3 In this plan, the mechanical and
4 building systems will be repaired and replaced, as
5 is, and won't take advantage of any consolidation
6 or sustainable measures that would be done if you
7 did a consolidated loading and mechanical plant.

8 In this, the Quadrangle roof membrane is
9 replaced. The Haupt Garden will be put back. The
10 existing loading docks will remain as opposed to
11 Alternative C, which is the moderate improvements.
12 In this one, there is a major Castle renovation
13 and restoration, and this is done through
14 underground expansion because with the underground
15 expansion, the method for seismic upgrade is more
16 successful and also provides less impact on the
17 historic nature of the building.

18 The advantage that gives us is new space
19 to put things like the expanded loading dock and
20 the new central Campus mechanical space that will
21 give us the opportunity to take advantage of
22 sustainable practices as well as putting all of

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1 the utilities for all of these very closely
2 related buildings owned by the same institution in
3 one place.

4 One of the major projects in this
5 alternative is the Quadrangle reconfiguration, so
6 this is an effort to improve the quality of that
7 space, providing more daylight, and larger
8 expanded galleries through a reconfiguration of
9 the program.

10 Because of the loading dock and the
11 reconfiguration of the Quad, the Haupt Garden can
12 be expanded. Many of the features that are there
13 today will be implemented again, but the
14 opportunity is there to make that larger and
15 better.

16 In this plan as opposed to Alternative
17 D, there is no descending entry to the new lower
18 level space. In this plan as opposed to
19 Alternative B, the walls are lower to the ground
20 around the Hirshhorn so that you can physically
21 access the Hirshhorn from three of the sides as
22 opposed to the two entrances that are there now

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1 for the stairs.

2 Also, because of the consolidated
3 loading, the AIB parking lot and loading that is
4 to the East side of the building now is removed
5 and replaced with an expansion of the Ripley
6 Garden.

7 Alternative D is the major improvements.
8 This is as Ann said the Smithsonian's preferred
9 alternative. This one provides the same Castle
10 renovation, loading dock consolidation, and
11 mechanical space consolidation that Alternative C
12 did, as well as the same expansion and
13 reconfiguration of the Haupt Garden to take
14 advantage of those projects, but this one, the
15 major difference, one of the major differences is
16 it gently slopes the Haupt Garden to provide an
17 entry to that new lower level space underneath the
18 Castle.

19 What that does is provide the visitor
20 amenities level that is underneath there with both
21 access to the gardens and daylight.

22 The other major project that this adds

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1 as opposed to the other three alternatives is a
2 new gallery space beneath the Sculpture Garden.
3 This is something that the Hirshhorn is interested
4 in, to display large contemporary pieces of art
5 that their current ceiling heights prohibit them
6 from doing.

7 With that, I will give it back to Ann to
8 talk about next steps and schedule.

9 MS. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you, Sean. Our
10 schedule for completing this process is shown
11 here. Comments will be taken both tonight at this
12 meeting, in writing, or through dictation to a
13 stenographer who is here, if you could raise your
14 hand. There she is. Also, via a website that we
15 have set up for the project, through January 30.
16 You may also send regular smell mail to Liz Estes
17 at Static, and we will have her address posted as
18 well.

19 We will be preparing the EA and
20 evaluating alternatives in the winter. We will
21 publish a draft EA for comment for 45 days
22 probably spring 2015. Those of you who have

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1 signed up for e-mail notifications will hear about
2 these milestones. We will also be starting
3 consulting parties' meetings in the new year, and
4 continue those into the spring and summer when we
5 will prepare the decision documents for both the
6 NEPA and the Section 106.

7 When we have completed that, we will be
8 taking the project to NCPC for final Master Plan
9 approval. As part of this public comment input,
10 we also plan to take the Master Plan in a draft
11 form to NCPC later this winter or early spring,
12 and also to the Commission of Fine Arts, to get
13 their input as part of this public process.

14 Here are your opportunities for public
15 comment. There are comment cards in the room.
16 You may also jot down this website,
17 www.southmallcampus.si.edu, or Liz's e-mail
18 address at Static, or her written address at
19 Static. If you would like to dictate your
20 comments, we have the stenographer.

21 With that, we would like to open up the
22 floor to any questions and comments you might

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1 have. We have microphones so your comments can be
2 recorded.

3 PUBLIC COMMENTER: My question has to do
4 with the Area of Potential Effect. As we are all
5 aware, the National Mall is part of the original
6 Plan for Washington, 1791 L'Enfant Plan, and part
7 of the 1902 McMillan Plan. The Area of Potential
8 Effect did not include that. The National Mall
9 Historic District is shown as a small little area
10 between 1st and 14th.

11 We strongly believe, the National
12 Coalition to Save Our Mall, that anything that is
13 done to such a large area of this portion of the
14 Mall, which does include the buildings as well as
15 the open space, needs to be considered in terms of
16 the larger context of an unified National Mall,
17 both its design, its landscape concept, and its
18 public use features.

19 We believe that area needs to be
20 expanded to include the historic plans.

21 MS. TROWBRIDGE: We will take that under
22 consideration. Bill, do you want to comment on

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1 that?

2 MR. MARZELLA: Just clarifying the
3 boundaries that we are showing in that plan, the
4 National Mall Historic District is in the process
5 of being updated and I believe its boundaries
6 expanded. As soon as that information is
7 finalized, we will update the APE accordingly.

8 PUBLIC COMMENTER: I was just going to
9 say the National Mall Historic District is
10 different from the L'Enfant Plan, and they are two
11 separate national registered nominations as well.
12 The L'Enfant Plan includes everything from the
13 Capitol to the Washington Monument. The National
14 Mall Historic District is a much smaller area
15 defined by Park Service land.

16 Just so you are clear, the historic
17 plans are different from the historic districts,
18 and we hope that the bigger picture is always
19 considered. Thank you.

20 MS. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you.

21 PUBLIC COMMENTER: Hello. I was
22 interested in the background that you provided on

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1 the early part of the process, and wanted to ask
2 about whether the Smithsonian's Strategic Plan is
3 available and on line right now or what would be
4 the best way to access that.

5 MS. TROWBRIDGE: I believe you can get
6 to that if you search our public website, but I
7 think we were going to have a link to that on the
8 website for this NEPA 106 process.

9 PUBLIC COMMENTER: Okay. I have several
10 other questions.

11 MS. TROWBRIDGE: If it's not there yet,
12 we will make sure it is there.

13 PUBLIC COMMENTER: Okay. In addition to
14 the Strategic Plan, I'm wondering who were the
15 "stakeholders" who were consulted from the
16 Smithsonian as part of the process, and whether
17 the stakeholders' group -- I believe you indicated
18 the stakeholders indicated D was their preference,
19 so I'm interested in whether that is the Regents
20 or other people who are on staff.

21 MS. TROWBRIDGE: We have a Steering
22 Committee for the project, which is chaired by

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1 Under Secretary Al Horvath, our Under Secretary
2 for Finance and Administration, and soon to be our
3 Acting Secretary of the Smithsonian institution
4 before our new Secretary arrives next July.
5 Robert Kogod, who is a Regent of the Smithsonian.
6 He is the chair of the Regent's Facilities
7 Committee.

8 On that Steering Committee are leaders
9 of a variety of entities at the Smithsonian
10 involved in the project, including the directors
11 of the museums within the study area, our
12 Assistant Secretary for Education and Access, some
13 of the entities whose offices are located in this
14 building, such as our General Counsel, our
15 Development Office, our Under Secretaries for
16 History, Art and Culture, and Science, and a long
17 list of Smithsonian leaders.

18 They are supported our Facilities staff,
19 including Nancy Bechtel, our Director of
20 Facilities. Barbara Faust, our Gardens Director,
21 and a number of other Smithsonian Facilities'
22 staff.

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1 We consulted more widely than that
2 group. We consulted with those who do programming
3 such as our Visitor Center Director, our Latino
4 Center Director, our Asian Programs Director, a
5 wide range of people developing education
6 programs, garden staff.

7 It was how many interviews did we do,
8 Christopher?

9 MR. LETHBRIDGE: About 30.

10 MS. TROWBRIDGE: About 30 individual
11 interviews of our staff. We presented the draft
12 proposed Master Plan, our preferred alternative,
13 and I think we also showed them Option C, to our
14 Regents, last spring, and we shared this with the
15 National Boards of the museums involved, and
16 several other key stakeholders.

17 PUBLIC COMMENTER: Was this a vote by
18 the Regents?

19 MS. TROWBRIDGE: No, it has not been
20 voted on by the Regents. It was an informational
21 briefing to them. It was very well received, but
22 they did not take an action on the project.

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1 PUBLIC COMMENTER: Did the Regents
2 themselves prefer D? When you say D is the
3 preferred selection, I'm just trying to understand
4 who decided that.

5 MS. TROWBRIDGE: They were briefed on
6 the plan and they were generally supportive of
7 moving forward with gaining public approval of the
8 plan; yes. They actually vote on certain kinds of
9 issues. We have not come to a point on an issue
10 where they actually vote. They don't often
11 approve or disapprove our Master Plans. They do
12 approve funding individual projects.

13 PUBLIC COMMENTER: Hi. I have two
14 questions. It wasn't brought up in the briefing
15 here but on the outside, there is a good deal of
16 emphasis given to being able to sort of
17 communicate from one building to the next. I'm
18 not quite sure I understand what the purpose of
19 that is.

20 My other question is it talks about the
21 need for increased public access. What exactly
22 does that mean? I visit all these museums. You

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1 can obviously access them. I don't quite
2 understand what that means, so if you could
3 explain.

4 MS. TROWBRIDGE: Well, currently, the
5 Castle is quite isolated from the other buildings
6 both in terms of service and public access. If
7 you want to go directly from the Castle to the
8 Educational Programs in the Ripley Center, you
9 need to go back out and go in a separate entrance
10 and down three floors.

11 We would like to better connect those
12 because we find that our Visitor Services and our
13 Education Programs are becoming closer together
14 and more related to each other. They would like
15 very much to have more contiguous space so we have
16 more flexibility in both our day to day
17 programming as well as special events.

18 The plan includes a new centralized
19 auditorium with additional classrooms and break
20 out rooms that we can use to hold scientific
21 meetings and conferences and the like.

22 It was also very important to us in this

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1 plan to make the entrances to the African Art and
2 Sackler Galleries much more easy to find from the
3 Castle and the Mall, and from the Garden.

4 Those of us who are on the staff often
5 are in the Haupt Garden and people ask us where
6 those museums are. Both those museums really,
7 really wanted to have a better identity from the
8 Mall.

9 PUBLIC COMMENTER: Maybe this is a
10 premature question, but I'm wondering what kind of
11 anticipated costs are associated with let's say C
12 and D, in terms of long range? Are we looking at
13 \$1 billion worth of capital improvements, and any
14 anticipated major funding sources?

15 MS. TROWBRIDGE: We have identified the
16 cost of the overall Plan implemented over 10 to 20
17 years as in the \$2 billion range. That is the
18 preferred Scheme D. If we were to do Scheme C, it
19 would probably be less. We haven't specifically
20 identified how much less, but I don't think a lot
21 less. It would probably be a little bit less,
22 because it does not include the underground work

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1 at the Hirshhorn Sculpture Garden.

2 PUBLIC COMMENTER: What are the sources?

3 MS. TROWBRIDGE: The sources of funding,
4 we expect like our other initiatives for this to
5 be partly Federal funds and partly private funding
6 from donors.

7 PUBLIC COMMENTER: First of all, this
8 seems to be a rather short comment period,
9 especially considering the time of year it's being
10 done. It's good to see some more information
11 available now on the boards.

12 It's very difficult frankly when you
13 print it out from the website, which I think just
14 appeared, to understand any detail and the
15 different levels that are involved.

16 There is a lot of background
17 information, and obviously you have done a lot,
18 but that's not clear from what is being presented.
19 It would appear perhaps there are really
20 combinations of different alternatives that might
21 be considered, but you can't really tell that from
22 the boards.

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1 The question of just how the Castle is
2 to be treated with space put underneath it is not
3 really explained at all. Presumably, there is
4 some reconfiguration of the underground space
5 where the Ripley Center is. There are questions
6 about the Garden area that many people have
7 considered as a somewhat inappropriate design of
8 what is replaced there.

9 There are a lot of questions here. I
10 think there is a question of how the public is
11 supposed to address those in this limited time and
12 without more background information.

13 MS. TROWBRIDGE: Some of that is we are
14 at the Master Plan stage, and we are evaluating
15 this project at this point in a more defined
16 process of NEPA and 106. However, I hear that you
17 think we should post more information regardless
18 of whether that is either a finalized decision
19 about an alternative or an environmental issue.

20 PUBLIC COMMENTER: I would like to build
21 on what John suggested here because if we're
22 thinking long term of resiliency and

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1 sustainability and so on, it seems hard to choose
2 a solution that doesn't include maybe geothermal
3 and long range energy efficiencies, even though
4 the design you might prefer is different.

5 I think the question of how the
6 alternatives have been selected, if that could be
7 more flexible, and in the comment period, if
8 people can say yes, we all want sustainable
9 buildings, and we want all of these buildings to
10 have geothermal or solar or something, but it
11 doesn't necessarily mean we want the Haupt Garden
12 to be replaced with a ramp going into the other
13 buildings.

14 I think there is a bit of choice making
15 that throws you into making a decision that you
16 might not want to make because two things are
17 lumped together, that you might like one and not
18 the other.

19 My other comment is I am all for
20 comprehensive planning for a Campus, as one who
21 visits the Mall a lot and visits the Smithsonian a
22 lot, I can find all the buildings, as this other

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1 gentleman has said, but the landscapes seem to be
2 disconnected, and it can be a meandering process
3 to move from one place to the other.

4 On the other hand, the design calling
5 this a Campus again separates it from the National
6 Mall, and I'm concerned that the National Mall,
7 the open space of the National Mall, is where we
8 want public activity. It was designed to be the
9 public space of American democracy in full view of
10 the Capitol, the Washington Monument, and the
11 Lincoln.

12 This design seems to be very
13 introspective and introverted connecting the
14 buildings to the South of the Mall but not really
15 looking at the connection to the North, where we
16 want to connect over to the Natural History Museum
17 and others.

18 The question is can we open up the
19 options to include more focus towards the Mall
20 itself rather than turning our back on the Mall
21 and making a very kind of self contained
22 --

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1 MS. TROWBRIDGE: We don't think we are
2 turning our back at all on the Mall. We are
3 moving the entrances to two major museums much
4 closer to the Mall, and we are making our Castle
5 Visitors Center much more accessible.

6 It is true that we are accommodating
7 more access in the South in response to the
8 Southwest Eco District. We would like to welcome
9 more mixed use neighborhood to our South. We
10 would like to provide the opportunity to have more
11 tour bus drop off on the South, take a little bit
12 of the bad part of the activity on the Mall off
13 the Mall and reorient it.

14 I think that 70 percent of our visitors
15 roughly come from the Mall, and that will continue
16 to be the case, so we are always oriented to the
17 Mall.

18 MS. ESTES: To answer the other part of
19 the question in regards to public input and stuff,
20 you don't need to specifically make a decision on
21 this piece, this piece, or that piece. We are
22 just welcoming all comments that you do have, and

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1 this will not be the only time that you have to
2 provide your input.

3 Throughout the NEPA process, there will
4 be a public review period for the EA as well, and
5 you will have the opportunity there, as well as
6 with the Section 106 process. There are multiple
7 opportunities provided for in the Section 106
8 process for you to provide public comments.

9 This will not be your only opportunity
10 to provide comments. We are not looking for you
11 to make any choices tonight. We are just looking
12 for your feedback on what is presented and if
13 there are additional things that you think we
14 should be considering as well.

15 PUBLIC COMMENTER: Good evening. This
16 sounds very exciting. I'd like to ask if the
17 renovation will be more structural in the Garden
18 or will it also include internal renovations such
19 as technological and multimedia interfacing of the
20 exhibits.

21 MS. TROWBRIDGE: Yes, very much so. We
22 are renovating our building systems throughout to

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1 save energy but also to allow us to implement
2 better technologies for our visitors and
3 programming.

4 The Smithsonian has a plan to provide
5 public wi-fi in its museums. That would be key
6 because we know that exhibits in the future will
7 allow our visitors to be directed by information
8 they can pull up on their iPhone. A lot of our
9 collections are being digitized, so we want
10 visitors who see one element of our collection to
11 be able to look at the 50 other things we have
12 stored somewhere.

13 Yes, that is very central to our plan.
14 That will become much more defined when we
15 implement individual building projects, but the
16 central plan, the consolidated approach to serving
17 all our buildings together will enable that.

18 PUBLIC COMMENTER: Hello. Is there any
19 way to accomplish all these things you wish to
20 accomplish without removing the only Victorian
21 Garden that most Americans are going to get to see
22 because you have to decide you want to go and see

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1 a Victorian Garden and travel to some location.

2 We have these beautiful Victorian Gardens. I mean
3 these buildings around those, that is the perfect
4 garden for what goes with the architecture.

5 I feel it is destructive to create this
6 modern looking thing, which will very soon be out
7 of date, and not then suit and match the rest of
8 the architecture within a very short time. I
9 believe that.

10 Is there a way to keep the Garden
11 intact, Victorian, as being one of the national
12 treasures of this country, and still do all these
13 other things you want to do, without making it
14 some modern thing.

15 The second thing is if the people that
16 are making the decisions about what goes on inside
17 this museum, for access to that, are the same
18 people who decided to take out those Victorian,
19 beautiful wooden structures and put those ugly
20 gray things, which should only be in an Air and
21 Space Museum or a space port, in our Central Hall,
22 if they are the same people making decisions, they

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1 should not be making those decisions, because
2 those new gray structures in this building is a
3 eyesore. If they are the ones deciding where the
4 stairways are going down for this new lower level,
5 they shouldn't be doing it.

6 That's my comment. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. LETHBRIDGE: I just want to say one
9 thing.

10 MS. TROWBRIDGE: Christopher, why don't
11 you come up here? Christopher Lethbridge is our
12 Program Manager for the Castle and other buildings
13 and grounds here.

14 MR. LETHBRIDGE: I do honestly
15 appreciate your views, and I hope that you do
16 submit them formally in written form.

17 There is a part of your question that
18 can easily be explained, and that is the Haupt
19 Garden sits on a resilient roof that protects the
20 two museums from rain water. It leaks. The simple
21 answer is we cannot keep the Garden the way it is.
22 It needs to be removed in order to replace that

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1 roof.

2 PUBLIC COMMENTER: I would --

3 MR. LETHBRIDGE: Excuse me. The
4 landscape design that has been incorporated into
5 that new Garden is completely open. We don't have
6 a landscape design for it yet. Again, your views
7 are welcome, but the Garden cannot stay as it is
8 now. It will be removed.

9 PUBLIC COMMENTER: I would just like
10 whatever Garden is there, there are many ways of
11 doing Victorian Gardens, they were all beautiful
12 over the years, they were perfect with the space.
13 I realize they may have to be removed, but what
14 I'd like to see put back is a traditional
15 Victorian Garden.

16 MS. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you. If we do
17 not have a specular garden at the end of this
18 project, we will not be successful.

19 PUBLIC COMMENTER: I hesitate to bring
20 this up, but having seen the sort of schematic
21 showing the large amount of glass out in the
22 garden area, I don't know what they are called,

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1 window wells, I'm wondering about the extent to
2 which you have considered security and homeland
3 security in having those.

4 MS. TROWBRIDGE: We have considered
5 that. We have developed a perimeter security plan
6 that follows all of the Federal guidelines for
7 that. BIG has on their team a consultant who
8 isn't here tonight but focused on security and
9 blast protection.

10 Yes, that will be very important. I
11 think the plan is to do that protection at the
12 perimeter of the site so that once one is within
13 the garden and the Campus, it is a more open
14 experience, but yes, that's a challenge. It will
15 be a challenge.

16 We really, really want more daylight in
17 the Quadrangle Building. That is the largest
18 complaint we have had from our staff and visitors
19 about the buildings behind the Castle.

20 UNIDENTIFIED STAFF: Are there any other
21 questions or comments?

22 PUBLIC COMMENTER: Any update on the

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1 Arts and Industry Building?

2 MS. TROWBRIDGE: No update except to say
3 that this framework plan, our direction to our
4 architectural planning team was that their Master
5 Plan, which is the framework for connecting
6 buildings and planning for the future, needs to
7 accommodate multiple options for the Arts and
8 Industry Building.

9 As many of you know, there has been a
10 bill before Congress to create a Latino Museum in
11 that space. If that bill were passed, the
12 Smithsonian would be asked to study that option
13 and report back to Congress.

14 We asked BIG to allow for that potential
15 option as well as another permanent use for AIB.
16 We believe they have set some ground rules such as
17 circulation East/West through the center of that
18 building, removal of its above grade service area
19 so that one can have a larger Ripley Garden on the
20 East side, and through circulation to the
21 Hirshhorn.

22 We have set some Master Plan goals that

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1 we think could be implemented in a variety of
2 program uses, permanent use, for AIB. We are
3 currently working on plans to use that on an
4 interim basis, and that will also accommodate
5 that.

6 As part of the Master Plan, when we
7 renovate the Castle, we expect to utilize the Arts
8 and Industry Building as our temporary Visitors
9 Center.

10 PUBLIC COMMENTER: What do you think
11 about doing a hybrid, maybe Option D with
12 expansion under the Castle and the expansion in
13 the Hirshhorn, but try to retain as much as
14 possible the existing structure and gardens here
15 in the Haupt and the underground Quadrangle there,
16 to save money in structural rebuild costs that
17 would be required, especially Option D with a dip
18 down.

19 Did they think about the taxpayers are
20 probably going to have to pay for this, and would
21 that be a good compromise, possibly to reuse as
22 much as possible the existing structure there and

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1 maybe staircases into the three story atrium
2 downstairs and existing passage on the B1 level
3 that goes over the Mall downstairs above the
4 auditorium, if you know where I'm talking about.
5 Consider that as a possible alternative in terms
6 of economics.

7 MS. TROWBRIDGE: Yes. I think the
8 interaction between the Quadrangle Building and
9 the Castle is quite complex in this project.
10 Certain things can fit with certain other things
11 in terms of changes to the Quadrangle Building and
12 expansion underground of the Castle. Certain
13 things will not be compatible.

14 If you are able to comment on the things
15 you want to see or don't want to see, we will
16 understand and we can respond a bit better to what
17 can and can't work physically.

18 When we move the entrances to the two
19 museums, we change a lot of the internal planning
20 below grade. We are also planning to expand the
21 Quadrangle Building so we can house more
22 activities and programs.

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1 It's a complicated interaction between
2 the two. We are also in this plan removing a lot
3 of the protruding structures that are now in the
4 Garden in the form of the exit stairs and other
5 elements that we think is an improvement.

6 PUBLIC COMMENTER: Did you say anything
7 about the time schedule on this? Is this like a
8 20 year project?

9 MS. TROWBRIDGE: The time frame depends
10 in part on logistics and in part on funding.
11 Right now, the first major project of this Master
12 Plan that we have a targeted date for is the
13 renovation of the Castle, which we hope will begin
14 in 2021 in construction, but will be designed much
15 sooner, and have some preliminary projects, like
16 moving the Visitors Center temporarily to the Arts
17 and Industry Building will happen before 2021.

18 We have to totally vacate this building
19 in order to do the kind of renovation we want to
20 do. That is the biggest project.

21 There are several projects that are
22 somewhat independent of the big projects, for

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1 example, we would like to create a new accessible
2 entrance from the Garden to the Freer Gallery of
3 Art. That could happen when funding is available
4 and may happen sooner. Right now, the accessible
5 entry to the Freer is from Independence through a
6 service entry, and is not very gracious. We want
7 to improve upon that. That may happen sooner.

8 The Hirshhorn projects are also a little
9 bit more independent, the ones involving the walls
10 and the landscape. Those could happen in advance
11 of the Castle project.

12 PUBLIC COMMENTER: The other thing I was
13 going to point out, these are terribly disruptive
14 projects. It was bad enough that American History
15 was closed for years for renovations. Here, this
16 building is going to be closed for years. All of
17 these, it is going to close major portions,
18 inconvenience, just like the Mall right now. It's
19 hard to get across it even. So, that should be
20 taken into account.

21 MS. TROWBRIDGE: It always is. We do
22 our best to keep as much of our museums and

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1 activities open during these renovations, but
2 sometimes the projects are so huge that it is more
3 appropriate to close a building for both the
4 safety of our visitors and the efficiency of the
5 project.

6 MR. LETHBRIDGE: If we were to get
7 substantial funding for these projects, the most
8 likely period of implementation is about 20 years.
9 That is if we do get funding and approvals as we
10 need them. We have developed implementation plans
11 which really putting those separate projects in a
12 logical series so that no more than one facility
13 needs to be closed at one time. That is certainly
14 our goal.

15 PUBLIC COMMENTER: Given the long life
16 span of this Master Plan, could you provide a
17 little bit more clarity and detail into whether
18 the Smithsonian would approach 106 with a
19 programmatic agreement or a memorandum of
20 agreement, and how that would look with regard to
21 consultation.

22 MS. TROWBRIDGE: We have not made a

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1 final decision yet with the District of Columbia
2 Historic Preservation Office. I think a
3 programmatic agreement is one which is often done
4 when you haven't made all the decisions, and may
5 be an appropriate agreement for this project.
6 Yes, we will be working with them to consider
7 that.

8 PUBLIC COMMENTER: Hi. I'd like to just
9 put in a plea that the redesigned Garden would
10 have space for kind of peaceful, meditative,
11 restfulness. Right now, it just looks kind of
12 like you are planning on how to get from point A
13 to point B and it looks a little busy.

14 I felt like the Haupt Garden helped me
15 recover from a very serious illness because of the
16 fountains and the flowers and the peacefulness.
17 I'm just hoping the redesigned Garden will not
18 lose that quality.

19 MR. LETHBRIDGE: That's a great and kind
20 of moving comment. We have made a commitment to
21 create a varied landscaped design for the Gardens
22 as they are developed, and certainly including

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1 quiet areas as well as areas of intense

2 horticulture and other areas for activities.

3 I certainly hope you will submit that
4 comment formally to the project so we will have a
5 record of it.

6 UNIDENTIFIED STAFF: Do we have any
7 other comments?

8 (No response.)

9 MS. TROWBRIDGE: If not, thank you very
10 much. We will be here in Schermer Hall to talk
11 more with any of you who have questions that you
12 would like to point out on the boards.

13 Thank you.

14 (Whereupon, at 6:32 p.m., the public
15 scoping meeting concluded.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC

2 I, CHRISTINE ALLEN, the officer before whom the
3 foregoing meeting was taken, do hereby certify
4 that the witness whose testimony appears in the
5 foregoing deposition was duly sworn by me; that
6 said proceedings were recorded by me and
7 thereafter reduced to typewriting under my
8 direction; that said meeting is a true record of
9 the testimony given by said witness; that I am
10 neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by
11 any of the parties to the action in which this
12 deposition was taken; and, further, that I am not
13 a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney
14 employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or
15 otherwise interested in the outcome of this
16 action.

17 
18

19

20 _____
CHRISTINE ALLEN

21

22

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25:11 40:11 45:8 tonight's 5:11 6:17 top 18:9 topics 13:21 totally 49:18 tour 39:11 towards 13:17 38:19 Traceries 2:5 14:6 17:13 traditional 44:14 Transportation 8:15 travel 42:1 treasures 42:12 treated 36:2 treatment 18:2 Trowbridge 2:8 4:3 25:9 27:21 28:20 29:5,11,21 31:10,19 32:5 33:4 34:15 35:3 36:13 39:1 40:21 43:10 44:16 45:4 46:2 48:7 49:9 50:21 51:22 53:9 true 39:6 54:8 try 47:13 trying 32:3 Tuesday 1:9 turn 14:5 turning 38:20 39:2 typewriting 54:7 <hr/> U <hr/> U.S 16:14	ugly 42:19 underground 22:14 34:22 36:4 47:15 48:12 underneath 20:4,8,9 24:17,20 36:2 understand 32:3,18 33:2 35:14 48:16 undertaking 15:11,21 16:4 UNIDENTIFIED 45:20 53:6 unified 27:16 update 28:7 45:22 46:2 updated 28:5 upgrade 21:11 22:15 upgrades 11:13 upon 11:17 50:7 Urn 17:6 useful 20:22 utilities 23:1 utilize 47:7 <hr/> V <hr/> vacate 49:18 varied 52:21 variety 13:20 15:8 30:9 47:1 versa 22:2 via 25:14 vice 22:2 Victorian 41:20 42:1,2,11,18	44:11,15 view 38:9 views 16:13,15 43:15 44:6 visit 32:22 visitor 11:1 24:19 31:3 33:12 visitors 9:14 39:5,14 41:2,7,10 45:18 47:8 49:16 51:4 visits 37:21 vistas 16:16 vote 31:17 32:8,10 voted 31:20 <hr/> W <hr/> walls 21:20 23:19 50:9 Washington 1:12 16:15,20 27:6 28:13 38:10 wasn't 32:14 water 43:20 ways 44:10 website 6:18 25:14 26:16 29:6,8 35:13 welcome 3:3 4:4 12:19 13:22 39:8 44:7 welcoming 39:22 wells 45:1 we're 5:12 36:21 West 7:10 whatever 44:10 Whereupon 53:14	whether 29:2,16,19 36:18 51:17 whole 8:8 9:15 whom 54:2 whose 30:13 54:4 wide 9:16 31:5 widely 31:1 wi-fi 41:5 window 45:1 winter 25:20 26:11 wish 41:19 witness 54:4,9 wondering 29:14 34:10 45:1 wooden 42:19 work 9:7,8 34:22 48:17 working 4:18 5:1 9:22 17:13 47:3 52:6 worth 34:13 writing 6:16 25:12 written 26:18 43:16 www.southmallca mpus.si.edu 26:17 <hr/> Y <hr/> yet 29:11 44:6 52:1 yourselves 4:21 5:2,6
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Appendix E:
Public Meeting Sign-In Sheets





Sign in Sheet

Name	Phone	Email
1. Peter Kauffmann	801.855.9424	pdkagore@slade.com
2. CHRISTINE AMES	202.368.9049	christine.melrada@gmail.com
3. Perry Klein	488-7430	perry@thesouthveter.com
4. CONSTANCE LAI	415.269.5039	constance.lai@gmail.com
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Sign in Sheet

	Name	Phone	Email
1.	Catherine		
2.	Catherine Dewey	202-245-4711	Catherine_dewey@nps.gov
3.	Jonathan Parker	202-962-1040	jhparker@wmata.com
4.	Caroline Hermans	860-946-3480	chermans@cmu.edu
5.	Joe Erchenian	202-747-4943	joe.Erchenian@apsich.com
6.	Jeff Nelson	301-417-2400	jnelson@schubel-eng.com
7.	Amy Marino	202 633 5645	marinoa@si.edu
8.	TUTTLE, MICHAEL	202 633 5938	tuttle.m@si.edu
9.	Peggy Seatt	202-387-3380	info@kanneker-memorial.org
10.	ALEX LIEBOWITZ	202-338-5440	a.liebowitz@historia.org
11.	PAUL H. LINDELL	703-646-5845	paul.lindell@cox.net
12.	Pat Taylor		
13.	Meghan Spigle	540-241-0513	meghanspigle@gmail.com
14.	Roxanne Blackwell	202-246-2334	robbi.blackwell@asl.org
15.	Brian Thompson	703-851-0324	wgthompson@jagtoo.com
16.	SHANE DETTMAN	202.641.0327	shane.dettman@NPS.GOV
17.	MARIA DEISASI	202-633-6245	maria.indc@gmail.com
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Sign in Sheet

Name	Phone	Email
1. Leslie Burks	202-579-8650	leslie.burks@dm.usda.gov
2. Judy Scott Feldman	301-340-3938	jfeldman@sarethemall.org
3. Kam To		ktowa@verizon.net
4. Mariana Coronado	703-475-4196	mariana.coronado10@gmail.com
5. Peggy McGlowe	202-334-4125	peggy.mcglowe@westpost.com
6. Nancy Bechtel	202-633-5687	bechtelna@si.edu
7. Rebecca Rider	202-633-7086	rrider@oig.si.edu
8. Brian Lowe	202-633-7076	blowe@oig.si.edu
9. KEN WALTON	(2)482-7261	KEN@NLPC.GOV
10. KIRK METTAM	202-271-1757	METTAM@SILMAN.COM
11. Steve Moore	680-8596	MooreS@fdu.edu
12. POWELL DRAPER	917-683-1535	pdraper@umd.edu
13. ROBERT SMIECKUS	202-720-9155	robert.smieckus@dm.usda.gov
14. BRAD MCKEE	202-216-2346	bmckee@asl2.org
15. BRIAN LUSHER	202-606-8580	BLUSHER@ACHP.GOV
16. Emily Dalphy	202-509-2489	emily.dalphy@dc.gov
17. Kathryn Smith	202-619-7180	kathryn-smith@nps.gov
18. Doug Hawley	760-559-6042	Doug.Hawley@APSCM.com
19. Jamie Herr	202-226-3414	jherr@aoc.gov
20. PETER PETER MAY	202-619-7025	PMAY@NACal
21. WILLIAM J. COOK	202-588-6283	wcook@savingplaces.org
22. Feng Huang	202-633-0632	huangf@si.edu
23. Diane Shaw	571-344-0094	dshaw35@cox.net
24. CHARLES FRIED	202-265-0625	CFRIED1@umd.edu
25. Mark Cason	202-216-2370	mcason@asl2.org
26. Leighton Yates	(202)216-7841	lyates@asl2.org



Sign in Sheet

	Name	Phone	Email
1.	Jolyn Funderburgh	(202) 366-8431	jolyn.funderburgh@verizon.net
2.	JESUS AURELIO GONZALEZ		jesusgonzalez37@hotmail.com
3.	ELLEN MALASKY GUILD of Prof TOUR GUIDES	(202) 362-9565	Ellenguide1@gmail.com
4.	LUCA CORI	301.252.6616	lucacori@grunley.com
5.	Joseph Benham	443-248-4911	jbenham99@gmail.com
6.	SULEIMAN OSMAN	202 994 3145	SOSMAN2@WU.EDU
7.	John DeKraker	202 333 6236	dekraker@silman.com
8.	Elizabeth Purcell	202 544-0178	eap@minespring.com
9.	Russell K Cashdollar		cashdollar@rcsi.edu
10.	SALLY BERK	202-253-7200	sallyberk65@gmail.com
11.	HAROLD CLOSTER	202-577-8731	2002@arc.dc.gov
12.	Anna E. Feldman	240-731-7757	annaf788@gmail.com
13.	Elizabeth Miller	2/482-7246	elizabeth@ncpc.gov
14.	David Anspach	301-981-6497	david@anspach.com
15.	Cynthia + Charles Field	202-265-0625	fieldcy@hotmail.com
16.	18		
17.	Roberta Faul-Zeitler	301-565-0965	faulzeitler@verizon.net
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Sign in Sheet

Name	Phone	Email
1. NATHAN HICKS	760-579-9135	HICKS@SILMAN.COM
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Appendix F:
Public Meeting Written Comment





Comment Form

All comments must be post marked by January 30, 2015

Mail to: Liz Edelen Estes
Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan
c/o Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
6110 Frost Place
Laurel, MD 20707

Name: Roberta Faul-Zeitler

Address: 8904 Colesville Road Silver Spring MD 20910

Phone Number: 301-565-0965 Email: Faulzeitler@verizon.net

Not sufficient time to go through
NEPA/106 process. Please extend the
scoping period.

Many other observations to share w/ you



Comment Form

All comments must be post marked by January 30, 2015

Mail to: Liz Edelen Estes
Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan
c/o Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
6110 Frost Place
Laurel, MD 20707

Name: Elizabeth Purcell

Address: 1607 E St, SE WDC 20003

Phone Number: 202544-0178 Email: ezp1@mindspring.com

① 30 days is insufficient time to prepare scoping comments on this important and complex project. An extension should be granted until the end of Feb. 2015.

② When will the Cultural Landscape Report be completed and made available to the public online?
"Spring 2015" - too late to help with scoping comments.

③ What is SI strategic plan? Where can it be found?



Comment Form

All comments must be post marked by January 30, 2015

Mail to: Liz Edelen Estes
Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan
c/o Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
6110 Frost Place
Laurel, MD 20707

Name: Blythe McCarthy

Address: 4931 Albermarle St NW

Phone Number: 202-633-0372 Email: _____

There should be at least 2
loading dock entrances. The 12th St tunnel
is already dangerous at its Independence Ave SW
entrance. I have almost been hit by cars
at ~~that~~ ^{that} location as cars merge in the
intersection to get into a tunnel. Having
the only entrance to an expanded loading
dock that serves the entire south mall campus
seems to just increase the danger at
that location.



Comment Form

All comments must be post marked by January 30, 2015

Mail to: Liz Edelen Estes
Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan
c/o Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
6110 Frost Place
Laurel, MD 20707

Name: LUCA COVI - GRUNLEY CONSTRUCTION

Address: 15020 SHADY GROVE RD, SUITE 500, ROCKVILLE, MD 20850

Phone Number: 301.252.6616 Email: luacovi@grunley.com

EXTERIOR PLATFORM AROUND A.I.B. ROTUNDA IS A FANTASTIC
IDEA. WHAT BETTER WAY TO SHOWCASE S.I. IN DC

SECOND ONLY TO THE A.I.B. PLATFORM IS THE MEP BEING MOVED
UNDERGROUND.



Comment Form

All comments must be post marked by January 30, 2015

Mail to: Liz Edelen Estes
Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan
c/o Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
6110 Frost Place
Laurel, MD 20707

Name: SALLY BERK

Address: 2214 WYOMING AVE, NW

Phone Number: 202-253-7200

Email: sallyberk65@gmail.com

30 DAYS IS A MUCH TOO SHORT AMOUNT
OF TIME FOR A MAJOR UNDERTAKING;
esp SINCE THE HOLIDAYS INTERFERE.



Appendix G:
Meeting Minutes from the CFA
Informational Briefing



CFA 22/JAN/15-1

LOCATION:

Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC

OWNER:

Smithsonian Institution

PROPERTY:

Smithsonian facilities south of the National Mall (South Campus)

DESCRIPTION:

Draft Master Plan

REVIEW TYPE:

Information presentation

Letter

30 January 2015

Dear Mr. Horvath:

In its meeting of 22 January, the Commission of Fine Arts was pleased to hear an information presentation on the proposed master plan concerning the properties of the Smithsonian Institution on the south side of the National Mall between 7th and 12th Streets, SW. The Commission commended the ambitious vision of the plan in connecting multiple facilities and offering a bold new identity for the heart of the Smithsonian complex.

The Commission members expressed support for the concept of transforming the quadrangle formed by the Smithsonian Castle, the Freer Gallery, and the Arts and Industries Building with prominent new entrances and visible daylight connections into the two museums below—the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and the National Museum of African Art. However, they commented that the conceptual precedent for the proposed design should extend beyond A. J. Downing's curvilinear landscape for the Mall, with more consideration given to the late-20th-century Enid Haupt Garden designed by Lester Collins and Sasaki Associates. Notably, both of these precedents include a combination of exotic and native plantings that is expressive of the Smithsonian's scientific work, a tradition that is not apparent in the presented vision for the quadrangle landscape. They also noted that the great conceptual and spatial unity of the Mall is strengthened by the episodic garden landscapes on either side; for the design of the landscape and architecture within the quadrangle, they recommended that the design may be more appropriately asymmetrical in responding to the particular conditions of the site.

As the central landscape and museum entrances are developed as a concept design, the Commission members recommended careful consideration of how the project's new elements interact with the existing museums. For example, they commented that the relationship to the Freer Gallery seems underdeveloped, with a mound of earth at the northwestern corner of the space; they also noted that opportunities for programming within the Arts and Industries Building—an immense historic structure of exhibition spaces which is vacant and suitable for public

amenities—seems generally unaddressed in the proposal. For the entrances that would be created by the raised corners of the new central landscape structure, they cautioned that a design of symmetrical upturned corners may be too generic as a solution. They also encouraged careful study of the conditions of physical interaction with and visibility through the long arrays of skylights that serve multiple functions as barriers, walkable surfaces, and building enclosures. Understanding this proposal as a master plan, they questioned whether the actual requirements of egress, safety, and mechanical ventilation—resulting in substantial physical elements which must inevitably be expressed at the ground level—can realistically be accommodated without compromising the schematic purity of the design.

For the proposals to alter the Hirshhorn Museum, the Commission members supported the idea of enhancing the physical connections to it across the campus and underground to the sunken sculpture garden north of Jefferson Drive. However, they agreed that the enclosed character of the Hirshhorn site is a central feature of Gordon Bunshaft's design, and they recommended that the fundamental role of the walls in creating a protected landscape and setting for the museum should be retained.

The Commission of Fine Arts emphasized its support of the Smithsonian Institution's vision to improve its south campus and looks forward to the continued review of this master plan and its component building projects. As always, the staff is available to assist you.

Sincerely,

/s/Thomas E. Luebke, FAIA
Secretary

Albert Horvath, Acting Secretary
Smithsonian Institution
P.O. Box 37012
Washington, DC 20013-7012

cc: Bjarke Ingels, Bjarke Ingels Group
Ann Trowbridge, Smithsonian Institution



Appendix H:
Correspondences Received





IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

1.A.1 (NCR-LPD)

February 3, 2015

Liz Edelen Estes, Project Director
Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan
c/o Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
6110 Frost Place
Laurel, Maryland 20707

Dear Ms. Estes:

This letter provides the National Park Service's (NPS) initial scoping comments on the proposed Smithsonian Institution (Smithsonian) master plan for the South Mall Campus. The South Mall Campus encompasses the Smithsonian campus from the Freer Gallery of Art on the west to the Hirshhorn Gallery and Sculpture Garden on the east, between Independence Avenue and the National Mall. The NPS understands that Smithsonian and the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) are undertaking this proposal for the purpose of improving the alignment between Smithsonian facilities and their strategic plan, increasing public access, and realizing the added benefits from the efficiencies of an integrated plan. Due to the proximity of the South Mall Campus the National Mall the NPS is requesting to become a cooperating agency in this National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning process, as well as a consulting party for the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 (Section 106) consultation process. We appreciate being given the opportunity to provide the following comments and questions during this initial scoping process:

- The NPS has an overall general concern about the potential for all projects within the master plan to affect NPS land. Actions that will require an NPS decision (i.e., issuance of special use permit, transfer of jurisdiction, potential alignment changes to Jefferson Drive, etc.) will require that the compliance for this project be done in a manner that is easily adoptable by the NPS (43 CFR 46.120). To ensure this, the NEPA compliance done for this Master Planning process should be done in a manner that meets the policies set forth in the NPS's Director's Order 12, *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis and Decision-Making*, and accompanying Handbook, which sets forth the policy and procedures by which the NPS complies with NEPA.
- Insofar as the Master Plan relies on major structural, access, or setting changes to the two National Historic Landmarks within the planned area (Smithsonian Institution
- Building "Castle" and the Arts and Industries Building), NPS retains an interest in safeguarding the integrity of these buildings under Section 110(f) of the NHPA.
- The NPS needs a better understanding of how the current compliance pathway is laid out, and how NPS will be integrated into that process. How does the Smithsonian and NCPC

plan to evaluate the impacts for all projects proposed within this Master Plan under NEPA and NHPA?

- Lastly, as presented, it is assumed that the NEPA/Section 106 process will be completed within this calendar year. For a Master Planning process of this scope and complexity, the NPS has concerns regarding the expedited schedule of this planning process, and is interested in seeing a more detailed project schedule, and how exactly the NPS is incorporated into this effort.

We look forward to your formal recognition of NPS as cooperating agency and consulting party for this proposal. For continued consultation and coordination with the National Park Service, please contact me at (202) 619-7025 or via email at pmay@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter May', with a stylized, flowing script.

Peter May
Associate Regional Director
Lands, Planning, and Design

cc:

Cheryl Kelly, National Capital Planning Commission

Jennifer Hirsch, National Capital Planning Commission

Ann Trowbridge, Smithsonian Institution



**National Trust for
Historic Preservation**

Save the past. Enrich the future.

January 30, 2015

VIA EMAIL liz.estes@stantec.com

Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan
ATTN: Liz Estes, NEPA Compliance
c/o Stantec Consulting Services
6110 Frost Place
Laurel, MD 20707

Re: Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan |
Consulting Party Request & Initial Comments

Dear Ms. Estes:

I am writing to request consulting party status and to submit initial comments on behalf of the National Trust for Historic Preservation regarding the proposed adoption of the Smithsonian Institution's South Mall Campus Master Plan. The National Trust would like to participate actively in the review process as a consulting party under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, pursuant to 36 C.F.R. 800.2(c)(5) and 800.3(f)(3).

We commend the Smithsonian Institution's decision to comply with the procedural protections of the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. However, we would also remind the Smithsonian of its obligations under Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Section 110(f), for example, governs Federal agency programs by providing for consideration of historic preservation in the management of properties under Federal ownership or control. Among other things, Section 110(f) requires that, prior to the approval of any Federal undertaking that may directly and adversely affect any National Historic Landmark, agencies must undertake such planning and action as may be necessary to minimize harm to the landmark and obtain comments from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The review required by Section 110(f) involves a higher standard of care than the review required pursuant to Section 106.

In terms of our qualifications as a consulting party, the National Trust is a privately funded nonprofit organization, chartered by Congress in 1949, to further the historic preservation policies of the United States, and to "facilitate public participation" in the preservation of our nation's heritage. 16 U.S.C. § 468. The mission of the National Trust is to provide leadership, education, and advocacy to save America's diverse historic places and revitalize our communities. The National Trust has over 800,000 members and supporters nationwide whose interests may be adversely affected by the project. The National Trust has a

profound interest in ensuring that federal agencies comply with all federal laws and carefully consider less harmful project alternatives when a proposed federal action may harm historic resources, such as the L'Enfant Plan/Plan of the City of Washington, the National Mall Historic District (including the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden), the Smithsonian Institution "Castle" Building, the Arts & Industries Building, and the Freer Gallery of Art—all of which the Smithsonian has identified as historic resources in the "South Mall Campus Area."

In addition, we would highlight the National Trust's longstanding and ongoing interest in the continued preservation of the Arts & Industries Building, which we featured in 2006 on our list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. Since that time, we have regularly inquired about the vacant building's condition and future use. Moreover, the National Trust has been involved for many years in preservation planning for the National Mall, including consultation regarding the National Park Service's National Mall Plan. Significantly, the National Mall Plan Area encompasses the project area under review for the Smithsonian Institution's South Mall Campus Master Plan.

The Smithsonian Institution's South Mall Campus Master Plan, if approved, has the potential to adversely affect historic and cultural resources, as identified during the Environmental Assessment and Section 106 Consultation Public Scoping Meeting held on December 16, 2014. Specifically, we note our concerns for proposed treatment under all proposed alternatives of the Arts & Industries Building (D.C. Inventory, National Register, National Historic Landmark), the Smithsonian Institution "Castle" Building (D.C. Inventory, National Register, National Historic Landmark), the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (contributing building to the National Mall Historic District), and the National Mall Historic District (D.C. Inventory, National Register) as a unified whole.

Thank you for your consideration of our consulting party request and these initial comments. We look forward to working with you as a consulting party as the Smithsonian Institution and National Capital Planning Commission continue to explore options and other alternatives as part of the public process required by NEPA and NHPA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rob Nieweg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rob" and last name "Nieweg" clearly distinguishable.

Rob Nieweg
Field Director & Attorney
Washington Field Office

cc: John M. Fowler, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Stephanie Toothman, National Park Service Historic Preservation
Program
David Maloney, D.C. Historic Preservation Office
Rebecca Miller, D.C. Preservation League
Judy Feldman, National Coalition to Save Our Mall
Jennifer Hirsch, National Capital Planning Commission
Sharon C. Park, FAIA, Chief, Architectural History and Historic
Preservation Division, Smithsonian Institution
National Trust for Historic Preservation—Legal Division



January 31, 2015

Liz Edelen Estes
Project Director
Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan
c/o Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
6100 Frost Place
Laurel, MD 20707

Dear Ms. Estes:

AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTS
636 EYE STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC
20001-3736

www.asla.org
1.888.999.ASLA
T 202.898.2444
F 202.898.1165

On behalf of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations for the master planning and renovation of the Smithsonian South Mall Campus. ASLA embraces the infusion of bold new ideas to reinvigorate the South Mall Campus and improve its functionality and accessibility.

ASLA is the national professional association representing landscape architects. Founded in 1899, ASLA has grown to over 15,000 members and 49 chapters representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The Society's members are active stakeholders in issues that impact the analysis, design, and planning of our natural and built environments.

Plans that affect the National Mall are of particular concern to the Society. The National Mall and the Smithsonian South Mall Campus have stood as an iconic historical oasis for nearly 100 years, and great care should be taken in updating the site.


As you begin to take steps to improve the Smithsonian South Mall Campus, ASLA strongly urges the incorporation of the following landscape architecture principles into its Master Plan development:

- **Continue Successful Restoration Efforts:** During the Master Plan development of the South Mall Campus, ASLA recommends incorporating the recent successes in restoring portions of the National Mall. ASLA believes the final plan must contribute to the momentum gained in the past several years in improving the National Mall's function and sustainability as well as ensuring the low-impact development of the site, all while maintaining the historic integrity of the National Mall.
- **Acknowledge Historic Significance:** The Society recognizes the historic value of the South Mall Campus as a site that has changed over many decades, from the L'Enfant plan for Washington, D.C., to the Andrew Jackson Downing plan of the National Mall, from the McMillan Plan of 1902, to the Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. plan of the 1930's. ASLA recommends that these historic plans be referenced and respected throughout the South Mall Campus renovation process and beyond.

- **Manage Stormwater:** ASLA strongly recommends that any development of the South Mall Campus, should complement the plans for Washington, DC's Southwest Ecodistrict, which is just across Independence Avenue SW, along the 10th Street SW corridor. In particular, ASLA believes that the South Mall Campus should include green infrastructure projects and other low-impact development (LID) that will support the Ecodistrict's stormwater management goals. These LID projects could take many forms, such as green roofs, permeable paving systems, tree canopies, rain gardens, and rain barrels or cisterns.
- **Consider Tree Canopy:** During the Master Plan development of the South Mall Campus, ASLA recommends providing the maximum amount of shade in the precinct and taking the necessary steps to support a thriving urban tree canopy. The Society suggests utilizing trees, shrubs and other plants to lower the urban heat island effect, reduce energy costs, provide animal and plant habitat, improve air quality, manage stormwater, and provide shade for visitor enjoyment.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on behalf of the American Society of Landscape Architects to the Smithsonian Institute and Stantec Consulting Services to address the Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan. The Society is confident that, if adopted, these recommendations will help reinvigorate the site and promote its long-term resiliency, while providing enjoyment for the public. If you need additional information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or ASLA Legislative Analyst Leighton Yates at lyates@asla.org or 202-216-7841.

Sincerely,



Nancy C. Somerville, Hon. ASLA
Executive Vice President/CEO

The Committee of 100 on the Federal City



www.committeeof100.net

Founded 1923

January 27, 2015

Chair

Nancy J. MacWood

Vice-Chair

Monte Edwards

Secretary

Meg Maguire

Treasurer

Carol F. Aten

Trustees

Judy Chesser

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George Idelson

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Elizabeth Purcell

Laura M. Richards, Esq.

Marilyn J. Simon

Frank Vespe

Bill Wright

945 G Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20001

202.681.0225

info@committeeof100.net

Ms. Ann Trowbridge
Associate Director for Planning
Smithsonian Institution
Office of Planning and Management
600 Maryland Avenue, SW, Suite 5001
MRC 511 PO Box 37012
Washington, D.C. 20013

SUBJECT: Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan

Dear Ms. Trowbridge:

The Committee of 100 on the Federal City (Committee of 100), founded in 1923, is the District of Columbia's oldest citizen planning organization. We are pleased to provide these initial comments, and questions, on the Smithsonian Institution's South Mall Campus Master Plan.

The Committee of 100 has long been concerned with protecting and enhancing, in our time, the elements of the L'Enfant Plan (1791-92) and the planning and design work of the McMillan Commission (1901-1902). Both of these plans have been important in shaping the "Monumental Core" of Washington, D.C., which includes the National Mall.

The Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan

The National Mall includes special landscapes, monuments and memorials, and museums and art galleries. The Smithsonian museums along the section of the National Mall between the Capitol grounds and the Washington Monument grounds (3rd Street to 15th Street) are especially important to the vitality and attraction of the National Mall and adjacent areas. The Smithsonian "South Mall Campus" is a key part of the museums and galleries along the National Mall.

The area of the South Mall Campus Master Plan extends from 12th Street, SW on the west to 7th Street, SW on the east and from Jefferson Drive, SW on the north to Independence Avenue, SW on the south. The South Mall

Campus Master Plan encompasses a number of Smithsonian Institution buildings and grounds, including the Smithsonian Institution Building (the “Castle”), the Freer Gallery of Art, the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, the S. Dillon Ripley Center, the National Museum of African Art, the Enid A. Haupt Garden, the Arts and Industries Building, and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. Two other major Smithsonian Institution museums on the south side of the National Mall, the National Air and Space Museum and the National Museum of the American Indian, are not included in the South Mall Campus Master Plan. They are both east of 7th Street, SW.

The Smithsonian Institution has released a proposed “South Mall Campus Master Plan” (sometimes referred to as “SMCMP”) for public review and comment. The South Mall Campus Master Plan was prepared by the Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG), working with the Smithsonian Institution staff. The plan was released to the public on November 13, 2014. The Smithsonian Institution, in collaboration with the National Capital Planning Commission, is now beginning the review process required by the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106. As part of that process, the Smithsonian Institution and the National Capital Planning Commission held a public scoping meeting on Tuesday, December 16, 2014. A comment period on the South Mall Campus Master Plan began December 16, 2014 and extends to January 30, 2015.

The Committee of 100 is very interested in and concerned with the South Mall Campus Master Plan. It is important for the future development of Smithsonian Institution programs and the National Mall, and has a larger area of influence involving the Monumental Core and adjacent areas.

In terms of overall planning, it is very important that the South Mall Campus planning be coordinated with other improvements to the National Mall by the Smithsonian Institution, the National Park Service and others. Considering linkages to areas further north, such as the Federal Triangle and Downtown, and to the Southwest Ecodistrict and the Southwest waterfront to the south, is also necessary.

The Plan is complex and presented with several alternatives. Although considerable information on the South Campus Master Plan has been released, that information is not fully adequate for interested parties and the public to understand just what is being proposed and the specifics of various alternatives that have been outlined, or that might be considered. The initial public comment period is short (45 days) and extended over the Christmas and New Year holiday period, which has limited time for effective public review.

COMMENTS ABOUT MAJOR COMPONENTS OF THE PLAN

For convenience and clarity, the following comments begin with overall general comments and questions, followed by questions arranged by the buildings and garden areas of the South Mall Campus Master Plan area. We recognize that many of the proposals are related and that proposals need to be understood and addressed in an overall manner. In addition, we recognize that some of our questions may not be entirely accurate, due to lack of knowledge of existing conditions (especially underground) and also due to lack of detail and clarity of the information that has been made available to the public.

The South Mall Campus Master Plan is an effort to create a “campus” out of different buildings and grounds built over the past 160 years, ideally providing a framework for the remainder of the 21st century. We appreciate the overall comprehensive effort. The reason for some of these changes, and the costs and benefits involved, are not clear.

Planning Context

To our knowledge, the “Smithsonian South Mall Campus” is a new term for the area described above. We believe that it is very useful to look at this area in overall terms, while of course seeing it in relationship to adjacent areas of the National Mall and the area south of Independence Avenue. In addition to needed restoration of historic buildings, a key concept seems to be the removal of the Haupt Garden, removal of the pavilion entrances to Sackler Gallery and the National Museum of African Art, and the “Quadrangle Reconfiguration” that involves creation of a kind of underground “museum mall” with entrances to art galleries and museum spaces, restaurants and cafes, museum retail shops, and visitor information. This is a significant revision of the existing “South Mall Campus.” The Committee of 100 is very concerned about many aspects of these proposals. Before going too far, it would seem to be useful to think about whether this kind of major reconfiguration is necessary or desirable. An alternative concept would be to retain the usual process of visitors going to existing museums and galleries (including future use of the Arts and Industries Building) on foot in an enhanced campus setting.

Executive Summary

The Committee of 100’s response to the Scoping Meeting of December 16, 2014, is lengthy because of the magnitude of this proposed project and the lack of available details other than the consultant’s architectural renderings. Based on the available information, C100 has the following general comments:

- We believe that in addition to the historic resources already on the National Register (The Castle, the Arts and Industries Building, and the Freer Gallery, many more are eligible within the area of the South Campus Plan. These include the African Art Museum, The Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, the pavilions of both museums, the Renwick Gate, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, and the Haupt, Ripley, and Folger gardens. Before finalizing any alternatives that would have adverse effects on these and any other potentially eligible historic resources, the 106 review process must be used to identify and assess these resources.
- We support restoration of the iconic Castle, its use as the primary Visitor Center, and the need for its seismic retrofitting.
- The long vacant Arts and Industries Building should be considered by the Smithsonian for use as an adjunct to the Castle Visitor Center. Smithsonian officials have stated that it is too small for a Hispanic Museum and that there are no firm plans for a future use at this time. Using this building as an additional Visitor Center that would also house, for example, the Castle’s café, gift shop, and Visitor Services offices, might reduce the need for excavation beneath the Castle. Exploration of other interesting and exciting uses for

the A & I building is needed, possibly including museum functions. Opening the A & I Building to the public would likely contribute to one of the South Campus Master Plan's goals, that of creating a surface level pedestrian "street" between the Freer Gallery and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, and the yet-to-come smaller museum uses.

- If it is determined that the leaking into the Ripley Center cannot be corrected without digging up the Haupt Garden above it, then the Committee of 100 does not oppose excavation of the garden space to permanently repair leaks into the Ripley spaces. More information is needed, however, on the severity of the leaking. We strongly advocate for the garden's restoration in its present level form after repairs are completed.
- We need more information on the proposed underground connections and we recommend additional study of all existing and proposed underground spaces to ensure their best current and planned uses, that they are properly aligned for efficient use, and that proposed additions are necessary for the future. Because the cultural landscape report was not available before the deadline for submitting this letter, C100 has not yet had an opportunity to review and comment on that report.

Planning the Overall South Mall Campus

The various elements of the South Mall Campus Plan are related and must be considered as a whole. However, we believe it is useful to frame our comments in terms of the following categories:

1. Planning
2. Grounds and gardens; and
3. Historic preservation (resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places (the Castle, Arts and Industries Building, Freer Gallery), and resources eligible to be listed (Haupt Garden, Sackler Gallery and its Pavilion, African Art Museum and its Pavilion, Renwick Gate, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden) and questions on potential adverse effects on these resources.

1. Planning

Questions on purpose, need, and process

The proposed changes in the South Mall Campus Plan include removing the existing Enid A. Haupt Garden over the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and the National Museum of African Art and eliminating their entrance pavilions. The major reason given for the removal of the Haupt Garden is that the roof leaks and that therefore major reconstruction is needed, including destruction of the garden and the pavilions. However, repairing the roof does not require replacing the present design with a new open space and new entrance pavilions in different locations. The entire character of the top of the Quadrangle is changed. We note that the proposed plan still calls the proposed greatly revised open space the "Enid A. Haupt Garden" but, in fact, it is a major new open space. This proposal raises a number of questions.

Q. One of the reasons given for the major changes proposed in the SMCMP is that people on the National Mall (north of the Castle) do not know about the museums and facilities in the Quadrangle. Is there any survey information available on this statement? Have any improvements been considered, such as better visitor orientation maps, better lighting, electronic

way finding using kiosks or cell phones, etc. that could address this issue at relatively less cost and without essentially redoing the Quadrangle?

Q. Mall-oriented entrances: What are the costs and benefits of this approach? Is there research on visitors' ability to find the museums on the Quadrangle from the Mall or from Independence Avenue?

Q. How will visitors react to entering the Castle from underground entrances from Independence Avenue? What research was done in preparing this plan? What has the experience been with the Capitol visitor center?

Q. On the north side of the Castle, there is a proposal to shift Jefferson Drive north, thereby changing the design of adjacent areas of the National Mall. This is supposedly being done in accordance with the "Smithsonian Institution Security Plan." Is that Plan available to the public? Is this change really necessary and have the landscape and historic aspects of the change been discussed? Has the National Park Service agreed to this degree of change to the landscape of this part of the National Mall?

Smithsonian's Strategic Plan

The South Mall Campus --as a subset of the National Mall -- is an ecosystem that comprises human-built and natural elements. The gardens, trees, plants and animals/insects in this ecosystem offer beneficial services (shade that reduces urban heat island effect, pollination, reducing insect populations, etc).

Q. What are the adverse impacts of planned, human-induced actions or changes on the South Mall Campus area during the 10-20 year construction period, and how will they be mitigated or eliminated: for example, extensive soil disruption from excavation, loss of ground cover, loss of shade trees, soil compaction?

Q. How will the SMCMP offer sustainable strategies and processes in planning, design and implementation (gardens and additional developed space) to further the "grand challenges" of "Understanding and Sustaining a Biodiverse Planet," identified in the Smithsonian's Strategic Plan (pp. 9-12)?

Q. How will the SMCMP proactively serve to improve the benefits from nature and to reduce unwanted environmental impacts or changes?

Questions on Alternatives, A, B, C, and D

Assuming that it is necessary to replace the membrane on the roof over the Quadrangle and certain building systems in the Sackler Gallery and African Art Museums, Alternatives B, C, and D all entail significant excavation of the Quadrangle, and construction. Alternatives B and C, as we understand it, would preserve the entrance pavilions to the two museums, and restore the Haupt Garden, but Alternative D would remove the entrance pavilions and the Haupt Garden and replace them with an expanse of turf grass. Please advise us whether our understanding of the Alternatives in this regard is correct.

Alternative A

- Q. Concerning "basic maintenance and repair" of mechanical systems, what systems are involved?
- Q. What would be the useful life of these systems after this work is done?
- Q. Is it correct that Alternative A does not involve excavation?
- Q. What is meant by statement that continued reliance on GSA systems prevents improved sustainability?
- Q. Is it possible to restore the great hall or upper great hall under Alternative A?
- Q. Castle earthquake damage repair: What is the difference in the process and level of earthquake protection between the measures in Alternative A vs. Alternatives B, C, or D?
- Q. Would the earthquake measures in Alternative A protect against a magnitude 6.0 earthquake (the current DC building code), or a higher or lower magnitude earthquake?

Alternative B

- Q. Restoration of the Great Hall in the Castle: What does this work involve? How is it different from the restoration in Alternatives C or D?
- Q. Are the seismic improvements to the Castle in Alternative B (visible cross-bracing above grade) consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties?
- Q. Is excavation of the Quadrangle (but not under the Castle) necessary to replace the mechanical systems?
- Q. Is excavation necessary to replace the membrane? If excavation is necessary, what are the dimensions and depth to be excavated?
- Q. What does "inadequate service access to South Campus buildings" mean?
- Q. Are the two sandstone Appian Way-tomb-exits retained in Alternative B?

Alternatives C and D

- Q. What changes to the below-ground galleries, etc. in the Sackler Gallery and African Art Museums would be required by changing the entrances?
- Q. Is it necessary to excavate the Quadrangle in order to turn administrative spaces into gallery space?
- Q. What is the estimated cost to increase gallery space by 30%? How does this cost compare to other alternatives?

Q. One source reports that the seismic improvements to the Castle will be to set the entire building on rollers, a system of "base isolation." What does this mean? Is this report accurate?¹

Q. Why do the plans use the term "Haupt Garden" in connection with the post-construction Quadrangle when Alternatives C and D eliminate all traces of the garden which Enid A. Haupt approved, funded, and for which she provided an endowment?

Q. How would the Ripley Garden be expanded, and would the gardens adjacent to the entrance pavilions of the Sackler Gallery and African Art Museum be "retained?"

Q. Would the Katherine Dulin Folger Rose Garden be restored under Alternatives C or D?

2. Grounds and gardens

The Smithsonian Gardens as a whole

In their entirety, Smithsonian Gardens form a cultural landscape of great significance for the Smithsonian and the overall National Mall area, benefiting those who visit or live and work in the District of Columbia. The SMCMP does not identify any of the gardens as an historic resource, although these gardens (Haupt, Ripley, Folger Rose Garden) have been formally designed to frame or create context for landmark buildings or works of art (Hirshhorn). "All have been designed to complement the museums they border and to enhance the overall museum experience of learning, appreciation, and enjoyment."

Accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums

The Smithsonian Gardens (11 gardens) achieved accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) in March 2013, which involved six years of self-study and preparation for external review. It is a high honor: of 1,000 accredited museums in the U.S., only 3% are public gardens. As noted by Barbara Faust, director of the Smithsonian Gardens, "This designation confers a high mark of distinction for a museum and is truly a milestone in the history of Smithsonian Gardens. The road to AAM accreditation was long and arduous. In 1999, under the rubric of our 'precursor,' the Horticulture Services Division, we began discussions on how and if we could achieve museum accreditation." "Accreditation recognizes high standards in... cultural organizations and ensures that they uphold their public trust obligations." Standards of excellence for the Smithsonian's accredited gardens encompass living collections and their care, displays and exhibitions, and outreach through educational programs and media.²

Enid A. Haupt Garden

Enid A. Haupt (1906-2005), a philanthropist, donated funds to build several gardens. In 1987, she donated \$3 million to construct the Haupt Garden, and in 1993, she donated another \$3 million as an endowment to maintain that garden.³ In 1983, S. Dillon Ripley and Jean Paul

¹ <http://dirt.asla.org/2014/11/18/total-redo-planned-for-d-c-s-south-mall>. Internet; accessed 29 Dec. 2014.

² <http://newsdesk.si.edu/releases/smithsonian-gardens-accredited-american-alliance-museums>.

³ Nadine Brozan, "Chronicle: Who loves gardens more than Enid Haupt?" *New York Times*, 9 Mar. 1993, sec. B, p. 2. Michael Kernan, "Turning a New Leaf," *Smithsonian*: 31.5 (Aug. 2000, 32, 34). Cristina Del Sesto, "Visions of a Garden Grow to Reality," *Washington Post*, 21 May 1987, Datebook, 34.

Carlhian showed her the designs for the Quadrangle, including the parterre, borders, berms, pools, hanging plants, and locations for trees. She immediately asked to finance the entire project, on the condition that "the plants will be magnificent specimens, and the trees will be so large that when I walk into the garden on opening day it will feel like a mature garden."⁴ She got her wish. When the garden opened in 1987, Henry Mitchell, the Washington Post's garden writer, said that the garden looked like it had been there for years.⁵ The trees included hybrid Chinese magnolias, Japanese katsura trees, sour gums, American hollies, weeping beech, ornamental cherries, and ginkgos.⁶

Before the Quadrangle was constructed between 1983 and 1987, a temporary Victorian garden was planted for the Bicentennial in 1976, a broad parterre with patterned beds, benches and urns, running from the Castle to Independence Avenue. This garden was extremely popular, and there was a public uproar when the Smithsonian announced that the Bicentennial garden would be demolished in 1982 to construct the Quadrangle.⁷ The Haupt Garden recreated the parterre from the Bicentennial garden running in a line north to south from the Castle to Independence Avenue. The Asian and African gardens are extensions of the Sackler Gallery and African Art Museums, an east to west axis. The Haupt Garden is planted in three to ten feet of soil above the Sackler Gallery and African Art Museums.⁸

The Haupt Garden follows the principles of a Victorian garden, and introduces visitors to the Arts and Industries Building, a Victorian building, and the Castle, a Romanesque Revival building constructed between 1847 and 1855.⁹ One of the garden's principal and most beloved features is a large Victorian parterre, set in grass and contained by Victorian iron hoops with thousands of plants, set out in a formal design that changes every six months, and urns overflowing with flowers.¹⁰ Like their Victorian antecedents, the Smithsonian's gardeners grow plants in green houses for the Haupt Garden.

⁴ "Enid A. Haupt, Philanthropist, Dies at 99," *New York Times*, 27 Oct. 2005, sec. B, p. 13. Michael Kernan, "Turning a New Leaf," 32, 34. Edwards Park and Jean Paul Carlhian, *A New View from the Castle* (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1987, 56-57).

⁵ Henry Mitchell, "Hurrah for Haupt Culture," *Washington Post*, 13 Sept. 1987, sec. G, p. 2.

⁶ Mitchell, "The Smithsonian's Garden Party," *Washington Post*, 22 May 1987, sec. B, p. 1. We appreciate that gardens undergo a natural process of renewal, that for example, the magnolias may be reaching the end of their life-span and may need to be replaced.

⁷ "Turning a New Leaf," 32, 34. *A New View from the Castle*, 113-115, photographs, 116-117.

⁸ "2 New Smithsonian Museums Focus on Art of Asia and Africa," *New York Times*, 13 Jul. 1987, sec. C, p. 13. *A New View from the Castle*, 122, 133. The soil is from the Potomac River near the GSA power plant, and was tested for safety at the University of Maryland.

⁹ See Heather Ewing and Amy Ballard, *A Guide to Smithsonian Architecture* (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, 2009, 35), describing the Castle as a Victorian building. Henry Mitchell, "The Smithsonian's Garden Party," *Washington Post*, 22 May 1987, sec. B, p. 1. "Turning a New Leaf," 32, 34). "Castle Garden," *Washington Post*, 23 May 1996, Datebook, p. 24.

¹⁰ In Britain, during the last half of the 19th century, scientific advancements in horticulture were publicized in popular and widely circulated gardening magazines. Middle-class Victorians were generally prosperous, self-confident, and focused on family life, including their gardens. The wealthy employed designers and gardeners to create large formal ornamental gardens on their estates. Beginning around 1850, garden design moved away from gardens designed for strolling, (with shrubbery, lawns and occasional small flower beds) to formal geometric gardens to be enjoyed by viewing. Tom Carter, *The Victorian Garden* (Salem, N.H.: Salem House, 1985, 7-17, 127-128).

The Haupt Garden created the perfect setting to display and use the Smithsonian's extensive collection of Victorian cast iron furniture. The Smithsonian received a large part of the collection from the Horticultural Hall exhibit at Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, including cast iron urns, chairs, settees, benches, and lampposts. Beginning in 1972, the Smithsonian office of horticulture also began collecting additional antique furniture for the garden. This Victorian furniture is placed around the Haupt Garden, allowing visitors to rest and enjoy the garden. The garden is a respite for visitors and for thousands of federal workers. Lindens hide the Forrestal Building across Independence Avenue.¹¹

Ripley Garden, Folger Rose Garden

Mary Livingston Ripley, the wife of S. Dillon Ripley, founded the Women's Committee of the Smithsonian. The committee donated funds for a garden in her name. The Mary Livingston Ripley Garden, located between the Arts and Industries Building and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden features a cast iron Victorian fountain, and a great variety of plants (many of them fragrant) in raised beds framed in curving brick. The Ripley Garden was accredited by AAM. In 1994, Mrs. John Clifford Folger began an endowment fund "... so that visitors would be able to enjoy the garden into the 21st century."¹²

The Katherine Dulin Folger Rose Garden is between the Castle and the Arts and Industries Building. This is a year-round garden with roses, bulbs, and evergreens.¹³

Questions relating to parks and open space

Q. How will Smithsonian Gardens maintain accredited status – the standards of excellence required for originally achieving accreditation -- in light of proposed destruction and replacement

The wealthy employed garden designers, and the middle-class consulted guides such as *Geometrical Flower Beds for Every Body's Garden* (1853). Charles Francis Hayward, *Geometrical Flower Beds for Every Body's Garden* (1853) cited in Carter, *The Victorian Garden*, p. 131. Large formal gardens featured "bedding out" annuals in geometric patterns, sometimes using designs from Oriental carpets, leading to the name "carpet-bedding," (or "mosaiculture" in the U.S.). One author described it as "a system of bedding plants in which neat and dwarf-growing foliage plants alone, are used in the form of mosaic, geometrical or other designs, the beds being either flat or more or less raised from the level. In some cases, indeed, very dwarf-growing flowering plants as dwarf lobelias, are used, but as a rule the best and most permanently effective carpet-like designs are those formed of brightly coloured foliage plants alone." Robert Thompson, *The Gardener's Assistant* (1881) quoted in Carter, *The Victorian Garden*, 140. A well-known garden at Shrublands Park had "ribbon borders - bands of massed flowers set out to form interlocking designs of contrasting colours." Carter, *The Victorian Garden*, 138, 140. Estate owners employed gardeners to start large numbers of plants in greenhouses, to move them into the garden as the weather permitted. A large garden might require 70,000 bedding plants. Carlhian understood Victorian gardens. He wrote to landscape architect Lester Collins that the garden "... is a public space Its plant material should be selected for its single statement ... its symmetrical effect ... its participation in the overall grouping ... The garden should be simple, noble, and grand." ¹⁰ Quoted in *A New View from the Castle*, 123. The Haupt Garden is a true Victorian, bands of massed flowers in an interlocking design, on a large scale, designed to be viewed.

¹¹ "The Enid A. Haupt Garden," *Washington Post*, 22 May 1987, sec. W, p. 9. Heidi L. Berry, "Bringing Back Old-Fashioned Garden Furniture," *Washington Post*, 23 May 1985, 10. "Visions of a Garden Grow to Reality," *Washington Post*, 21 May 1987, Datebook, p. 34. *A New View from the Castle*, 122.

¹² Michael I. Heyman, "Smithsonian perspectives," *Smithsonian*: 28.1 (Apr. 1997, 18). www.gardens.si.edu. Internet; accessed 10 Dec. 2014.

¹³ www.gardens.si.edu. Internet; accessed 26 Dec. 2014.

of the Haupt Garden and major changes in the Hirshhorn Sculpture Garden, Ripley and Rose Gardens?

Q. Will the proposed above-ground skylights on three sides of the Haupt Garden intrude on the garden's intentional aesthetic?

3. Historic preservation

Buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places

The SMCMP would affect specific properties included on the National Register of Historic Places:

The National Mall. The Smithsonian South Mall Campus is part of the National Mall.

Smithsonian Institution (Castle), Jefferson Drive between 9th & 12th Streets, NW

Arts and Industries Building, Smithsonian Institution (National Museum), 900 Jefferson Drive, SW

Freer Gallery of Art, 12th Street & Jefferson Drive, SW¹⁴

The Castle (1847-1855)

James Renwick intentionally moved away from the neoclassical and chose Romanesque Revival for the Castle. Romanesque Revival was popular for public buildings from the 1840s until the Civil War, and is characterized round-headed openings and arched corbel tables. The Castle is a well-known example of this style. As pointed out in *A Guide to Smithsonian Architecture*, 35, this is a building of Victorian origin.¹⁵

The Committee of 100 supports the restoration of the Castle and its use as the Smithsonian's primary Visitor Center. It supports retrofitting of the structure so that it will withstand future seismic events and assumes that such retrofitting will be invisible to the public. It may support the creation of underground space for current programmatic functions now on the Castle's main

¹⁴ DC Inventory of Historic Sites (2009). DC Historic Preservation Review Board. www.planning.dc.gov/page/landmarks-and-districts. Internet; accessed 9 Jan. 2015.

The National Mall. Planned 1791; 1901; *DC listing November 8, 1964, NR listing October 15, 1966 (documented May 19, 1981); a major element of the L'Enfant Plan; US ownership; includes approximately 10 buildings c. 1847-197.*

Smithsonian Institution (Castle). Built 1847-55 (James Renwick, architect); alterations by Adolph Cluss after 1865 fire; *DC listing November 8, 1964, NHL designation January 12, 1965, NR listing October 15, 1966; HABS DC-141; within National Mall HD; see also Arts and Industries Building and Natural History Building.*

Arts and Industries Building, Smithsonian Institution (National Museum). Constructed between 1879 and 1881, this is the nation's best-preserved example of 19th-century world's fair or exposition-type architecture. Built to house the international exhibits left over from the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition of 1876, it reflects the three principal requirements of this architectural type: to enclose a very large area, to present a tasteful, dramatic, and pleasing exterior, and to employ inexpensive construction technology. The architects were Cluss & Schulze. *DC listing November 8, 1964, NHL designation and NR listing November 11, 1971; HABS DC-298; within National Mall HD; US ownership; see Bibliography (Goode, Washington Sculpture.*

Freer Gallery of Art. Built 1923 (Charles Adams Platt, architect); *DC listing November 8, 1964, NR listing June 23, 1969; within National Mall HD.*

¹⁵ Mark Gelertner, *A History of American Architecture* (Lebanon, N.H.: Univ. Press of New England, 1999, 152-153). *A Guide to Smithsonian Architecture*, 30-39, referring to the Castle as a Medieval Revival building. *A New View from the Castle*, 104.

floor, subject to assurances from the Smithsonian that current engineering knowledge and understanding can achieve this with no damage to this historic structure.

Questions relating to the Castle

Q. What are the renovation/restoration plans for the Castle and how are the restored spaces to be used in the future?

Q. Why is it necessary to build new spaces under the Castle? Is building such spaces cost effective? What are the dangers of damage to the historic Castle building from the construction of such spaces?

Q. Can additional earthquake protection be provided without the cost and potential danger of building a new foundation under the Castle? If this has to be done, how would that be done, how long would it take, and would the Castle have to be closed or limited to the public during that period?

Q. The relationships between the Castle and the underground spaces to be created (involving a modification of the existing underground spaces of The Quadrangle) are not clear in the information that has been provided. These relationships and changes should be better explained and illustrated. The creation of an underground east-west "Museum Mall" connecting museums, and providing space for retail museum shops, cafes and restaurants, and visitor services, seems to be a key element of the plan.

Q. Will there be an adverse effect on the Castle's setting by eliminating the Enid A. Haupt Garden?

Q. Will the Quadrangle as proposed in Alternatives C and D introduce an incompatible visual or atmospheric element?

Arts and Industries Building (1879-1881)

The historic Arts and Industries Building is a special feature of the South Mall Campus, complementing the Castle. Adolf Cluss and Paul Schulze designed this building to house the Smithsonian's growing collection. The building, an adaptation of Romanesque Revival, has an equilateral square plan, with light-filled interiors, large round-arch windows (to complement the rounded windows in the Castle), symmetrical towers, and polychrome brick.¹⁶ It has been partly renovated and is awaiting a new use before additional renovation is undertaken.

Questions relating to the Arts and Industries Building

Q. More information, including future uses, is needed on the proposed underground passage under the Building and the proposed new cupola outlook space.

Q. Before the Committee of 100 can fully assess and potentially support any of the proposed new underground spaces, we believe it is necessary for the Smithsonian to undertake a use assessment of all such existing spaces and how they will relate to all that is planned. This study will ensure best uses of existing space, identify space realignment needs to improve the most efficient use, and clearly identify how such planned new spaces will best relate to existing one.

¹⁶ *A Guide to Smithsonian Architecture*, 40-47. *A New View from the Castle*, 104.

The study should be transparent. Has such a study been done, and if so, is it available to Consulting Parties?

Q. Will there be an adverse effect from changing this building's setting by eliminating the Enid A. Haupt Garden?

Q. Will the Quadrangle as proposed in Alternatives C and D introduce an incompatible visual or atmospheric element?

Freer Gallery of Art (1917-1923)

Charles A. Platt's Italianate palazzo, with a ballustrated parapet and niches, has a principal floor arranged around a central court, and a basement for study areas.¹⁷

Questions relating to the Freer Gallery of Art

Q. What changes are proposed for the Freer Gallery of Art and how is it to be connected to the proposed underground "Museum Mall"? How is the Freer Gallery to be connected to the Sackler Gallery (any change from the present connection)?

Q. How does the proposed new service access to the entire complex, to be located on the west side of the Freer Gallery adjacent to 12th Street, SW, work and what space is required?

Quadrangle resources eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places

The SMCMP would affect resources in the Quadrangle which are eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places because it possesses the necessary quality of significance under the Secretary of the Interior's regulations, and satisfies criterion C:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

...

C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;

These resources are:

- Quadrangle
 - Arthur M. Sackler Gallery (including entrance pavilion)
 - National Museum of African Art (including entrance pavilion)
 - S. Dillon Ripley Center and Kiosk
 - Enid A. Haupt Garden
 - Mary L. Ripley Garden
 - Folger Rose Garden
 - Fountain garden

¹⁷ *A Guide to Smithsonian Architecture*, 64-71.

- Moongate garden
- Renwick Gate
- Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

Therefore, review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Section 106) must consider potential diminution of the integrity of these resources, because, although they are less than 50 years old, they satisfy Criterion C and are of exceptional importance. All of these resources on the Quadrangle described above possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Question relating to the Quadrangle resources

Q. Are the historic resources in the South Mall Campus that are not already individually landmarked contributing elements in the National Mall Historic District? If not, why?

Design and building of the Quadrangle

The Quadrangle 1979-1987

Opened: 1987

Architect: Jean Paul Carlhian, Principal, Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson, and Abbott (1919-2012)
Enid A. Haupt Garden designed by Carlhian, Sasaki and Associates, Lester Collins

Until 1976, when the temporary Victorian garden was planted for the Bicentennial, the area south of the Castle had no significant function. It had been used for miscellaneous purposes, such as grazing buffalo, displaying rockets, and parking cars. Its most valuable asset was a large linden tree, preserved during the construction of the Quadrangle between 1983 and 1987.¹⁸ The Quadrangle transformed this space. The Quadrangle museums and gardens form an integral part of the landscape of the Castle and the Arts and Industries Building, and frame the Sackler and African Art Museum. The entrance pavilions for the Sackler Gallery and African Art Museum orient visitors toward the museums, while maintaining a height and massing that complements the Castle and Arts and Industries.¹⁹

The Quadrangle provides visitors with effective and innovative way-finding. The Asian art museums, the Freer Gallery and the Sackler Gallery, are grouped together. The Sackler Gallery's six-pyramid roof immediately communicates where visitors can view Asian Art. Dr. Arthur Sackler approved of the entrance pavilion's pyramids and the underground galleries, noting that "... the Pyramids were underground and they preserved objects for thousands of years." Dr. Sackler, who donated his collection of Asian art (valued in 1987 at over \$50 million) also donated \$4 million toward construction of the Quadrangle.²⁰ The adjacent pink granite moon gates, inspired by the Temple of Heaven in Beijing, frame a view of the Arts and Industries Building. Nearby is a pool lined in semi-circular granite disks, creating visual interest in

¹⁸ "Turning a New Leaf," 32, 34. *A New View from the Castle*, 116-117.

¹⁹ The General Services Administration honored Shepley, Bulfinch Richardson and Abbot for their design of the two museums, and honored them and Sasaki Associates for the design of the Haupt Garden. Benjamin Forgey, "GSA Honors 18 Designs," *Washington Post*, 30 Nov. 1990, sec. F, p. 1.

²⁰ , "2 New Smithsonian Museums Focus on Art of Asia and Africa," *New York Times*, 13 Jul. 1987, sec. C, p. 13.

summer under the water, and in winter, with the pool drained, to catch the snow. An Indian *chadar* (a water chute or small waterfall) completes the pool (and also conceals one of the required exhaust points). The African Art Museum's six-domed entrance pavilion is the same height and massing as the nearby Sackler Gallery, and is complemented by a fountain, inspired by the gardens at the Alhambra. "The wall around this fountain has rivulets on top, like a Moorish garden, representing the four rivers of paradise, and the bubbling center jet represents paradise itself."²¹ Interpretive signs explain the sources and significance of the gardens adjacent to the entrance pavilions for the two museums.

Sackler Galley and African Art Museum, S. Dillon Ripley Center

S. Dillon Ripley, the Eighth Secretary of the Smithsonian (1964-1984), envisioned the Quadrangle as a beautiful and impressive location for Americans to learn about Asian and African Art. Plans were completed in 1979 and the Quadrangle opened in 1987.²² It cost \$73 million to construct, one-half from federal funds and one-half from Smithsonian trust funds and other gifts.

The Quadrangle is the work of a master, designed by Jean Paul Carlhian, an eminent graduate of the Ecole des Beaux Arts. He later taught at Harvard University School of Design with Walter Gropius. In 1950, he joined Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson, and Abbott (SBRA), the oldest continuously operating architectural firm in the United States, the successor to the firm founded by Henry Hobson Richardson, a renowned American architect. At SBRA he designed academic and cultural buildings, including the Quincy House, Leverett House, Mather House, Baker House and McCollum Center at Harvard University. He established the Design Committee of the American Institute of Architects and served as its first chair.²³

As would be expected from an architect with Beaux Arts training, the Quadrangle is an axial, symmetrical design integrating the Castle, Arts and Industries Building, and the Freer Gallery with the Sackler Gallery, African Art Museum and gardens to form harmonious landscape. The east-west axis is based on the entrance to the Arts and Industries Building.

The entrance pavilions for the Sackler Galley and African Art Museum orient visitors toward the museums while maintaining a height and massing complementing and subordinate to the Castle and Arts and Industries. The Castle's round windows, emblematic of the Romanesque Revival, are echoed in the domed roof of the African Art Museum, while the and the Arts and Industries Building's angles are echoed in the Sackler Gallery's pyramidal roof. The color of the two new museums also complements the Castle's red sandstone, the Arts and Industries' red brick and the Freer Gallery's granite. The Sackler Gallery's grey-pink granite and the African Art Museum's dusty pink granite visually tie all five buildings together. Each pavilion repeats its diamond or circular pattern in roofs and windows, creating a pleasing symmetry.²⁴

²¹ "Turning a New Leaf," 32, 34, quoting Smithsonian head horticulturalist Michael Riordan. *A New View from the Castle*, 116-119, 137-138.

²² "Visions of a Garden Grow to Reality," *Washington Post*, 21 May 1987, Datebook, p. 34. "2 New Smithsonian Museums Focus on Art of Asia and Africa," *New York Times*, 13 Jul. 1987, sec. C, p. 13.

²³ *A New View from the Castle*, 66-67. Adam Mazmanian, "Old World Architect Jean Paul Carlhian Dies at 92." *Architect*: 2012 (5 Dec. 2012). www.shepleybulfinch.com/history. Internet: accessed 29 Dec. 2014.

²⁴ *A New View from the Castle*, 104-107, 136-141, 149-151.

S. Dillon Ripley called the entrance pavilions to the Sackler Gallery and African Art "grand vestibules." Carlhian knew people are reluctant to walk down below the surface, and that the pavilions must solve this problem. The pavilions welcome visitors into an pleasant and exciting way to see the exhibits. The way into the museums begins with the beauty of the gardens, and continues through spaces and circulation in the pavilions that create a wonderful light-filled experience. Visitors then move down a wide open stairway from the entrance pavilion, following a central shaft of light, from which they can see downward to all three levels. The skylight on the entrance pavilion allows natural light on the stairway down to the third level and to a reflecting pool below, reflecting light upward.²⁵

The entrance pavilion to the S. Dillon Ripley Center (kiosk) is a small copper-domed building, inspired by a 19th-century design for a conservatory, blends with the gardens. As with the other pavilions, it complements and does not compete with the Castle, Arts and Industries and the Freer Gallery. Its scalloped copper roof mirrors one of the Castle's tower roofs. Visitors enter a room filled with natural light, and then move down an escalator to the concourse.²⁶

Questions relating to the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and the National Museum of African Art

Q. Why are the entrance pavilion proposed to be removed?

Q. Would removing the entrance pavilions be an alteration inconsistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties?

Q. Would removing the entrance pavilions change the character of the property's use or setting? Would removing the entrance pavilions, and the substitution of Alternatives B, C, or D, introduce an incompatible visual or atmospheric element?

Q. What rearrangement of the underground spaces is proposed, and how will the Sackler Gallery relate to adjacent underground areas, and to the "Museum Mall"?

Q. Is there an endowment for the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery?

Questions relating to the S. Dillon Ripley International Center

Q. What changes are proposed for the Ripley Center (both classrooms and Smithsonian office space) and how do these changes relate to the underground "Museum Mall" that is being proposed? How are the connections made to the Castle and the two museums in the Quadrangle?

Enid A. Haupt Garden, Ripley Garden

The Haupt Garden is the work of a master and possesses high artistic values. Experts agree, as shown by the AAM's accreditation of the Haupt Garden. Just as significantly, the public has overwhelmingly responded to the garden's artistic value. Henry Mitchell, the *Washington Post's* garden writer, called the Haupt Garden "one of the greatest of all attractions in the capital, that

²⁵ Ibid., 36-37, 76, 108-109.

²⁶ Ibid., 101-102, 105.142-145.

no tourist should miss." The public has responded to the garden's artistic values. The Haupt Garden continues to attract enthusiastic visitors, including children.²⁷ The Smithsonian has continued to offer tours of the gardens, suggesting recognition of their artistic and educational value.²⁸

Questions relating to the gardens

Q. Will the Haupt Garden and the Ripley Garden suffer an adverse effect if they are not replaced in substantially the same forms as they exist currently?

Q. In 1993, Enid A. Haupt donated \$3 million as an endowment to maintain that garden. What are the terms of the endowment? What is the status of the endowment? Are there annual accountings filed for each year since 1993? If so, where can copies be obtained?²⁹

Q. Ripley Garden Endowment. Mrs. John Clifford Folger established an endowment in 1994.³⁰ What are the amount and terms of the endowment? What is the status of the endowment? Are there annual accountings filed for each year since 1994? If so, where can copies be obtained?

Renwick Gate

In 1849, James Renwick, Jr., the architect of the Castle, planned a stone and iron gate for the southern approach to the Castle, but it was never built. In 1979, S. Dillon Ripley arranged for Renwick's gate to be constructed of the same red sandstone as the Castle, from the same quarry.³¹ The Renwick Gate completes the integrated design of the Quadrangle as a Victorian space.

Question relating to the Renwick Gate

Q. Under Alternatives C or D would the Renwick Gates lose their context as the gateway to Victorian buildings (Castle and Arts and Industries), and become an unanchored fragment, suffering an adverse effect?

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution

Opened: 1974

Architect: Gordon Bunshaft, Principal of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill

1981: Sculpture Garden redesigned by Lester Collins

1993: Museum Plaza redesigned by James Urban

The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden opened to the public in 1974 on the National Mall. Designed by world renowned architect and Pritzker Prize winner Gordon Bunshaft, it demonstrates both architectural and engineer creativity. It's a unique statement in 20th Century

²⁷ Henry Mitchell, "Hurrah for Haupt Culture," *Washington Post*, 13 Sept. 1987, sec. G, p. 2. "A Fine Day on the Mall," (photograph of visitor walking toward a moon gate), *Washington Post*, 1 Oct. 1987, sec. B, p. 1. Mary Ellen Koenig, "Scram, Pigeons! Kids are Here," *Washington Post*, 23 Sept. 1988, sec. WE, p. 51. www.frommers.com/destinations/washington-d-c/attractions. Internet; accessed 29 Dec. 2014. See also postings on pinterest.

²⁸ "Gardening," *Washington Post*, 27 Aug., 1987, 264. "Castle Garden," *Washington Post*, 23 May 1996, Datebook, p. 24.

²⁹ "Who loves gardens more than Enid Haupt?" *New York Times*, 9 Mar. 1993, sec. B, p. 2.

³⁰ See www.gardens.si.edu. Internet; accessed 10 Dec. 2014.

³¹ "Turning a New Leaf," 32, 34. J. R. Buckler, "A surprising new oasis blossoms at the Smithsonian," *Smithsonian*: 18 (1987, 120-126). *A New View from the Castle*, 45-49.

modern architecture, with its elegantly simple design inspired by the muscular geometries of Brutalist architecture. (The name Brutalist is derived from the use of Beton Brut (raw concrete). For 40 years, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden has been a presence on the National Mall.

Questions relating to the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

Restoring the underground link between the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden seems like a good idea. Redesign of the Sculpture Garden to better relate to the National Mall also seems useful, but more information is needed to fully understand what is proposed.

Q. How is the underground connection from the Arts and Industries Building to the Hirshhorn Museum to be designed and located? Is there a plan for an underground connection between these buildings? What is the relationship to the 9th Street tunnel under the National Mall, which passes between the two buildings? Information on the alignment and depth of the tunnel would be useful.

Q. Is the axial surface walkway from the Arts and Industries Building and the Hirshhorn Museum needed as designed? Will there be an effect on the Ripley Garden?

Q. What is the advantage in the proposal to depress the central plaza of the Hirshhorn, including the fountain, by one level? What is the effect on the existing lower level galleries of the Hirshhorn Museum? Where will the main entrance to the Hirshhorn Museum be located?

Q. Would depressing the central plaza or removing the retaining walls be an alteration inconsistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties?

Q. One source reports that removing the walls around the Hirshhorn Museum is consistent with the original plans for the museum, as noted by an architect with BIG. Is this accurate? Is it possible to get the original plans? Why were the original plans changed? ³²

Q. Can the retaining walls be repaired? If not, can they be replaced?

Q. What are the advantages and alternatives for lowering the walls around the Hirshhorn Museum? What new or different security measures will be necessary?

Q. Would removing the retaining walls introduce an incompatible visual or atmospheric element?

Q. Would removal of the retaining walls have an adverse effect on the setting of the Hirshhorn and Sculpture Garden?

Q. What are the current museum environmental standards that the Hirshhorn Museum should meet?

³² <http://dirt.asla.org/2014/11/18/total-redo-planned-for-d-c-s-south-mall>. Internet; accessed 29 Dec. 2014.

THE AREA SOUTH OF INDEPENDENCE AVENUE

The South Mall Campus Master Plan stops at Independence Avenue on the south. Indeed, there has been some criticism of the architect for showing future buildings in the project model that are actually south of Independence Avenue. However, the Committee of 100 on the Federal City believes that consideration of the relationships between the Smithsonian area and the area south of Independence Avenue is very important, even though that area is outside the South Mall Campus Plan boundaries. Development of that area will take many years, but it is important to consider potential relationships of a more attractive and mixed use area to the south. In the future, there may be other Smithsonian museums, or other museums, proposed for that area. The Committee of 100 urges the Smithsonian Institution, the National Capital Planning Commission, and other federal and District agencies, to continue addressing the potential and relationships of these two areas.

Thank you for considering our comments. We look forward to participating in the NEPA and Section 106 reviews.

Sincerely,



Nancy MacWood, Chair

cc: Hon. Eleanor Holmes Norton
2136 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515
Fax: 202 225-3002
Ann Trowbridge email: TrowbridgeA@si.edu
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Ms. Liz Edelen Estes
Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan
c/o Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
6100 Frost Place
Laurel, MD 20707

From: [candykessel](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Friday, January 30, 2015 6:30:06 AM

Name: Bethesda Community Garden Club, submitted by Candy Kessel, BCGC President

Comments:

The Bethesda Community Garden Club, a club started in 1923 "do something about the treeless red clay fields" in Battery Park, MD, must protest the plan to destroy the unique and inviting Enid Haupt garden abutting the historic Smithsonian castle. Our 100+ members, many of whom are active public garden volunteers in the Metro area, don't believe the current proposal is rational because:

- Why unnecessarily destroy a garden that so beautifully complements the castle in order to complete needed maintenance and upgrading?
- What's the logic in removing the carefully conceived Asian, Victorian and African references to the nearby museums the Haupt garden offers?
- Why eradicate the mature plantings? Couldn't they be relocated while work is done and then returned?
- How can the environmental impact and the loss of that green space be minimized?
- Why demolish a lovely contemplative space that's unique on the mall?
- Why not improve access by employing good preservation methodology instead of tearing up buildings?
- Since one of the plan's purposes is "to increase public access to the museums and gardens," why use valuable funds to cover an existing garden with concrete?

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates?

Yes, please

From: [Mark](#)
To: commentsoncampusplan@si.edu; [Estes, Liz](#)
Cc: [Judy Feldman](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2015 4:48:10 PM

Name: Judy Scott Feldman, PhD, Chair
National Coalition to Save Our Mall
9507 Overlea Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

Comments:

The National Coalition to Save Our Mall (the Coalition) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the scope and design concepts for the Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan. The Coalition is dedicated to advancing the legacy of the National Mall through sound public policy, innovative ideas, and comprehensive visionary planning that will ensure the vitality of this historic national treasure for future generations.

The Coalition understands that the Smithsonian Institution (SI) is approaching this planning process with the goal of better unifying the various above ground and underground museum and education spaces in this part of the Mall in terms of design, visitor movement, and programming of Smithsonian functions. We appreciate SI's comprehensive approach to the entire group of buildings and gardens instead of simple building-by-building changes. However, our major concern is that the design concept, SI planning goals, and public materials fail to frame this project in the larger context of the entire National Mall, a historical and cultural resource of national importance, of which it is a part.

In addition, the three options provide only one example with modern geothermal technology, the SI's "preferred alternative." Yet geothermal and other renewal energy sources are a requirement for any new construction by federal buildings, so this presents the public with a pre-determined choice – and no realistic alternative. We suggest that SI open the review of alternatives to a whole range of mix and match features – including geothermal in all three options, or adding additional options that make use of resilient and sustainable technology.

The Smithsonian museums on the Mall's south side are an integral part of the National Mall as defined by the 1791 L'Enfant Plan and the 1902 McMillan Plan, which affects the design of the Mall, its symbolic meaning, and public use aspects of the Mall's role in our nation's public life as well as the life of the local community. The Coalition is concerned that the design concepts recently made public, the goals to unify these museums to one another but not to the Mall open space just north of this area, as well as the planning materials put out for public comment appear to treat this segment of the Mall as a separate and distinct environment unrelated to the larger Mall context. Planning for any section of the Mall, particularly the core Smithsonian area, must acknowledge and support the larger historic planning legacy and provide materials to the public that promote a comprehensive view of the Mall beyond the jurisdictional needs and authority of a single entity. We therefore offer the following comments:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->> <!--[endif]--> All planning concepts, designs, and materials provided to the public must acknowledge and give due historic preservation value to the visionary L'Enfant and McMillan plans that are the basis for the National Mall's design and symbolic unity. To ignore this important unifying Mall concept is to degrade the Mall's historical integrity and future unified quality.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->> <!--[endif]--> The SI consultant at the public meeting said he would be consulting with NPS regarding the National Register nomination for the L'Enfant Plan; however, that report is only one approach to interpreting the historic legacy and is not

complete or definitive for purposes of this project. In fact, the “National Mall” nomination prepared by NPS defines the Mall narrowly as the area between 1st and 14th Streets, which is incompatible with the historic plans and as most visitors’ experiences include the historically extended Mall. The Coalition pointed this out in 2009 to NPS and since that time NPS has said they are revising the nomination. Until we can see the revised nomination, we believe the National Register should be used with caution.

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->We emphasize that the primary resource for definition and planning is the L’Enfant Plan itself and the McMillan Plan and report issued in 1902 describing that plan’s inspiration, goals, and design concept.

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->The “area of potential effect” for this plan must include the entire National Mall of which it is a part, from Capitol Hill to the Lincoln Memorial, and from the White House to the Jefferson Memorial.

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->While it is a good idea to focus some attention on the relationship of the South Mall area to future development in the SW Ecodistrict, it is equally important to focus attention on the relationship of the South Mall to the main public space panel of the Mall – to the north. The fact that SI does not have jurisdiction, and NPS does, is no reason to ignore the crucial fact that the Mall’s public activity has historically been focused on the Mall’s open grassy areas between the museums.

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->Given the need for the larger Mall in general to be more welcoming, the SI should comment on and advocate for the creation of a more comprehensive Mall-wide plan that supports SI needs in this Master Plan and future Master Plans for museums on the north Mall, namely for public use of the grass and open space between museums currently under National Park Service jurisdiction.

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->In addition to promoting the need for a third century plan for the National Mall, the Coalition has been diligently developing plans for a multi-use facility under the grass panel adjacent to Smithsonian Castle. This National Mall Underground would provide desperately needed visitor services, such as car and bus parking, restroom facilities and a visitor center, as well as increasing resilience for the National Mall through flood control, irrigation cisterns and geothermal wells. We ask that this multi-use facility be considered in the SI’s evaluation of its Master Plan, particularly how it can serve some of SI’s future needs and the more immediate requirements that are not being addressed currently.

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->The existing Haupt Garden, only 30 years old, is one of the most beautifully designed and private areas of the Mall beloved by many visitors and locals. The Coalition understands the need to repair the leaking roof for the underground buildings on which the garden sits, but the whole concept of transforming this oasis into a lively public area intended to draw people and activity violates that inherent quality. The purpose of the Quadrangle area should not be pre-determined, rather it should be part of the public conversation about SI goals in the context of the larger Mall design, symbolism, and public use function.

In conclusion, the Smithsonian has developed some interesting ideas but seems too prepared to make major changes that only after the fact are open to public comment and review. We hope that the NEPA and Section 106 process will open all the questions of why and how to change this part of the National Mall suits the larger public interest, against which all decisions should be made.

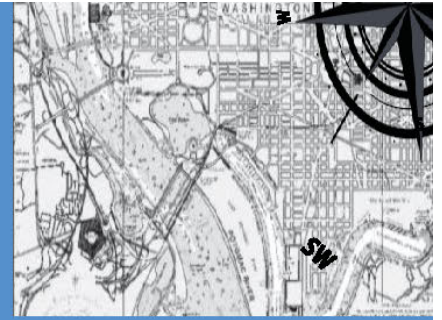
Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates?

Yes.

Mark Bennett
202-256-8824

Waterfront Gateway Neighborhood Association



January 22, 2015

Ms. Liz Edelen Estes, Project Director
Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan
c/o Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
6110 Frost Place Laurel, MD 20707

Ms. Estes:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed changes to the Smithsonian Institution's facilities between the Freer Gallery of Art and the Hirshhorn Gallery and Sculpture Garden. By way of introduction, the Waterfront Gateway Neighborhood Association (WGNA) is an affiliation of eight home owners' associations from South Capitol Street to Ninth Street, S.W., north of I (Eye) Street, S.W. to the I-395 Freeway. We are the nearest residential communities to the area described in your study.

Our concerns with the project plan are threefold:

- 1) The study emphasizes a need to refocus the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and Museum of African Art to the National Mall. We feel there needs to be a parallel focus towards Independence Avenue, S.W. with the aim that the museums embrace visitors from both the north and south in the manner of the Freer Gallery, avoiding any design tendency to "turn their backs" to Independence Avenue.
- 2) The replacement of the formal parterre gardens south of the Castle with a modernist style garden to accommodate skylights and sustainability interests is glaringly at odds with the Castle's Victorian architecture.
- 3) The removal of the Moongate Garden and Fountain Garden for the addition of public spaces with the aim of achieving "cost and space saving...(and) spaces for public gatherings and programming as well as retail and food service" would be a disappointing loss of treasured, tranquil green space which is valued by nearby residents and weary visitors alike.



With the addition of several thousand new residents within the next two years at the Wharf project directly south of the Castle, the need for park space will only increase. The redevelopment of L'Enfant Promenade/10th Street and the L'Enfant Plaza retail concourse will be providing new public gathering, retail, and restaurant opportunities for visitors that, while not necessarily in the economic interest of the Smithsonian Institution, should be considered holistically by urban planning professionals charged with the District's development.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to express our concerns.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bob Craycraft". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bob" and last name "Craycraft" clearly legible.

Bob Craycraft
Executive Director
202-812-0291

cc: Councilmember Charles Allen, Council of the District of Commissioner
Commissioner Marjorie Lightman, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6D01
Ms. Vivian Lee, AICP, Urban Planner, National Capitol Planning Commission

From: [Cynthia R Field](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments on South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Monday, January 19, 2015 5:53:23 PM

Name: Cynthia R. Field, Ph.D.

Adjunct Faculty, University of Maryland School of Architecture

Formerly Chair, Architectural History and Historic Preservation, Smithsonian Institution

Comments:

I write in response to the call for comment on the Smithsonian south Campus Plan. The overall theme of my comments is to support renovation, unification and renewal of systems. In my comments I oppose elements which I believe are unnecessary, insensitive to spirit and the fabric of the historic Smithsonian.

As to the alternatives:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->A. <!--[endif]-->As work is needed on our historic Castle, and the roof membrane of the Quadrangle needs to be repaired or replaced, Alternative A is a step back ward not forward.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->B. <!--[endif]--> Alternative B calls for lowering the surrounding walls of the Hirshhorn Museum which is an adverse effect to the integrity of the original design. I believe that it is in the spirit of the preservation process for buildings to receive the protection they will inevitably have when they are nominated and placed on the Register. They are deemed eligible. It is inappropriate for an institution dedicated to all aspects of history to treat this visible part of the National Mall, one that is well past the 50 years mark, as unprotected by the National Preservation Law.

A building already protected by being on the Register is the Freer which this plan assumes can be pierced to create a new accessible entrance. The law already provides a method to allow access in historic buildings that may require some compromise in accommodation not in damage to the historic fabric. The Freer has an on-grade access point to the left of its main Independence Avenue public entrance which will be acceptable once the guard station has been moved further into the vestibule so that this entrance can be redecorated to receive visitors.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->C. <!--[endif]-->If Alternative B fails to give enough attention to the renovation of the Castle, Alternatives C and D go too far in removing large amounts of historic fabric in the Castle. The fact that much of the story of American engineering and fire-proofing is readable in the below ground level of the Castle does not make it less worthy of protection under historic preservation law than returning the lower and upper great halls to their original lengths and heights.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->D. <!--[endif]-->Alternative D, in addition to points already made, overlooks the use of the already restored Arts and Industries Building on the faint suggestion that use for the building is uncertain. A plan as bold as this one in creative suggestion should be bold enough to suggest that the obvious place for a Visitor Center and Education Center is the shuttered Arts and Industries Building despite discussions of its use for a Latino museum. Arts and Industries is in every aspect, a more accessible and far less destructive choice for this central public function that will welcome all visitors.

The Plan calls out the importance of restoring the Castle among its three major goals.

"the proposal has three primary goals: to improve and expand visitor services and education; to create clear entrances and connections between the museums and the gardens; to replace aging building mechanical systems that have reached the end of their lifespan.

The centerpiece of the proposed South Mall Master Plan is the revitalization of the iconic Smithsonian

Castle.”

I will address these goals in reverse order in these comments starting with the Castle. The restoration of the lower Great Hall to its original length and of the upper hall to its nearly original configuration will bring responses of approval and delight among the citizens to whom the Smithsonian belongs. The demolition of the existing supporting structural elements for a Visitors Center may not cause great public outcry, but it should.

As Smithsonian Post-Doctoral Fellow, Research Associate, Consultant, Advisor to the Director of Buildings and Grounds, and Chair of Architectural History and Historic Preservation for the Institution, I devoted 35 years of intense study of this building’s architectural history. Parts of my years of study of the building focused on the structural and mechanical aspects. I came to realize how much there was to learn about the 19th century from the records and the remnants of the technologies used in this one building. One of the most outstanding American architectural historians of his generation, Dr. William Pierson, passed on to me during the last 20 years of his life, the understanding of how this one building was a focal point for the study of 19th century civil engineering. His work on the subject did not appear in print before his death, but is being prepared for publication by a colleague. Our conversations included the walls with their internal heating system, the supports, the use of early I beams, the vaulting, the efforts at and arguments around fire-proofing. How can the Smithsonian remove all of this evidence before even studying it? There is no current Historic Structures Report for this area. The Smithsonian must call for such a study from HAER before determining on any loss of fabric.

Now, in order to proceed wisely; the architects need to use current systems to study the walls, floors and ceilings to discover their structure and exact materials. For instance, historical documents show that the walls of the original building were threaded with empty spaces to act as flues for the heating system. Surely this is the time to scan these walls with electronic sensors to map their position to know which can still provide space for air conditioning tubes and system cables. What do we know of the support system of the existing piers which the plan directs should be cut out in the creation of new space? Are there the inverted arches called for in Renwick’s plan for reconstructing the middle of the building after the 1850 collapse? If so they tell a singular tale about civil engineering in the second half of the 19th century. I know of only one other such use in the period in the area—the Cathedral of Baltimore by Latrobe. ? Could the piers and their footings not be exposed in creating new basement areas?

I could not be more thrilled to see this acknowledgement of the importance of the Castle and its sad condition. I believe from my experience as the Smithsonian’s Architectural Historian that there have been no complete systematic repairs to the heating, air conditioning, roof, waste water or building water or electricity in the Castle systems since the late sixties-early seventies. If the renovation and restoration is so past due, Why, I ask, must this project be tied to the Master Plan? Surely the first consideration is not how the Castle fits in the Master Plan but what is the goal for the Castle? How is the Castle to be used? It has been a symbol of the Institution since 1892 when it was first used on the stationery. As the symbol, the building connotes a special prestige.

As the Administrative center and location of the Secretary, the building should reflect this prestige. The best uses of the public rooms of the building are for meetings, gatherings, and events. Once the spaces are restored to their original configuration and their finishes, cleared of extraneous activities, they will attract many activities by sponsors willing to pay the going fees. These are prestige venues for entertaining and for mounting special exhibitions. On the third page the Program states that BIG, “wanted to identify ways to overcome some of its (the Castle’s) shortcomings as a front door.” Among these shortcomings is “lack of space for visitor amenities.” Thus BIG suggests “creating a new, larger lower-level space for visitors.” The straightforward way to improve visitor services is to make the Arts and Industries Building the permanent, not the temporary, Center as suggested in this Master Plan. The offices of Visitor Services can be accommodated in the building in the offices of the pavilions and the towers. Moreover the building can accommodate a film theater, a café (Some years ago the Smithsonian ran a modest café around the fountain which was a huge success), and an information center with the “retail, cafes and public gathering spaces” called for on the first page of the Project Overview. All of the halls of this historic building, with a recently replaced roof and renewed windows, are accessible with no obstruction to entrance. It is imminently ready for public use, the public use defined in the Program as “the opportunity to better serve our visitors and staff.” The Arts and Industries Building began life as The National Museum. This title still appears above the door on the Mall facade. As such it is this building that is the public face of the whole public aspect of the

Smithsonian.

This building is already the nexus of the Master Plan with capacious on grade entrances opening to the Mall landscape, the Garden landscape, the Castle landscape and the Hirshhorn landscape. The above ground connections could be covered with pergolas and identified with colored brick or decorative concrete to bring them to public attention. Such additions would be reversible additions to the landscape; reversible effects are permitted to historic structures and landscapes. As it happens once robust underground connections already exist between the Freer, the Castle, the A&I and even Natural History that could be restored for greater connectivity with less demolition than creating them anew. However security must be considered; the Smithsonian could not consider having public and mechanical systems share these tunnels lest a terrorist use the public access to damage a part of the unified mechanical system. For the security of the Smithsonian above ground connections should be used for public connections and updated mechanical connections that are a goal of this project could be placed underground.

The Garden

Smithsonian history demonstrates what this call for comment will no doubt uncover—that the public cares deeply for this landscape as designed. The first iteration of the Victorian Garden was installed for the centennial year 1976. When Secretary Ripley tried to have this space reused for two new museums and an educational activity center, the Smithsonian quickly found that popular attachment to the garden was too powerful to proceed. So its retention in some form became an aspect of the Institution's request for proposal. Another concern was the historic status of the three buildings facing this new quad. Architect Jean Paul Carlhian, working with the Smithsonian Horticulturist, devised a scheme that unified the three buildings visually by deriving the mathematical proportions common to all three and using them for the design of his layout and for the entrance pavilions. In the Garden he also called for designs that reflected the cultural identities of the museums' collections with the historical characteristics each building represents. This design that makes a statement about cultural and historical values at the site is the aesthetic expression of the complex "genius loci" ("spirit of the place") which contemporary architectural theory of the time expounded. Many architects worldwide practice this approach still. Therefore, for its meaningful place in the mind of all stakeholders and for its place in the history of design of contemporary architecture, the Garden with its pavilions should be replaced once the roof membrane has been repaired. There is no reason why the new perimeter light wells cannot surround the existing old Garden design or new entrances be added to the museums in the areas between the established Garden and the Mall. Such a solution would reflect the approach BIG took at Holbaek Harbour. In Yes is More the firm praises their Danish Master Plan because "it became like a historically evolved city of DIFFERENT ARCHITECTURES FROM DIFFERENT EPOCHS." (Yes..., 211). This Master Plan could be refined to reflect the same idea on a smaller scale.

Entrances

New entrances to the museums that might attract the eye of the passing visitor on the Mall are suggested here. If this problem needs to be solved by means more drastic than good new signage, the design of new entrances might be redone without interference with the re-established Garden. The new entrances do not necessitate the demolition of the existing pavilions which could remain as back doors, much as many residences have front doors but family and visitors use the side door. The pavilions that now serve as entrances to the museums are examples of the spirit of the cultures they represent with the mathematical proportions that blend them with the common module that could be found in the three historic buildings. Why are they demolished in this plan? Their interior spaces, with their very convenient stairs and elevators, are not demolished as far as I can see in the Project drawings as published. There is no reason why the new entrances to the museums that are near the Mall would require the costly demolition of the pavilions.

The existing Garden design has many areas which can accommodate the "event spaces as well as horticultural education" mentioned in the Program, as well as the areas for rest and contemplation several people spoke of in the public meeting. I have experienced these aspects myself with my own family. There are labels identifying trees and plants, historical information on the Downing Urn, laughing children in the splash areas of the water effects. The existing Garden shares an updated Romanticism with the landscaped areas of the Mary Ripley Garden, the Joseph Henry statue entry sequence, the Rose Garden, and much of the Hirshhorn landscape. So the goals of the Program for this area can all be achieved without the radical change to a new and as yet undesigned garden plan

requiring a great deal of design review before it could be accepted.

The Hirshhorn

The Hirshhorn too is an example of a recognized period in architectural history, in this case the unfortunately named Brutalist style which took its inspiration from the late work of le Corbusier. In the case of the Hirshhorn, architect Gordon Bunshaft was, according to his biographer Carole H. Krinsky, particularly concerned with raising the enclosed mass of the building off the ground four massive piers instead of a larger number of columns. This raising of the body again recalls the Brutalist style which was so influenced by the work of Le Corbusier who used stilts called "pilotis." As I see the building denuded of its wall in the BIG design, I realize that that the wall gives the museum a connection to the earth that prevents it from appearing to be a "flying saucer" that landed on the Mall and put out its landing gear. Whatever was in the architect's intention in creating the enclosure, it was his decision and his design that created the walls. It is integral to the original concept.

The Hirshhorn's appearance from the Mall was of vital interest. At first there was a conflict between a sculpture garden running from the Hirshhorn to the National Archives which was solved by turning it to the east west axis. In this new sunken garden Krinsky states that "the sculpture was place in a sunken court surrounded by a wall kept low enough to preserve the view from the Archives to the museum." (Bunshaft, 255). There were discussions at that time that would prevent the alterations to the garden proposed in this Program. Krinsky indicates that the agreement to allow the garden on the Mall would have had to have been worked out with the leadership of the Commission of Fine arts to permit the garden as long as the lines of sight along the Mall were preserved. The two design solutions for preserving the visual sweep of the Mall for those within its boundaries were pulling the museum building up on a platform which steps back from the Mall and sinking the sculpture garden. These gestures remain important to the preservation of our landmark McMillan Plan, a concern for NCPC, the Advisory Council, the National Park service and the Commission of Fine Arts.

Conclusion

To be clear, there is much of value in this plan and much that must be curtailed. The plan highlights the urgent need to save and restore the Castle and urges the renewal and co-ordination of mechanical, water, electric, heat and A/C systems throughout the buildings of the South Quad. The plan also highlights the need for a capacious central Visitor Center and Education Center, but then ignores the Arts and Industries Building as a site in favor of torturing the first building of the Institution to provide a site. The stability of the Castle should be re-engineered from a point of understanding the existing structure, which has not yet determined. For the Garden and the Hirshhorn, destruction of the Bunshaft and Carlhian designs impoverishes the design history of the landscape and architecture of the south Mall Campus and plays havoc with the national preservation process. The interesting goal of connectivity has been realized without distinction between services and visitor services, a mistake in regard to internal Smithsonian security. Connecting visitors to museums and programs is good for the Smithsonian and can be accomplished with a modified design done calling for less destruction and less excavation, in harmony with existing tunnels, pathways and gardens to achieve the goal.

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Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates? **Yes at fieldcy@gmail.com**

From: [ELLEN MALASKY](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Cc: [Tracy Hale](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Tuesday, December 16, 2014 10:56:16 PM

Name: Ellen Malasky, Co-Chair, Government and Tourism Committee, Guild of Professional Tour Guides of Washington DC

Comments:

I attended the briefing this evening at the Smithsonian Castle. The plans are very ambitious and creative. I think they would encourage more of our tours to visit the gardens and the museums of the south campus. I had to leave a bit early but did hear a response to one question which seemed to encourage buses to drop at the south gate. As guides, we would welcome, in fact cheer, the ability to have buses let off and load passengers on Independence Avenue. This would afford tourists the opportunity to access the Mall through the gardens as well as peek their interest in visiting the south campus museums.

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates? Yes.

Ellen Malasky
202 549-5171
tourdcwithellen.com
ellenguide1@gmail.com
Board Member, Guild of Professional Tour Guides of Washington, DC
Board Member, National Federation of Tourist Guide Associations

From: [Karley Klopfenstein](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: South Mall Master Campus Plan
Date: Thursday, January 15, 2015 1:20:52 PM

The proposals involve extensive, arguably unnecessary alterations to the Smithsonian Castle, the Hirshhorn Museum and Garden, the Freer and Sachler Galleries, the National Museum of African Art, the Arts and Industries Building, the Mary Ripley Garden and the Enid Haupt Garden and its Renwick Gates.

There are four proposals on the table. The most extreme, Alternative D, noted on the website, should be tabled by the Smithsonian.

For no other reason than costs—now estimated at \$1.5-\$2-billion at a time of US budgetary restraints—these proposals should NOT be taken seriously by friends of the Smithsonian as well as by various government agencies that would be involved in the review of the projects' questionable features.

The most disturbing proposals call for major projects described as “improvements”-among them:

*Undertaking a major seismic upgrade and underground expansion of the historic Smithsonian Castle that could endanger its structure and its internal fabric. The plan for extensive visitor amenities underneath the Castle could more wisely be directed to the adjacent Arts and Industries Building that is currently unused.

* Destruction of the two jewel-like pavilions adjacent to Independence Avenue that serve as entrances to the Sackler Gallery and the National Museum of African Art. These structures were opened to the public as recently as 1987 and blend contextually into the Haupt Garden, the Arts and Industries Building, and foremost, the Castle's southern facade. The pavilions would be replaced by two glass entryways facing the National Mall.

* Elimination of the entire beloved Haupt Garden and the entryway Renwick Gates) for a contemporary design purposed for varied “activities” rather than relaxation and contemplation as the Garden now serves.

*Removal of the Mary Ripley serpentine-shaped, specimen garden that inspires professionals and amateurs alike with its seasonal plant specimens.

*Lowering the surrounding walls of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden and the centerpiece fountain would dramatically alter the integrity of its original design and its integral architectural relationship to the museum building itself.

Finally, as observers point out, there are a number of needed, priority projects to enable the Smithsonian to meet its mission for the 21st Century .

These should include:

Restoration and repairs of the Smithsonian Castle that has had no infrastructure work performed over the past 44 years.

Replacement of the roof of the Quadrangle Pavilion below the Haupt Garden, which would be returned to its present footprint and design..

Provide minimal seismic improvements at the Castle.

Eliminate “infill” offices and facilities (added to the underground Quadrangle Pavilion since 1987), thus creating substantial new gallery space for museum exhibitions and programming.

Reopen the existing passageway from the Museum to the Sculpture Garden which has been

used for other museum needs.

Place prominent directional signs to the Sackler Gallery and the Museum of African Art at two points: Independence Avenue and the

walkways leading from the National Mall.

--

Karley Klopfenstein
Director of Institutional Giving, Strategy, and Evaluation
American Folk Art Museum
47-29 32nd Place
Long Island City, NY 11101
tel. 212-265-1040, Ext. 318



From: [Melissa Barkalow](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Monday, January 19, 2015 2:23:29 PM

Name: **Melissa Barkalow**

Comments:

I have been in the Castle on occasion and it is in terrible condition with peeling paint and stonework on the façade crumbling in places. I have been told that the renovation of the building has been put off for over twenty years and that the mechanical systems are failing almost on a daily basis. If this is true, funds should be directed to restoring this National Historic Landmark and not wasted on a 2 billion dollar fantasy. The plan to excavate two stories under the Castle for an underground visitor's center is not only misguided but could very well undermine the structure of the building. Meanwhile, the Arts and Industries Building, which would be a perfect place for a visitor center, education center, and venue for special exhibits, sits empty and unusable. The Smithsonian says it is unable to raise the money to re-open this historically and architecturally important building, but thinks it can raise 2 billion dollars for this?

The Haupt Garden is one of the most beautiful gardens in Washington and should be put back as is after the Quad roof is repaired. The Renwick Gates which open into the garden from Independence Avenue need to be retained because even though they weren't built until 1989, they were designed by the architect of the building James Renwick in 1849 for that very location.

The Mary Ripley Garden is a jewel of a garden and should not be destroyed for this ill-conceived project.

I have never had any difficulty finding exhibits in either the Sackler Gallery or Museum of African Art. They are easily reached through the two beautifully designed pavilions which this plan proposes to tear down as well.

It is unbelievable that the designers of this project, while professing admiration for one of America's leading architects Gordon Bunschaft of Skidmore Owings and Merrill, would propose to tear down the walls around the Hirshhorn Museum, a building he designed! To destroy the building's integrity is thoughtless and unnecessary.

Questions:

Why is the castle repairs and updates being delayed?

Would you like to receive project updates?

From: [Wendy Blair](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comment on SI campus plan
Date: Thursday, January 29, 2015 1:30:54 PM
Attachments: [Wendy Blair Smithsonian letter Jan 30, 2015.doc](#)

Dear Sirs,
I have attached my comments in a letter herewith, and also in a document attachment.
Yours sincerely,
Wendy Blair

316 8th Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003-2109

Thursday, January 30, 2015

Comments on Campus Plan

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for asking for comments from the general public. I live in DC and frequent all the museums, gardens, and grassy spaces with benches – as well as musical performances, picnics, concerts, festivals – food, folk life and books – commemorations of history, anniversaries, national holidays and press conferences – in short EVERYTHING that goes on inside and outside all the Smithsonian buildings citywide. Here are my comments:

1. Your strategic plan (vision statement) is written in the non-English verbiage peculiar to bureaucrats, lawyers, survey-writers and those who master the art of saying little. For a famous, national institution you write like an ignorant undergraduate – giving a reader no confidence that you could possibly even aspire to, let alone realize, your goal of “**Shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world**”.
2. It is far from self-evident that there is a need for connecting South Campus museums – I take it to enable a flow of patrons from one to the next, as you describe it: *‘Integrated planning for projects within the South Mall Campus will allow the Smithsonian to optimize the benefits of connections between the projects...’*.
3. Neither have you explained either what cost and space-saving synergies between

facilities would be (“to take advantage of cost and space saving synergies between facilities”);

4. Or in exactly what ways your Master Plan actually needs expensively to tear up existing gardens and walls to “... *improve and expand visitor services and education by providing spaces for public gatherings and programming as well as retail and food services*”.
5. I agree that you must address the many structural failings of buildings, which, as you repeatedly but vaguely state, “*have come to the end of their useful life*”. These are the failings of all buildings older than about 30 years, and of course the Castle, and others, are much older. Heat, cooling, asbestos, lighting and underpinnings – all must be removed, replaced, repaired, shored up, modernized, reinstalled – in a word, renovated.
6. You nowhere state what is currently missing or amiss in your current visitor services and education, that they should need radical improvement and change in the form of building structures. Surely if anything is missing – which is not evident -- it would consist of the qualifications and depth of imagination of your staff.
7. Your stated mission is ***The Increase and diffusion of knowledge***. Yet nowhere do you mention intellectual qualifications of staff and scholarship – the most important element, surely, in your grandiose mission statement: *Explore and bring to light new knowledge and ideas, and better ways of doing business*. Your plans are all buildings and hardscape. Did you not even imagine that you need intellectual capital – not primarily buildings – to realize your goals for the Smithsonian Institution as a national and international scientific and cultural institution? (I note your plan announced January 2015 to open a branch in London, England.)
8. Has the Castle ever been the “heart” of the Smithsonian Institution? Not to the public, at least. Your goal, “**Restoration and revitalization of the Castle and its repositioning as the heart of the Smithsonian**”, appears unrealistic and quixotic, especially when realizing it involves the expensive destruction of so much of your current South campus.
9. Moreover, your plan seems entirely to lack awareness of what you already have. You are like someone in a Fable by Aesop, greedily reaching for a two billion dollar renovation without realizing that what currently exists is priceless. Your older buildings can be renovated modestly; existing spaces already serve visitors well; and the exquisite collections of your specialized museums – Asian, African, modernist – attract both specialist and amateur viewers. These are collections for special audiences. They cannot attract vastly larger audiences by radical changes to buildings. Why are you not realistic about the already realized potential, of these already stellar museums?
10. Once you obliterate the Ripley Garden and the Haupt Garden you will have a so-called open structure, facilitating a supposed “flow” of visitors among very different experiences, as if large volume and high visitor statistics were measures of success (didn’t you know that an hour or two are what the viewer can take in during one visit?).

11. ***"The Haupt Garden is actually a green roof over the Quad and needs to be completely removed to correct chronic leaks"***, you say. No it doesn't. By all means fix the leaks in the roofs below the exquisite Victorian parterres of the Haupt garden – a jewel more valuable than the Hope Diamond! – and easier for everyone to get to. You envision "events" in its place. A skating rink? The Mall already has one, whose ice lasts little time in our brief winters.
12. Furthermore, the Ripley Garden amounts to a tiny national shrine. It depends on shade. You seem to have little feeling for the pleasures of these gardens, one of which is that of discovery. The Ripley is subtle, exquisite, brilliant, and tucked away, yet utterly accessible. All its colorful, imaginative, inventive native plantings act-out, dramatize, show-and-tell important horticultural and botanical lessons at a post-graduate level! Destroy the wall between it and the Hirschhorn and you've killed one of your greatest (small, but huge in beauty, sanctuary and spiritual depth) treasures. **DON'T DO IT.**
13. Surely you do not mean it when you say **"Gardens and building fronts are dark and intimidating at night, which discourages public use"**. The Smithsonian Institution is not open at night and gardens are "used" during daylight hours only.
14. By all means do enhance the openness and accessibility of buildings. Use more affordable yet thoroughly modern means such as signage, lighting, different walkways, added loading docks – all the practical things you need.
15. By all means make necessary alterations to the Hirschhorn and its magnificent sunken sculpture garden, to allow visitors to enter from the Mall.
16. By all means do improve and expand visitor services and amenities including retail and food services. But do it within existing spaces. And please do it the way the National Gallery of Art has done it, by offering delicious, healthy food at a reasonable price.
17. PLEASE -- in reaching for your modernist, minimalist, slick-looking, openness-enhancing renovation, which seeks enormous funding and hopes for ever larger crowds and international renown -- do not kill the goose; lose the cheese; perish – like a little Aesopian animal who failed to use his or her brain.

Yours sincerely,

Wendy Blair

From: blanton.jack@gmail.com
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Thursday, January 15, 2015 1:28:15 PM

Name: Jack Blanton

Comments: This entire plan is both ridiculous in its design and unnecessary costs. This would ruin the gardens, site lines, AND the ingenious entrances to the museums. We don't need a theme park on the Mall. NOTHING IS BROKE; SO DON'T FIX.

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates?

Jack Blanton
202 Mariner Court
North Palm Beach, FL 33408
561.840.2080
cell 804.690.5429
blanton.jack@gmail.com

sent from my iPad

From: [Lorna Borri](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 2:03:11 PM

Name: Lorna J. Borri

Comments:

I beg you to use B or A. C or D are ghastly. As it is the Sackler glass entrances are welcoming, the Haupt Garden is human sized, intimate and totally in harmony with the Castle and Art & Industry architecture. I dearly love it as it is. Let us not repeat the tragedy of the 1960's!

Questions: No

Would you like to receive project updates? Yes

From: [David Brussat](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Monday, January 05, 2015 12:55:11 PM

Name: David Brussat

Comments: In a time of some austerity, I don't believe the federal government should be hiring celebrity architects to bring fashionable design to beloved places deeply embedded in the American psyche. This applies more than anything to the Mall and the Smithsonian. They should be kept in good repair, of course, with technological updates that help citizens enjoy and learn from its spaces and its museums. But new architecture there should respect the historical features of the Mall. Too much erosion of its classical style, as proposed in the McMillan report, has already occurred over the years, and if anything the stewards of the Mall and the Smithsonian should be trying to undo earlier mistakes rather than adding to them.

I append a link to my post on this subject from my blog Architecture Here and There:

<http://architecturehereandthere.com/2014/12/02/national-mall-bjarke-ingels-big/>

Many thanks for your consideration.

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates?

From: RBUSCH1520@aol.com
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Thursday, January 01, 2015 8:46:42 PM

Name: Comments: Questions: Would you like to receive project updates?

Question: As you know, the Castle and the Arts and Industries Building are listed on the National Register and are also individual National Historic Landmarks. Did BIG prepare an Historic Resources Report identifying the effects of each alternative on the Castle and A&I and the surrounding open space and grounds identifying all potential adverse effects? If so, please tell me how to access it.

Richard Busch
1520 Caroline Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Rbusch1520@AOL.COM

202.462.0948

From: [Terry Carter](#)
To: [Estes, Liz](#)
Subject: South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2014 8:28:41 AM

Ms. Estes,

We have read about the new master plan for the SI South Mall Campus and am adamantly opposed to it. We are local residents and long-time supporters of the SI, and are aware that the Castle is in bad need of infrastructural maintenance. Moreover, we both walk through the Haupt Garden every weekday – twice – and find it to be one of the most lovely oases in the District of Columbia. Enid Haupt would not want to see this lovely year-round garden turned into the strange patch of grass envisioned. You should respect her intentions of the endowment. A lot of this plan seems to stem from the concept that this will help people find their way to the Sackler and African Art museums. When we first moved here, we learned about these museums and found them to be harder to locate than other museums. Imagine the city of Paris, France, carving up the city to help people better find the catacombs. It's nonsensical. Cutting a hole in the east side of the Freer to allow access from the building directly into the garden for accessibility is a very bad idea. Cutting into the building is not good preservation methodology and while the building has an accessible entrance in the rear, a better solution should be sought. And the Hirshhorn already has an underground connection from the main building to the sculpture garden, but it too was infilled over the years for office space and classrooms. Move

The South Campus is one of the most delightful parts of the city and a surprise to those who first visit it. It's that unique. The SI doesn't need to fix the monstrosity of the Forrester Bunker; it wasn't your mistake. We urge the SI to invest money in shoring up the Castle, providing better signage for the Sackler and African Art museums, and finding better usage of the Arts & Industries building, perhaps by using it as a visitor center, gift shop, and perhaps classrooms for the Hirshhorn to reopen the tunnel.

Terry Carter
Julie Moore
Washington, DC

From: [Mike Cassidy](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 5:31:23 PM

Name: Michael W. Cassidy

Comments:

- > It is with great sorrow that I write to request that the so-called South Mall Campus Master Plan be abandoned.
- > The continual redesigning of the Smithsonian complex just to appeal to donors' egos is appalling, particularly when the essential
- > mission of the Smithsonian is being neglected. General maintenance of buildings, educational outreach and research appear to be a
- > few of the areas that deserve your attention.
- >
- > I have been associated with the Institution for over 60 years. I visited as a child and was inspired by the focus on exhibits and research.
- > I have been a volunteer and given freely of my time. I have worked for this beloved Institution.
- >
- > And I have placed the Institution in my will. But now that I see this proposal, that decision is in question.
- >
- > I urge you to focus on the mission of this great institution.

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates?

From: [Estella Chung](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: comments on South Mall Campus Master plan
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2015 2:49:46 PM

January 28, 2015

These comments are submitted for the comment period. When I clicked on the box "click here to submit comments and questions" on <http://www.southmallcampus.si.edu/>, the page did not direct to a place to submit questions, and likewise when I clicked on commentsoncampusplan@si.edu on the same page. So I submit in this manner and I kindly request these are directed to the appropriate person with many thanks.

It is always exciting to invest in the Mall and in our national and local community. So I express my enthusiasm for the consideration of putting resources towards culture, history, and the arts. For the South Mall Campus Master Plan, please consider the following

- please include directional signs to the Sackler and Museum of African Art at Independence Ave and walkways leading to the Mall
- the Hirshhorn building and garden were designed to speak in a particular way, and lowering the walls of the garden alters the intent of the original design
- the Smithsonian Castle warrants basic seismic upgrades and infrastructure repairs
- the Arts and Industry building is under used and could be a better venue for visitor services rather than the Castle.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Estella Chung
Silver Spring, MD

From: dwc4001@aol.com
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 3:00:53 PM

Name: Dennis Wayne Chupella

it seems to me that the Castle is truly in need of renovation...however some of the other proposed projects seem wrong and against historic preservation

Comments:

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates?

From: josephdebor@verizon.net
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Public Comment Sout Mall Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 4:14:36 PM

21 Jan. 2015

The Smithsonian Institution was established in 1846 "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge." The proposed South Mall Campus Master Plan NEPA (Section 106) has absolutely nothing to do with the diffusion of knowledge.

As a five year member of the Arlington County Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board I feel that the proposed design is not compatible with surrounding buildings and eliminates the beautiful Victorian Garden.

I recommend developing a new design based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (codified in 36 CFR 67) for buildings such as the aging Smithsonian Castle. The [Standards](#) are a series of concepts about maintaining, repairing, and replacing historic materials, as well as designing new additions or making alterations.

Sincerely,

Joseph DeBor (Arlington, Virginia) josephdebor@verizon.net

From: [John](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Thursday, January 08, 2015 3:30:02 PM

Name: Sabina Dugan, Independent Historian and former Historic Preservation Specialist at the Smithsonian Institution (1997-2005)

Comments:

I was quite interested in reviewing the proposed South Mall Campus Master Plan as a preservationists and as a concerned citizen. Upgrading outdated and failing mechanical and roof systems of the buildings should be the top priority of this project. While the proposed plans (Alternatives A through D) address aspects of these needed system upgrades, the focus or aim of the proposed scope of work appears to be the visitor's experience. The assumption is made that visitors can not find the entrances to several buildings (African Art and Sackler Gallery in particular), need more amenities and are confused by the overall layout and division of spaces. It seems to me that the most obvious solution is overlooked; the fact that the Arts and Industries Building remains closed to the public and serves no useful function, even though it is a National Historic Landmark building and is to visitors just as iconic as the Smithsonian Castle building is. I would argue that the Castle is the symbol of the Smithsonian Institution, not the gateway to the Smithsonian, as the Master Plan states. Wouldn't it make more sense to preserve the Castle as is and open the Arts and Industries Building as a Visitors' Center? The close proximity of the two buildings, and their iconic designs make them perfect partners in welcoming the public to the Smithsonian along the Mall. Once the interior restoration of the Arts and Industries Building is completed, it will offer an unparalleled space for revolving exhibitions and visitor amenities. Furthermore, I think it is a mistake to alter the Enid Haupt Garden. In every season, visitors enjoy meandering through the gardens as Mrs. Haupt had envisioned, and it is hard to believe that visitors can not find the entrances to African Art and the Sackler Gallery. Confusion seems to arise more by the fact that the buildings/ collections are underground. Perhaps better signage is needed to direct visitors, but as a general rule it seems to me that most people do not enter one museum with the expectation of being able to connect underground to other museums. Often sight lines in museums have been obscured over time by having spaces, originally intended as galleries, infilled for staff use. Perhaps reopening such spaces would improve visitor flow. Finally, I would also like to express my objection to altering the exterior fabric of the Freer Gallery and the Hirschhorn Museum. In both cases it creates an adverse affect to the original design with little gain, and, for the Hirschhorn Gallery, alters the building's integrity as it relates to the design of the Mall. Thank you very much for taking my comments into consideration.

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates? yes, I would be very interested in following the progress of this plan

From: [Franny Eberhart](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 12:16:33 PM

Name: Frances Eberhart

Comments: The first priority, regardless of schemes for reorganization or expansion, should be the preservation and restoration of The Castle. As a National Historic Landmark, by one of America's premier architects, the structure deserves nothing less, certainly not a scheme that is ominously entitled No Action. There is no necessity to link such essential work to the interventions outlined in the other proposals. As for the design, in New York at Lincoln Center a triangular raised lawn like the ones in Proposal D has been constructed on the plaza in front of the Vivian Beaumont Theater. It is useless, and a jarring obstruction on what was once an elegant and contemplative public space. Last seen it was cordoned off by yellow caution tape. The Smithsonian should reconsider its approach to this exceedingly important landmark and its quadrangle, and put the emphasis on preservation.

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates?

From: [Ed Eckstrand](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2014 7:12:34 PM

Name: Ed Eckstrand

Comments:

1. The current plan has several important and needed features. Of note is improved access to the underground complex housing the Asian and African collections, and if I understand plans correctly, improved space for both. A key feature seems to be improving pedestrian flow around the complex.
2. The current plan appears to remove a) the Victorian Garden, b) The Moon Garden to the west, and c) the small fountains and walk to the east of the Victorian Garden. It also appears to created a walkway cutting across the Mary Ripley garden, connecting the Hirshorn and the Arts and Industry Building. They will be replaced with other garden features.
3. These features are beloved and necessary components of the Smithsonian complex. They are beloved and necessary specifically because they restrict the flow of traffic, giving both transient and frequent visitors a place of relaxation and contemplation, in an area peculiarly without such places.
4. Newspaper reports assert that the Smithsonian feels that the plan for redeveloping and “greening” the area across Independence Avenue will provide an alternate area for relaxation. However:
 - a. There is no guarantee that this part of the Capitol Plan will occur, or that the legal and renovation challenges that the Capitol Plan engenders will be overcome. That area is heavily populated with large office buildings, both owned by the Federal government and by private investors.
 - b. If it does occur, there is every likelihood that the space will become another grotto for memorials and monuments, as has happened in many other portions of the Mall area, eliminating the space as a respite.
 - c. No matter how “spectacular” the replacement features are, they will not be the features that they replace, nor can they hope to create the same atmosphere, because they do not interfere with traffic flow. As one example, the walkway across the Mary Ripley garden will both interrupt the the enjoyment of the garden and push more people into it, further degrading the experience. A raised walkway over the Ripley might be a solution.
5. Improved pedestrian flow still necessary. However, this plan without modification will destroy some the the unique and charming characteristics of the current complex. I suggest that the current pedestrian flow in and around the Air and Space Museum provides a sense of what unrestricted access might create.

6. There appear to be alternatives to accessing the underground complex. I suggest access through the Arts and Industry Building and/or the Freer as a starting point.
7. Having visited that area for decades and having my place of business in that area for over fifteen years, I suggest that you explore alternatives. On an everyday basis, the eliminated areas are too important to disappear. While the sensibilities of short-term visitors must be considered, the plan ought to accommodate those who frequent the area as well. The current plan cannot accomplish that.

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates?

Only if the current gardens are retained.

From: [Ronald Eichner](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Friday, January 30, 2015 6:46:29 PM

Name: Ronald Eichner

Comments: This is a fine design for a park, but it is not nearly as interesting or appropriate as the garden that is there now. Please restore the garden, improve the entrances to the underground museums and be done with it.

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates?

From: jlgfern@aol.com
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Thursday, January 22, 2015 10:06:54 AM

Name: Janet Fernandez, Chevy Chase MD. I would hate to see the Victorian garden behind the castle disappear. I do not like such style but it is perfect for representing the time of the building which I feel is important as a piece of history of the city.

From: [Finn, Bernard](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2015 1:42:03 PM

Name: Bernard Finn (curator emeritus, NMAH)

Comments:

1. I am concerned that it is both expensive and inefficient to squeeze new facilities into existing structures.
2. There is a very real possibility that the much-needed upgrades will be held hostage to other goals, with the result that they are delayed for significant periods of time.
3. I think it makes much more sense to expand our vision southward instead of downward. Explore the possibilities (and opportunities) of being a partner in the development that is almost certainly going to take place south of Independence Avenue

Thank you for the opportunity to make these observations.

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates? Yes. Thank you.

From: finktank86@gmail.com
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 7:52:37 AM

Name:

Comments:

Although I am pleased with many aspects of the plan, I urge you to reconsider the design for the garden. This new design does not mesh well with the historic buildings and landscape around it. It is too modern and angular and takes away from the gothic revival architecture of the Castle Building. Please consider keeping the garden design closer to the way it is now.

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates? Yes

From: [James A. Francis](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2014 12:31:14 PM

Name: James A Francis

Comments:

-- Taking out the Victorian garden would be a sad loss. It is a delightful, quiet, pretty, and human-scale space on the middle of bustling, monumental Washington. I enjoy going there to get a break from the city (I live in Alexandria during the summer, and so am both tourist and resident). The provocative, turned-up whatever-it-is proposal is neither welcoming, nor serene, nor beautiful. It will also eliminate a lot of sitting space and screw up the sight lines from the garden. I urge you NOT to adopt that particular piece of the plan!

-- Creating a common underground space to link the castle, the Sackler, African art, etc. makes enormous good sense. If a new, attractive, and attention-getting entrance is placed on the Mall side, visitors can be channeled into that common space and have readier and more obvious access to the Freer, Sackler, African, etc., and it would provide expanded exhibit space for those and Arts & Industries. Think of the space under the pyramid at the Louvre. Such a space could also provide underground access to the metro Smithsonian stop, giving visitors easier access and regress in bad weather. (That would, I realize, require some very good luck in negotiating with WMATA.)

-- In sum, keep the garden and keep it in a harmonious Historian style. Focus on creating a unified, connected, and enlarged underground space. Create a new "main entrance" to the complex on the Mall side. Connect the underground complex to Metro.

-- Do not be seduced by "shock and awe" design projects above ground.

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates? Yes

From: [Michael Franck](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 8:35:19 AM

Name: Michael Franck

Comments: Scheme B is the best option as it respects and preserves what is an important quad which is appropriately scaled and detailed for the current space. There are few, if any, quads in DC and this one is beautiful. Visitors have a sense of enclosure in this quad which is a nice contrast to the vastness of the Mall. Scheme C & D speak against the timeless principles expressed by the Smithsonian. This design will become dated in 10 years and will not wear well in stark contrast to the timeless design of the existing quad which still looks good after 25 years. Why destroy a beautiful space to make something less appropriate and expensive? I understand the desire to build but why not do something in a place that has nothing or actually needs work rather than in a space that is already nice? Clearly repairs need to be made and perhaps a connecting can be made from the Castle to the underground portions of the building/museum. But please bag the curled up ends as they might look great in a rendering but they are barriers to one using the quad.

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates? Yes please.

From: [Terry Grant](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 11:18:04 AM

Name: Terry Grant Charlottesville, VA

Comments:

I am in favor of any infrastructural improvements and restorations that can be made without disturbing the gardens and buildings of the quadrangle. This probably means A or B.

Please do not destroy one of the most beloved corners of Washington! It is a gem, a welcoming, human scale oasis full of rich pleasures, intimate spaces, whimsical historical references. It is a feast for the senses and the mind, a wonderfully harmonious interplay of history, architecture, landscape and plant material. Why deprive people of such joys?

Remember that Carnegie Hall and Grand Central Station were almost destroyed in the name of “efficiency”, “integration” and “circulation”.

The “green space” (a term Enid Haupt would have detested) designed by Bjarke Ingels Group looks like a flying carpet landing from outer space. I can tell already that it’s not a habitable, usable space. To destroy the Sackler buildings and the Haupt garden for the sake of providing a titillating “peek” at the galleries below is misguided and wrong-headed.

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates? Yes, please

From: [Allan Greenberg](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Sunday, January 04, 2015 10:29:31 PM

Name: Allan Greenberg

Comments:

From:

Allan Greenberg

Allan Greenberg, Architect

New York & Alexandria, VA

Re: Proposal for Smithsonian South Mall Buildings and Gardens

I don't think any one of the four alternative plans you present does the job that is required.

To me, the most pressing task is a head-to-toes repair and restoration the Smithsonian Castle. The building has been neglected for four or five decades. Its systems need replacement with state of the art equipment, the building's fabric has deteriorated and its condition will continue to worsen at an ever increasing rate.

I have to believe a great institution like the Smithsonian is fully aware of this situation. It is one which should not be acceptable for a one of the oldest building on the Mall, which also a National Historic Landmark.

Alternative A calls for no work, despite the poor state of the historic Castle and problems with the roofing of the Quadrangle.

Alternative B takes care of the quadrangle roof and restores Enid Haupt's beautiful Garden. I think that the Renwick Gates should remain. But lowering the surrounding walls of the Hirshhorn Museum is a much more serious question than your staff and design team suggest. Everyone who visits the museum regularly to study the wonderful collection and the thoughtful touring exhibitions knows that the open sculpture display on the Mall, which I for one find so much more satisfying than the National Gallery's fenced sculpture park, knows that the high wall is a key element in Gordon Bunshaft's design. Many think it is out of key with the openness of the Mall.

How would lowering this wall impact the integrity of the original design? Are there other ways to solve this problem? For example, one could transform the concrete walls into a wall of flowers, such as the one at the San Francisco Conservatory's Wall of Flowers or Jeff Koons' Puppy Dog sculpture. Perhaps then the walls would be an asset? And for much less money.

I also believe there are also better ways to provide the Freer with an accessible entrance without compromising the integrity of Charles Platt's sublime building.

Alternative C and D are dominated by a new garden with raised corners. Sadly, your presentation of the architectural and planning challenge is so diagrammatic and so short on hard information no one can really not make an informed judgment on any aspect of your proposal. This is unfair to the tax paying public and to all of us who use and love the Mall. While my instinct is to define your proposal as a series of architectural one-liners and glib solutions to serious challenges, all on a site surrounded by historic buildings, I don't want to be unfair to the architects.

The complexity, especially of aesthetic challenges is largely ignored. And descriptions of solutions are also obfuscations. For example, Option D offers a renovation of the Castle, but I suspect that it is not the complete job that is necessary and which your description appears to suggest. Do the raised corners may solve access problems, or light galleries? One simply does not know. The blame for this must fall on the shoulders of the Smithsonian Steering Committee whose members has not done an acceptable job of communicating with the public. Is this all we get for an expenditure of \$3.5 million.

Allan Greenberg

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates?

From: [Carol Groves](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 11:48:58 AM

Name: Carol Groves

Comments:

I am against your proposal to tear down and remake the Haupt Garden. The garden is lovely as designed. I spend many hours in the garden and can't imagine the proposed design improving over what is already a beautiful garden. The new design curves up in the corners - which means less space and has no street appeal that I can see.

Monies must be spent on repairing the exterior including peeling paint and crumbling stonework. A visitor's center would be well suited to the Arts and Industries Building - no need to spend billions digging underground. If the exterior is crumbling then I can imagine the mechanicals need updating too.

Please spend the money on repairs and maintenance. The current design is lovely and historic.

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates?

Yes - but hope the project does not move forward as currently planned.

From: [Cynthia Guggemos](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Tuesday, December 16, 2014 8:16:07 PM

Name: Cynthia Guggemos

Comments:

It looks perfectly awful, and you will be destroying a lovely garden

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates? No, because i think you are going to ram this thing through no matter what.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Wande Johnson](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: South Campus Renovation
Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 8:35:49 PM

As a young Washingtonian, I am frightened by the proposed renovation plan as it stands. While the 2 billion dollar price tag is large, this is not my primary concern. The plan to excavate two stories under the Castle for an underground visitor's center is not only misguided but could destroy the structure of the building. In addition there are available spaces such as the Arts and Industries Building, which would be a perfect place for a visitor center, education center, and venue for special exhibits, and sits empty and ready for refurbishment.

The Mary Ripley and Haupt Gardens are some of the most beautiful gardens in Washington. They are enjoyed by locals (especially runners like me) and visitors alike.

Let's make this a thoughtful and sensical process and consider other alternatives that could ensure the beauty of our national treasures for generations to come.

Best,
Yewande Johnson, MD

From: [Julie Kerr Comcast](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Friday, January 30, 2015 5:20:27 PM

Name: Julia Campbell Kerr

Comments: Please, please, please preserve the Ripley Garden. It is a small oasis of creative horticulture in a sea of buildings. Gardeners find it inspiring for its artistry and plant choices. Those who don't care about plants recognize its beauty, and know it as a haven from the urban environment. The Haupt Garden is also a place of beauty, refuge, and refreshment. Don't destroy these existing gems in pursuit of an expensive redo that will just add more hardscape to the city.

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates?

From: [Anne Kraemer](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Haupt Garden
Date: Monday, January 26, 2015 4:39:36 PM

Looking at the preposed plan for the Smithsonian campus, I was very disappointed in the elimination of the Haupt Garden in favor of a space for "more active, event spaces". I think the Haupt Garden is one of the most inviting and beautiful gardens in the city. I understand the need to correct the leaks, but not putting back the wonderful plantings and restful benches is a mistake. I understand that you hope to get more visitors to the Sackler and African Art museums with these changes, but the loss of this garden is a mistake.

Anne Kraemer
DC resident and Smithsonian member

From: WKuhl@saratogaassociates.com
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan&body=Name: Comments: Questions: Would you like to receive project updates
Date: Monday, January 19, 2015 5:41:31 PM

Comments:

Big's South mall Campus Master Plan proposal for the Smithsonian Mall campus, includes four interesting iterations of their main concept for making needed repairs to the Quad roof, upgrading the physical plant and improving access and expanding gallery space. However, in all their iterations they have focused on a singular bold concept of a warped roof plan, that has become known as the "potato chip" by critics, that is also to serve as an outdoor venue. The proposed design does achieve some significant and desirable outcomes, such as daylighting expanded gallery space below grade, and providing framed views of the Washington Monument. However, the warped ground plane, with upturned, lighted corners, is a jarring solution for a site surrounded by many significant buildings in their own right, such as the Ripley Building (Smithsonian), the Hirshhorn, and the Sackler. The proposed structure appears to be trying too hard to be a building in its own right, in a location where the Quad is really more about the site. Of particular concern is the "dip". Visually this design would appear to create some real disconnects. A major example would be the illusion, that the massive historic and stately Ripley Building would now appear to be floating on a modern architectural platform, which would significantly compromise the visual solidity, roundness and timelessness imbued in its structure and mission.

The warped roof with its upturned edges, may present several site security and safety issues, and accessibility challenges. First, raising the up the corners, while they frame selected views, create strong architectural and visual barriers to the main site. The design conflicts sharply with the Smithsonian, and to a lesser degree with the Hirshhorn. The bowl effect may create a sense of entrapment within the central space, and will create a visual disconnect from the surrounding mall. Since perimeter fall protection (railings etc.) have not been worked out, or illustrated in the perspective sketches; final security/safety requirements may visually compromise the graceful curving roof edge lines. Additionally, while planting trees on roof structure is problematic, it can be accomplished and an alternative should be provided that includes trees, that can also provide some vertical scale.

In summary, Option A, the do nothing option, underscores just how sorely needed repair and rethinking is needed to maintain and improve the facilities. Options B and C are drawn in such a way, that they encourage Option D, as the best alternative; since a number of the more compelling features are eliminated from each. The four options presented therefore are not really four, but two; do nothing and basically three iterations of a warped roof scheme. BIG has the capacity to achieve the various design objectives without relying solely on a warped roof scheme. They should be asked to come back with another alternative that is more respectful of the overall site context, existing buildings, and surrounding viewshed. The NCPC should seek a true alternative to the warped roof design, and seek a site design that is not all about the site becoming a building.

William B. Kuhl, FASLA

Chairman of the Board

Landscape Architecture Studio Leader

Senior Principal

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From: [Jane Vander Poel](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 1:06:20 PM

Name: Edoardo Lenzetti, resident of WDC

Comments:

Is the Smithsonian really serious about spending approximately \$2 billion (yes, BILLION) on this ill-conceived and illogical plan? If so, it will be one of the greatest boondoggles in the city's history. In the meantime, the SI professes to be unable to pull together enough money to re-open the historically and architecturally important Arts and Industries Building as either a visitor and education center or a place for special exhibits. The logic is missing.

The architects, in their desire to "sell" the plan, have altered the neighborhood by removing the Forrestal Building from its site on Independence Avenue. While removal is proposed in a National Capital Planning Commission's proposal for the SW Eco District, no one expects to see that plan completed in this lifetime. Do they really think we don't know what's across the street?

Please use your sensibilities!
Edoardo Lenzetti

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates?

From: [dolores.lertora](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2015 6:43:35 PM

Dolores Lertora

Comments:THE GARDEN SHOULD BE PRESETVED!!!!

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates? YES

Buckler, Jessica

To: Estes, Liz
Subject: RE: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan

From: Caleb Lesselles [<mailto:caleb.lesselles@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 8:21 AM
To: Comments on Campus Plan
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan

Good Morning,

I have a few comments about the South Mall Campus Master Plan proposed by BIG Architects. I am a local intern architect within a few months of licensure and a US Air Force veteran. While I appreciate several BIG projects around the world, I believe there are elements that could be more thoughtfully and carefully addressed while designing within the context of being the hub of the United States Capital.

Firstly, the mature trees in that area are breathtakingly beautiful. To replace them with a lawn shows a lack of ecological sensitivity and climatic response. There are important quiet and contemplative spaces that are taken away, and another large lawn is unnecessary since the grand open space of the National Mall is on just the other side of the Smithsonian castle. Since the Capital region experiences hot, humid summers, I do not believe taking away all of the shade, refuge, and contemplative space is the correct move. BIG's proposal could be a very nice intervention in another location, but this scheme does not at all speak to the location, significance, or climate. An intervention in this site should account for shade, refuge, and contemplative activity that currently takes place on the site.

Furthermore, this very much looks like any other BIG project, and not at all a Washington DC project. When I.M. Pei designed the National Museum of art he was very careful to design a building that fits contextually and is appropriate to the location while retaining a strong creative composition and design solution. This BIG proposal could fit anywhere and is not specific to place. The National Mall deserves more than a 'pull up the corners of a simple plane' maneuver that is immediately timestamped and signed by BIG.

Lastly, while I appreciate many of BIGs projects, I also believe that a US firm should be responsible for a design that is right at the center of the country. Those who opposed to the Martin Luther King monument being made in China should oppose this as well. Other locations in DC could very well benefit from a BIG intervention, but I strongly believe that the National Mall should be an place designed and built by our own citizens.

Please feel free contact me if there will be a forum to speak more about this project in the future. Thank you.

Best Wishes,

Caleb Lesselles

From: [Mary Levering](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Friday, January 23, 2015 3:24:30 PM

Name: Mary Levering

Comments:

I don't agree with these recommended changes at all!!! . they are disruptive, destructive, and extraordinarily expensive. Please, please find a less expensive and much much less intrusive way to upgrade buildings and infrastructure. But definitely NOT with these projects.

Mary Levering

Smithsonian Associate Member

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates?

From: [Paul Lindell](#)
To: [Estes, Liz](#)
Subject: South Mall Campus for the Smithsonian Institution
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2015 11:42:56 AM

I am not in favor of any of the alternatives. None of them address the issues. This plan does not seem to be well thought out. One would think the plans would be much better considering SI has spent \$3.5 million on this project so far and counting. It is time to hire A&E's who are grounded and not looking to enlarge their portfolio and ego's. The Smithsonian has a master plan for this area which was done years ago. Why would they wanted destroy a beautiful garden that has an endowment paying for it maintenance. Which, by the way, I believe the only the SI exhibit which has such an endowment.

I understand that the Haupt Garden must be removed temporally removed in order to replace the roof membrane of the Quad but not the direction this proposal.

Having worked at the SI for 25 years I understand all the drama that takes place between the museums and the staffs and members of the board of regents. Everyone wants to be number one, which I find very unfortunate. The Board of Regents, the Secretary and Museum Director's should be ashamed of the South Mall Master Plan. Rather than addressing the issues of repairing the Castle, which has been put off for over twenty years and the construction of a Heating Plant to supply the South Mall they waste money on this Master Plan.

My recommendation is to not approve any portion of this Master Plan. I think they need to start over using a local A&E firms who understand all the issues addressing the Smithsonian Institution.

From: [Jeanne Maloney](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Public comments for the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Sunday, January 18, 2015 9:55:47 AM

Thank you for sharing details of the plan. While I applaud the plan's underlying desire to improve visitor services, I oppose the above-ground portion of the design, which is sterile, unwelcoming, and in harsh contrast with the Smithsonian Castle architecture.

The Smithsonian experience doesn't just begin when one walks into a museum. I appreciate how the Smithsonian has thoughtfully created garden spaces that delight and educate at the same time. Please, please don't sacrifice the beautiful museum outdoor spaces on the South Mall. Access to the underground portion of the design could be accomplished via existing structures, rather than by creating new above-ground entrances.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Jeanne Maloney

From: [David M. Maxfield](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Thursday, January 29, 2015 3:58:46 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

David M. Maxfield

Comments:

The question that first comes to mind is WHY such a destructive plan at an Institution presumably interested in preservation? Is it to increase visitorship at the Freer/Sackler ? If so, the far less costly approach is to install better Signage at the entrances from the Mall and at Independence Ave. Short of moving the Ruby Slippers and the Hope Diamond to the Asian museums, they will never attain the attendance records at the Smithsonian's busiest museums. The Asian Society in New York has a prominent location on Park Ave. but its visitation is a tiny percentage compared to the Natural History Museum on Central Park West. Though highly valued by their constituencies and membership, Asian museums in the United States simply do not have the public draw for most Mall tourists as do the Air and Space, Natural History and American History museums.

The second question, left unaddressed to date by the Smithsonian, is how and where these plans for the South Mall Campus originated ? By the Smithsonian staff ?

Whom? Private donors? Who are they ? And/or others ?. What are the objectives of the donors and their involvement to date?

-

Of the four proposals on the table, the most extreme, Alternative D, as noted on the website, should be tabled immediately by the Smithsonian.

For no other reason than cost—now reportedly \$1.5-\$2-billion at a time of US budgetary restraints—these proposals should NOT be taken seriously by friends of the Smithsonian or by various government agencies that would be involved in the review of the projects' questionable features.

The most disturbing proposals call for major projects described as "improvements." They include:

*Undertaking a major seismic upgrade and underground expansion of the

historic Smithsonian Castle that could endanger its structure and its internal fabric. The plan for extensive visitor amenities underneath the Castle could more wisely be directed to the adjacent Arts and Industries Building that is currently unused.

- * Destruction of the two jewel-like pavilions adjacent to Independence Avenue that serve as entrances to the Sackler Gallery and the National Museum of African Art. These structures were opened to the public as recently as 1987 and blend contextually into the Haupt Garden, the Arts and Industries Building, and foremost, the Castle's southern facade. The pavilions would be replaced by two glass entryways facing the National Mall.

- * Elimination of the entire beloved Haupt Garden and the entryway (Renwick Gates) for a contemporary design purposed for varied "activities" rather than relaxation and contemplation as the Garden now serves.

- *Removal of the Mary Ripley serpentine-shaped, specimen garden that inspires professionals and amateurs alike with its seasonal plant specimens.

- *Lowering the surrounding walls of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden and the centerpiece fountain would dramatically alter the integrity of its original design and its integral architectural relationship to the museum building itself.

Finally, as observers point out, there are a number of needed, priority projects to enable the Smithsonian to meet its mission for the 21st Century .

These should include:

- # Restoration and repairs of the Smithsonian Castle that has had no infrastructure work performed over the past 44 years.

- # Replacement of the roof of the Quadrangle Pavilion below the Haupt Garden, which would be returned to its present footprint and design..

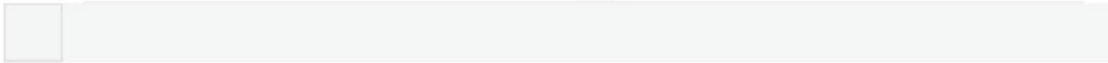
- # Provide minimal seismic improvements at the Castle.

Eliminate “infill” offices and facilities (added to the underground Quadrangle Pavilion since 1987), thus creating substantial new gallery space for museum exhibitions and programming.

Reopen the existing passageway from the Museum to the Sculpture Garden which has been closed for museum activities.

Place prominent directional signs to the Sackler Gallery and the Museum of African Art at two points: Independence Avenue and the pathways leading from the National Mall.

-end-



From: [Susan Marie Miller](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 2:48:34 PM

Susan Marie Miller

Comments: I would be very very sad to see the historic gardens dug up. As a native Washingtonian I have visited that area all my life. Please reconsider any plans to do this.

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates?

Susan Marie Miller, Associate Broker
Long and Foster Bethesda Gateway
4650 East West Hgwy
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
301.717.5883 Direct. 301.907.9259
email:homesbymiller@aol.com www:susanmillerhomes.com

From: [Patricia Mink](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments
Date: Monday, January 12, 2015 10:39:45 AM

To even consider destroying a peaceful, green space in the middle of the city as well as destroy the setting of the Castle is outrageous. Seems SI gets further and further away from preserving and presenting history, emphasis being on food courts, shops and an amusement park atmosphere. The interior of the Castle is now degraded with the smell of food and the trash that comes with it (as well as in the Haupt Garden), new work spaces that do not even begin to fit in with the interior of the building, and of course, the expanded shopping area. So much gone, the soda counter at NMAM (wasn't that an experience for children?), the nice restaurant at NASM (replaced by McDonald's!). Isn't a garden, plants, flowers, trees, fountains educational? The food carts outside Castle and Hirshhorn (and a McDonald's), all ordinary and tacky and certainly not a new experience for any visitor. Mr. Smithson, Mrs. Haupt and Dr. Ripley must be spinning in their graves. I suppose it is good that they are not around to see this planned destruction, and I hope I am not either which I am sure will happen as it seems the mindless are in charge.

From: [Audrey Morris](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: South Mall Plans for Haupt Garden
Date: Thursday, January 08, 2015 5:56:32 PM

As a volunteer gardener in the Haupt Garden, I can tell you that many people enjoy the garden. School groups tour, draw pictures or take photos or eat their lunches, tourists from around the US and from other countries visit, local residents and nearby workers come to enjoy the gardens and find a place of peace. And, during fire drills nearby office workers use the garden as a safe destination. I was disappointed to hear Dr. Clough state that few people visit - not what I have witnessed!

The garden offers endless variety with its various spaces. During magnolia blossom time the spectacular display provides a special beauty to all who come. All seasons offer their special views and experiences.

The plan as presented erases most of what is there and appears to offer little space for people to sit and enjoy. It also subtracts space for such collaborative experiences and the 2014 Lost Birds or the 2013 African Art artists' displays. While the parterre and other areas in the current Haupt Garden fit the architecture of the Castle, the plans seem to clash with the Castle. I would think Renwick and Enid Haupt would be very disappointed to see such a change proposed. I know I am.

Audrey Morris
C) 517-712-4678
H) 703-526-0251

From: [Don Myer](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Tuesday, December 16, 2014 9:31:54 AM

Name: Donald Beekman Myer

Comments:

From: Don Myer <aspire2@earthlink.net>
Subject: Smithsonian Master Plan
Date: December 10, 2014 9:24:51 AM EST
To: liz.estes@stantec.com

A truly useful Master Plan builds on the excellence and importance of existing elements. Imaginative design has a rich Smithsonian history in "Unbuilt Washington."

Included is this plan which deserves a major rethink celebrating existing resources. It needs to focus on the Smithsonian. The 20th Century problems with Independence Avenue and 10th Street are real... the Haupt Garden vicinity is the crown Jewel therein.

1. Refurbishing and smart programming of the Castle and the A&I Building are where the focus ought to be.
2. Making the lovely historic enclave of the gates, Sackler, African, and Haupt as a starting point is the most obvious, sensible, and achievable objective that ought to be considered!
3. As a recent visit confirmed, wayfinding is now a problem, especially internally at the Freer and Sackler... and one that should be professionally solved... possibly not by

architects, museum administrators, or curators. It wouldn't need a construction budget.

4. Lowering the Hishhorn wall, much like the late, non-lamented balloon roof would be a highly questionable expense.

Donald Beekman Myer, FAIA

Questions:

If you would like to receive project updates, please indicate in this email. Yes

From: [Rindy O'Brien](#)
To: [Estes, Liz](#)
Subject: SI South Mall Campus Master Plan Comments
Date: Friday, January 30, 2015 11:10:05 AM

Date: January 30, 2015

To: The National Capital Planning Commission

From: Rindy O'Brien, Washington DC

Re: Comments on Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan.

The Haupt Garden

The Haupt Garden is a beautiful Victorian-inspired garden that is an oasis surrounded by blocks of hardscape (concrete). It is the perfect introduction for visitors to the Smithsonian experience as they arrive through the gates.

I believe that the Smithsonian needs to reconsider its plan to tear out these gardens and replace them with more hardscape. It would be a tragedy for the following reasons.

1. Most importantly, the gardens help the Smithsonian implete their Climate Change Policy.

In October 2014, the Smithsonian issued an official policy statement that said:

The Smithsonian responds to climate change in four ways: by increasing knowledge of the human and natural environment through research; by making our findings available to the public; by protecting the Institution's core asset, the national collections; and **by operating our facilities and programs in a sustainable manner.**

The gardens have been designed to bring bees and other key pollinators (butterflies, songbirds and hummingbirds) to the garden. The garden not only helps to protect the vanishing populations, but these insects and birds also pollinate other gardens in the area. The canopies of these trees are also very important. According to the leading tree experts in DC (Casey Trees) trees:

- Trees absorb pollutants and store carbon, reducing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- The trees of Washington filter 540 tons of harmful, health-threatening pollutants from the air each year.

2. The beauty of the gardens is a joy to the tourists that walk through during their visit to DC. Many residents and federal workers come and sit in the space enjoying the garden. There are countless studies that observe that people are better able to concentrate, complete tasks, and follow directions after spending time in natural settings. The gardens create a much-appreciated retreat and as more people seek meditative time and space the gardens become even more important.

3. The gardens are educational and are an important extension of the mission of the Smithsonian. The gardens help people become aware of the interconnectedness with the natural world. The gardens also help new gardeners with ideas of what to plant in their own home or to see what a plant they may have been thinking about growing really looks like in size, color, and design. The gardens teach 24/7, when the doors of the buildings are locked and closed to the public.

And finally, the argument put forward in the proposal that the garden is not original is really quite laughable. Think about it, how many plant species live to be over a hundred years? Good stewards of the environment find heritage seeds and cultivate the seeds into plants. These plants refresh the gardens while at the same time continuing the historical relevance of the garden. By creating these gardens, we preserve the past and help secure our planet for our future.

Rindy O'Brien

1020 East Capitol Street, NE

Washington, DC 20003

rindyobrien@gmail.com

From: [Jay Orr](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 1:56:07 PM

Name: Jay Orr

Comments:

As a former employee at the Smithsonian, I am surprised to see such a wholesale campus re-planning underway when basic renovation work could meet the need to upgrade the building systems, structures and enclosures (Alternative B) without the additional costs and damage to the thoughtful plan already in place. I hate to see the Smithsonian cave to the latest architectural fad and cast aside the architectural heritage and history (even though of a more recent vintage) represented by the Ripley Center, Sackler and African Art galleries.

Plus \$2B is a lot of money!! I would prefer to see the sum better invested elsewhere.

Questions: None.

Would you like to receive project updates? No

Jay

Jay Orr, AIA, LEED AP

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From: [Kris Peterson](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Friday, January 16, 2015 8:25:52 AM

Name: Kris Peterson

There are a number of needed, priority projects to enable the Smithsonian to meet its mission for the 21st Century .

- # Restoration and repairs of the Smithsonian Castle that has had no infrastructure work performed over the past 44 years.
- # Replacement of the roof of the Quadrangle Pavilion below the Haupt Garden, which would be returned to its present footprint and design..
- # Provide minimal seismic improvements at the Castle.
- # Eliminate “infill” offices and facilities (added to the underground Quadrangle Pavilion since 1987), thus creating substantial new gallery space for museum exhibitions and programming.
- # Reopen the existing passageway from the Museum to the Sculpture Garden which has been used for other museum needs.
- # Place prominent directional signs to the Sackler Gallery and the Museum of African Art at two points: Independence Avenue and the walkways leading from the National Mall.

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates?

From: [Jane Vander Poel](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 1:04:45 PM

Name: Jane Vander Poel, WDC resident

Comments:

As a Washingtonian, I am frightened by the proposed renovation plan as it stands. While the 2 billion dollar price tag is large, this is not my primary concern. The plan to excavate two stories under the Castle for an underground visitor's center is not only misguided but could destroy the structure of the building. In addition there are available spaces such as the Arts and Industries Building, which would be a perfect place for a visitor center, education center, and venue for special exhibits, and sits empty and ready for refurbishment.

The Mary Ripley and Haupt Gardens are some of the most beautiful gardens in Washington. They are enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.

Let's make this a thoughtful and sensical process and consider other alternatives that could ensure the beauty of our national treasures for generations to come.

Jane Vander Poel

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates?

From: [VICTORIA PORTER](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2015 11:57:41 AM

Name: Victoria Porter

Comments: It is a shame to destroy the gardens behind the castle that were established years ago, are a delightful green space, and have many rare plants!

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates?

Sent from Victoria's iPhone which has a mind of its own...

From: [Barbara Pryor](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Monday, January 19, 2015 12:55:51 PM

Barbara Pryor

Comments:

It is sad to see the Castle on occasion and such poor repair with peeling paint and stonework on the façade crumbling in places. I have been told that the renovation of the building has been put off for over twenty years and that the mechanical systems are failing almost on a daily basis. If this is true, funds should be directed to restoring this National Historic Landmark and not wasted on a 2 billion dollar fantasy. The plan to excavate two stories under the Castle for an underground visitor's center is not only misguided but could very well undermine the structure of the building. Meanwhile, the Arts and Industries Building, which would be a perfect place for a visitor center, education center, and venue for special exhibits, sits empty and unusable. The Smithsonian says it is unable to raise the money to re-open this historically and architecturally important building, but thinks it can raise 2 billion dollars for this?

The Haupt Garden is one of the most beautiful gardens in Washington and should be put back as is after the Quad roof is repaired. The Renwick Gates which open into the garden from Independence Avenue need to be retained because even though they weren't built until 1989, they were designed by the architect of the building James Renwick in 1849 for that very location.

The Mary Ripley Garden is a jewel of a garden and should not be destroyed for this ill-conceived project.

I have never had any difficulty finding exhibits in either the Sackler Gallery or Museum of African Art. They are easily reached through the two beautifully designed pavilions which this plan proposes to tear down as well.

It is unbelievable that the designers of this project, while professing admiration for one of America's leading architects Gordon Bunschaft of Skidmore Owings and Merrill, would propose to tear down the walls around the Hirshhorn Museum, a building he designed! To destroy the building's integrity is thoughtless and unnecessary.

My husband, Brad Gehrke is a longstanding member of the Smithsonian and we are deeply disappointed.

Barbara Pryor

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates?

Yes, please. I hope this decision is changed

From: [Reeder, Amy C](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2014 7:43:24 AM

Name: Amy C Reeder

Comments:

I hope that you do not decide to lose the Haupt Garden. It is part of the Castle and The Mall. I was one of the first group of docents giving tours of the garden and people loved it. It was great fun to interpret the garden and the Victorian garden furnishing for to people. I still volunteer with the NPS on The Mall (at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial) and frequently send our visitors down to the museums and the gardens.

I certainly understand the need for mechanical improvements to the structures but please don't change the Haupt Garden.

Would you like to receive project updates? YES

From: [Reeder, Amy C](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2014 7:45:39 AM

Name: Amy C Reeder

Questions: I was looking at your proposals on line and noticed that the “merrygoround” was not in the picture! You aren’t thinking of moving it, are you?

Would you like to receive project updates?

From: [Bill Roberts](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Thursday, December 18, 2014 3:45:46 AM

My comment:

I strongly object to the destruction of Haupt Garden in order to impose this grotesque monstrosity on the visitors to the Smithsonian. Just this week in the New York Times an architect raised the question " [A]t what point does architecture's potential to improve human life become lost because of its inability to connect with actual humans?" Why does Ms. Trowbridge seek to destroy this beautiful public space that actual people connect with and replace it with this warped dirt patch?

Ms. Trowbridge slyly commits that "If we don't have a spectacular garden at the end of this project, we will not have been successful." What she really means is, the Smithsonian will destroy Haupt Garden (which people love) in the name of "progress" and replace it with something that the revolutionary vanguard at the Smithsonian think the people SHOULD like.

By all means update the mechanical facilitates and expand underground if necessary but not at the expense of destroying Haupt Garden.

From: [Rosenman](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Saturday, January 24, 2015 3:23:47 PM

Name: Clara Rosenman

Comments:

I have been a volunteer at the Smithsonian for the past 16 years, working in both the Castle and the A&I Buildings. I have the perspective of both someone who has attained knowledge of the history of the Institution from working within as well as being a DC resident who enjoys the treasures, programs and the diversity of this unique environment.

I agree with the objective of the Master Plan to perform long overdue repairs to the Castle. This must be the primary concern of the Smithsonian. In fact it is paramount and should not be part of a visionary plan but a scheduled priority. The replacement of the roof over the Ripley Center also comes under this umbrella.

The Master Plan which would allow better visitor access to the "South Mall Campus" can take advantage of the core maintenance and incorporate other features for updating and redefining a mixed use environment. The need for some of the proposed changes to the is not clear. Why does there have to be a two story underground facility below the Castle? If the Castle is opened up and brought back to original space, there is plenty of room (including the second floor) for all that is planned for the space below street level. Space is not needed for people to mingle but rather for visitors to experience the Smithsonian through its history, exhibits, research and educational programs. What better place to do this than within the walls of this building which provided these functions as the original Smithsonian building.

Changes to pathways and access to other buildings in the complex does not have to be below ground. In fact this diminishes the impact of this unique conglomerate of architectures and a campus atmosphere. Above ground modifications including creative use of festive and colorful signing and guides can do the job.

Visitors interests will not be changed by reconfiguring access. They can be made aware of what is within the immediate area through visual displays of what lies within this complex. The garden should remain a peaceful environment where visitors can enjoy a quiet space.

I do not want to see the critical needs of the Smithsonian get lost in arguments about secondary design issues. Address what is needed first and then do the cost/benefit analysis for the more visionary goals. What does it cost and what are the benefits to visitors. Prioritize, redesign, prioritize.

Master Plans with great graphics and models have the WOW effect but I believe the

Smithsonian should do the critical work first and then let the vision follow along. . Bundling the MUST DO and the VISION together may delay all projects going forward

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates?

From: [Samuel Sachs](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 10:48:22 AM

Name: Samuel Sachs

Comments: Architect Sam White exactly mirrors my sentiments thus I second his remarks. It is my earnest hope that this poor start will be completely rethought so as to preserve the Haupt garden, reopen the Ripley Center and ultimately respect the Quadrangle rather than 'reinventing' the wheel.

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates? Yes

Director Emeritus, The Frick Collection
President, Pollock-Krasner Foundation, New York
ss.ii@verizon.net

From: [Catherine](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: BIG's South Mall Plan: Comments
Date: Thursday, January 01, 2015 10:07:10 AM

General

This plan literally raises the profile of the smaller museums and brings light and air to underground spaces. By eliminating walls and little pavilions, clear paths unify all buildings, creating flow and grandeur to the whole campus. By strongly advocating the removal of the Forrestal Building, the architects suggest access and connection to the river, reactivating L'Enfant Plaza, and bringing the treasures and resources of the Smithsonian to the city at large. Along with the redevelopment of the Southwest Waterfront and the 11th Street Bridge, this plan continues the effort to embrace and unify all parts of the city and to better welcome visitors and neighbors alike.

Although there will be a huge hue and cry over the loss of the Haupt Garden, I'm confident that what replaces it will be bigger and even better.

The Ripley Garden was an afterthought, and though charming, the gain of access to the Hirshhorn warrants its removal. The HMSG Sculpture Garden has never worked, so its loss is not a sacrifice either.

My major concern is the plan's failure to define the future of the Arts and Industries Building. This is the weak link that might undermine the whole project. If it must be preserved--a huge and expensive endeavor--we should know now what it will be before beginning any restoration work. I am hopeful that it will not be yet another ethnic culture museum: it would be much more useful as an adjunct to the art museums as a kunsthalle; a general interactive space; a museum dedicated to the digital age; or an exhibition space for Institution-wide projects.

A minor concern is a practical one: it isn't clear where the loading areas for the museums are located.

Questions:

Was there discussion of making the Arts and Industries Building the Welcome/Visitors Center? The Castle could then be a museum about the Smithsonian's history, and the larger, more accessible A&I building could be completely overhauled to accommodate modern technology.

Was there discussion about returning the HMSG Sculpture Garden to the Mall? If part of the A&I Building could be designed for HMSG use and sculptures moved to the building's grounds, then the hole in the Mall could be restored.

Catherine Satterlee, former employee of the Hirshhorn

Buckler, Jessica

To: Estes, Liz
Subject: FW: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)

From: Andrea Schoenfeld [<mailto:andrea.schoenfeld@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 3:52 PM
To: Spofford, Michelle
Subject: Fwd: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)

Following up on our telephone conversation this afternoon, I want to thank you for accepting my South Campus comments which did not go through when I tried to send them online. I forward the delivery notice failure which includes my comments. Although it says the message is truncated, the text is complete.

For the record, I will add my name and address:

Andrea F. Schoenfeld
5004 Lowell Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

andrea.schoenfeld@gmail.com

I also would like to add that I am a regular visitor to the Sackler and I think the present pavilion entrance is beautiful –elegant inside and out, discreet on the exterior and a fitting neighbor to the Castle.

My comments on the form on your website would not send so I am e-mailing this directly.

I am writing in support of retaining the present appearance and function of the Enid Haupt garden and therefore in opposition to the elements of Alternatives C and D which would destroy it in all but name.

The present Haupt garden is an intimate space where people can – and do – sit and enjoy its beauty, intimate scale and repose for a change of pace from sightseeing or the office. It provides a welcome contrast to the grand vistas and wide open spaces of the Mall. On nice days it is filled with people who are there to enjoy it. Its destruction would be a tragic loss.

The renderings of the proposed upturned, monumental Haupt Garden reveal its inherent flaw – everybody is walking and no one is sitting. It is just a place to walk through, like the Mall. It is a travesty of Enid Haupt's vision of the garden she so generously gave and endowed. I would think that potential donors would see it as a warning that their creations are not safe in the hands of the Smithsonian.

Furthermore, the proposed entrances to the underground museums and education center detract from the appearance of the grand, iconic

Smithsonian Castle. In the rendering of the view from the Mall, the proposed entrances look like the open jaws of sea monsters rising up from the deep on either side of the Castle. On the south side of the Castle the entrance to the education center creates a cavernous opening below grade, destroying the appearance of the Castle set handsomely on its grounds. Instead it floats bizarrely on a platform above its basement. Approaching the Castle from the south you would be funneled into the basement while visually approaching its grand central tower entrance.

And do we really need another subterranean education/visitor center? Practically every Smithsonian building is in itself a visitors' center with rest rooms, cafeteria, gift shop, auditorium etc. in addition to the wonderful exhibits.

----- Message truncated -----

From: [Barbara Shaw](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Friday, January 30, 2015 3:19:29 PM

Name: Barbara Shaw

Comments: As a member of Smithsonian Associates, I express my dismay at the dismantling of the Enid Haupt Garden and its replacement with "wide open" areas, which in the renderings appear to be paved walkways, lawns and large pools of water. From an ecological standpoint, paved surfaces and lawns are among the top sources of runoff pollution and are major contributors to the habitat loss that threatens the nation's birds, butterflies and other pollinators. This master plan is a major step backward at a time when forward-thinking institutions are working to reduce areas of impervious surfacing, limit lawns, and incorporate features to mitigate the problem of runoff, such as rain gardens and green roofs. The last thing the National Mall needs is more barren "wide open" space. The Haupt Garden is part of the historical fabric of the Castle, and steps should be taken to preserve the plant material during renovations so that the garden can be restored at the conclusion of construction. The Smithsonian can do better than this! I urge you to reject this Master Plan and work to develop one that incorporates principles of ecological and historical sustainability.

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates? Yes

From: dshaw35@cox.net
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Smithsonian South Mall Campus Plan comment
Date: Sunday, January 18, 2015 6:59:13 PM

Dear Smithsonian South Mall Campus Planning Team,

I understand the basic need to redo and improve much of the South Mall area to make it more easily traveled on foot and to increase indoor and outdoor public space for events and amenities, and to deal with some of the lingering problems such as leaky ceilings in the underground museum gallery spaces. While I trust that you are working to come up with the best plan possible, I do want to say what the current design means to me, and why I am concerned that the redesign will lose a lot of the qualities that make the area such a lovely refuge now.

I am a long-time Smithsonian employee and have spent a lot of time enjoying the peace and beauty of the Haupt and Ripley gardens, which provide an unparalleled showcase for the fabulous resources of the Smithsonian Gardens and its horticultural services and expertise, at all seasons of the year. But these gardens are not just pretty spaces for me. I honestly believe that they have helped me overcome the stresses of some serious health problems I have had in the last decade by giving me a space to meditate and practice mindfulness, to enjoy the peacefulness of the landscaping and fountains, and particularly to enjoy watching the variety of birds (both migratory and year-round residents) that make their homes in these gardens. I have also enjoyed some of the conversations that I've struck up with other people visiting the gardens, and I appreciate the opportunity to have both the more private & out-of-the-way nooks (like the benches along the Freer/Sackler in the tropical garden in the summer, and around the Moongate and Alhambra Gardens) and the more open & public spaces in the main garden space behind the Castle.

In 2008, I was diagnosed with a very rare cancer and underwent major abdominal surgery which left me temporarily disabled to the point where I needed to use a walker/rollator (and later, a cane) to get around on foot for several months. A neighbor used to drop me off on Independence Avenue and I would walk through the Haupt Garden to get to my workplace in the Natural History Museum. During this time, I particularly treasured the restful spaces of the Haupt Garden. In the afternoons and early evenings after work, I returned there frequently to spend an hour or more sitting and reading and watching the birds. Now, after two more surgeries, I'm doing much better, and what's more, I am so happy to have spaces like the Haupt Garden where I can decompress and mentally/spiritually recharge.

The redesign of the South Mall, judging from the images on the web and from the presentation at the Castle a few weeks ago, will basically do away with most of the trees and out-of-the-way places to sit and rest and enjoy the fountains and birds. I mainly see bare pavement, flat water features, pathways with a few trees, and some small beds in which to stick in a few pansies or other standard annuals. Where can the Smithsonian Gardens staff practice their amazing landscaping with rare and unusual plants that we've come to expect? The main goal of the redesign seems to be to increase foot traffic (and possibly bicycle travel). I already often have to move out of the way while admiring birds or flowers as people rush past me on the sidewalks of the Butterfly Habitat next to NMNH and in the Ripley Garden. Though those are lovely spaces too, there's no denying they're mainly used as pass-throughs and there are very few spots where you can sit and just be out of the way. I also think the redesign shows a lack of understanding about how important it is to provide shady spots to sit under in the hot, sunny Washington summers.

Also, while I realize the current Victorian-style garden design of the Haupt Garden is not to everyone's taste, it's certainly in keeping with the architecture of the Castle and decorative features like the Downing Urn. It's one of the only places I can think of in the DC area that's a formal, elegant garden featuring an unusual variety of flowers and shrubs that is free to access and is right near public transportation (as contrasted with a similar place, Hillwood Museum & Gardens, which is a hike from a Metro station and costs \$15.00 to visit).

Thank you for reading my comments. I hope you will take my main concerns into consideration when coming up with the final plans: please, more shade, semi-private seating areas that are not through-ways, a refreshing (splashing) fountain space, and places for a variety of birds to nest and find food. And let's make the best possible use of the products of the Smithsonian Gardens' greenhouses and the gardening genius of its staff.

I appreciate having this opportunity to share my concerns and hopes with you.

Best wishes, sincerely,

Diane Shaw (dshaw35@cox.net)

From: [Martha Smith](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Friday, January 09, 2015 2:15:28 PM

Name: Martha Smith

Comments: It would be a pity to rip out the Haupt Garden. So many people walk through it, enjoy the remarkable plantings and design, eat their lunch and rest themselves. Children and birds play in the fountain and waterfall on the NMAfA side. The Haupt Garden fits comfortably with the Castle.

Apparently, one of the reasons for change is to provide better communication between the museums. You do realize that most people choose one or perhaps two museums to visit, not all of them. They want to see something specific and their energy lasts about one to two hours. Then they have lunch or shop (very good for the museum). Better, even more elegant, signage would do wonders.

And then of course there is the problem of actually accomplishing the plan (after you have raised the initial money - before the cost overruns). Do you remember how difficult and costly it was to dig that huge hole and build the NMAfA and the Sackler Gallery? And how many problems it has created with cracks, leaks and the HVAC? The Haupt Garden is to blame for many of the leaks, would a replacement be any different?

This new idea sounds like a way to appear "modern" and spend money. (Some people will make a lot of money on this project). It's not a handsome plan and will look dated in ten years or less. Obviously, I am deeply against this silly costly change.

Be practical, for heavens sake, and look at what an piece of the Mall you are hoping to uproot. Spend the money on the existing buildings (which need constant repair) and on more staff.

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates? Yes.

From: [Roger Stone](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Cc: [Amy Ballard](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Thursday, January 08, 2015 4:53:37 PM

Name: Roger Stone

Comments: There is no doubt about the importance of fixing up the Smithsonian Castle and putting it to better use. Likewise, the Arts and Industries building merits a facelift for "adaptive reuse," But at a time when the nation's infrastructure is so urgently in need of repair, I have reservations about asking Congress to appropriate large amounts for expensive, basically cosmetic luxuries such as those specified in the Smithsonian master plan's Alternatives C and D. The historic structures slated in the plan for the wrecking ball (or radical modifications) under those scenarios are in generally in good condition. They demand respect as historically important increments of our national patrimony. Take your sledgehammer elsewhere, Mr. BIG. Let us continue to enjoy those parts of the south mall campus that have served us well and can quietly and pleasantly continue to do so far into the future, at a far more affordable cost than that of the glitzy and "blatant" new options proposed. In DC we need new Metro cars more than we need new cafes or shopping options on the south mall.

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates? Yes

From: [Cindy Szegedy](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Please note Comments -- Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Tuesday, December 23, 2014 9:02:39 AM
Importance: High

Name: Cindy (Cid) Szegedy, MBA

Dear Sirs:

I write in regard to the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan.

I am a longtime resident of the District of Columbia and supporter of the Sackler/Freer Gallery. I have never had a problem finding the Sackler Gallery, and perhaps signage is the issue, but that is minimal. I would like to advocate that the A&I Building serve as the visitors center in lieu of the Castle, and as an interim solution. Bottom line, the Castle is a treasure – significant to framing the experience and lasting impression of the National Mall for its global visitors.

The Castle ought to be a top priority and renovated immediately, and given its historic significance and use as administrative headquarters.

Forgive levity, but imagine Disney World without its magic castle – well, for the American experience, the Smithsonian Castle serves as an iconic structure unique to the National Mall. It ought to be a priority, given its importance and symbolic value. While Disney is hardly analogous to the Smithsonian Institution, the value and empowerment of branding and by extension of iconic structures is relevant. Something so distinct deserves investment, and ought to be a key focus of the committee.

Lastly, I would argue in favor of restoring the roof of the Quad, while preserving the Enid A. Haupt Garden. It's a beautiful, contemplative spot and it would be a terrible misstep to supplant this with cold, sterile design. I enjoy a modern aesthetic but the garden is unique, and it is misplaced investment (of taxpayer funds) to tear apart this peaceful place – when, in fact, there are far more substantive areas that require immediate structural improvements.

Thank you for availing the public a voice on this matter. Please feel free to contact me to discuss.

Regards,

Cindy

CINDY (CID) SZEGEDY, MBA 

248.458.4021 / m: 202.905.5070

From: [Pat Taylor](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2015 10:44:33 AM
Attachments: [SI SoMallCampus plans comments by Patricia Taylor.docx](#)

Name: PATRICIA TAYLOR
Email: ptaylor.dc@verizon.net
Phone: 202.543.2605

Comments: [also attached as a "doc.x" file]

Date: January 27, 2015

To: The National Capital Planning Commission:

From: Patricia Taylor, Washington DC

Re: Comments on Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan.

I will focus first on proposed changes in the gardens and landscaping on the South Mall Campus.

The Haupt Garden

This formal Victorian-design parterre is a perfect complement to the nineteenth century SI Castle to its north and the Arts and Industries building to its east. The garden itself is much admired by tourists visiting the Smithsonian, many of whom see the the Haupt Garden-and-the Castle as "one." The best view is had by entering from Independence Avenue by the handsome Renwick wrought-iron carriage gates set in four red sandstone pillars, the same red sandstone used in the Castle.

This view is said to be the second-most photographed view of Smithsonian buildings-and-gardens. If this is true, that fact should give pause to planners who would eliminate the Haupt Garden.

To walk through the Renwick Gates into the Haupt Garden is to be transported a century and a half back in time, a unique experience for so many of the Smithsonian visitors who come from much newer cities and towns where they never see buildings and gardens of the mid-19th century. It would be wrong for the Smithsonian Institution to destroy this visual historic experience.

The fact that the Haupt Garden is "not historic" is no justification for removing it in order to create a largish open space for "events". The Mall is a huge open space for large outdoor events. And lacking from the Mall are human-sized green spaces and gardens such as those provided around the Smithsonian museums on the Mall, including and especially those in the South Campus.

The entry pavilions in the Haupt Garden for the Sackler Gallery and the African Art Museum are attractive and interesting. And they are successful museum portals. If visitors interested in visiting these art museums find them difficult to locate, I recommend improved signage at these ground-level

entrances. These will be easier to find than underground entrances.

It would be a pity to lose the delightful side gardens: the sweet little Moongate Garden (near the Sackler) that recalls Chinese design, and the Fountain Garden (near the entrance to the African Art Museum). Visitors who happen upon them are charmed by them. The Fountain Garden is especially attractive to children who play in its water ... and with its ample seating, it is a cool space on a hot day for older folks.

Some comments on other proposed changes

Opening Up the South Mall Campus to the National Mall and Excavating an Underground Visitor Area

I have heard it said that the principal reason for moving the entrances to the Sackler and African Art Museums underground and for “opening up the South Mall Campus” is that these museums “are difficult for visitors to find;” that this difficulty is the reason for the low attendance at these museums and other museums on the South Campus – the Freer and the Hirshhorn. What is the evidence for this claim? Surely an empirical question. My contrary view is that many, perhaps most, visitors to the museums on the Mall have **not** come to visit **art** museums. Rather, I suspect, that many visiting families (are they a large percentage of visitors?) come to visit the Air & Space Museum, the Natural History Museum and American History Museum, in that order. In other words, **not** to visit **Art** museums. If I am correct, then the reason for rather low attendance at Freer, Sackler, African Art and Hirshhorn is lack of interest in visiting art museums, and not because SI visitors to the Mall museums “cannot find these museums.”

In addition, it may well be the case that Mall visitors interested in ART will visit the National Gallery of Art, with its wide variety of world-class art displayed in permanent exhibits and interesting special exhibits. I visit all of DC’s public art museums at least once every year ... and what I see is that NGA has by far the most visitors – compared to the much smaller numbers of visitors I see in the Smithsonian’s Hirshhorn, Sackler, Freer, African Art, Renwick, and American Art museums.

Improving lighting in the underground Ripley Center, Sackler and African Art Museums

Is the only or best way to improve lighting into these meeting rooms, museums and offices to somehow introduce “natural light” to these areas by “lifting corners” of the Haupt Garden space? Some skylights can easily be fitted into the existing configuration of the Haupt Garden. But how about utilizing the enormous advances that have been made in lighting since 1950. If brighter, better lighting is important to the underground spaces, then update the lighting. The huge expense of bringing “natural light” to the underground spaces does not seem warranted ... or necessary. And really, do art museums want to increase the amount of “natural light” in their exhibition galleries where natural light can damage art works?

Adding Eateries

There is definitely a need for some eateries in or near the South Mall Campus. However, I question the wisdom of putting them underground beneath the Haupt Garden and, almost certainly, to be run as concessions – as in the Natural History Museum, the American History Museum and the Air

and Space Museum. These eateries are replicas of the American fast food restaurants, available all across the nation. Rather, why not populate Independence Avenue with the multi-ethnic variety of vendor food trucks like those by the L'Enfant Plaza Metro main entrance? Or take a good look at the National Gallery of Art's eateries – they are architecturally attractive, have interesting food choices, and are enjoyable places to sit, talk and eat. Then think about how comparable eateries could be created in or by the South Mall Campus museums or just across Independence Avenue.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment,
Patricia Taylor
Washington DC

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates?
YES

From: [Leanne Tobias](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Cc: ["Andrew Simmons"; Leanne Tobias](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2014 5:00:28 PM

Name: Leanne Tobias

Comments:

1. I am sympathetic to the need for repairs and expansion at the Smithsonian, with some caveats. Alternative A (do nothing) is inappropriate—at minimum, seismic upgrades are needed.
2. A renewed Smithsonian is in keeping with plans to revitalize the federal area to the south of the Mall.
3. It would be helpful to understand more about anticipated budgets for each of the proposed alternatives.
4. The rendering of Plan D is a night-time view. What would the site look like during the daytime, and how would the below-grade additions look from Independence Avenue if this Plan is adopted?
5. The Haupt Garden is a national treasure, and should remain, **in its current location and layout**, as ***the*** centerpiece of the grade-level Independence Avenue entrance to the Smithsonian. If Plans C&D are executed, **the Haupt Garden, in its current location and configuration, should be transplanted/replanted on the proposed sloping roof to remain as the southern entrance to the Smithsonian Castle.** **Expansion of the Haupt Garden is an excellent idea.** It is understood that the roof deck would need to be designed/constructed so as to support this transplanting/replanting. If the proposed sloping roof deck is incompatible with the preservation of the Haupt Garden in its current location and configuration, this aspect of the plan should be revised.
6. As shown in the current rendering for Plan D, the proposed southern entrance to the Smithsonian Castle looks stark. Yes, this area could be dramatically lit at night (as depicted in the rendering for Plan D), but what would be done in the day? My concern is that the roof deck, as shown in the rendering, will add to the starkness of the Department of Energy facility across the street. Yes, the Department of Energy area might be redeveloped, but then again it might not be. If the Department of Energy area is not redeveloped with substantial landscaping/green space, the proposed Plans C and D for the south side of the Smithsonian Castle will likely detract from the area.

Questions:

1. What are the budget estimates for each plan?
2. How is funding/financing to be secured? Are federal funds expected to be supplemented with private contributions and to what extent?

3. Plans C and D: how would the proposed sloping roof deck look during the day, and is it compatible with the Smithsonian Castle and Independence Avenue, especially if the Department of Energy area is not redeveloped?
4. If Plan C or Plan D is implemented, how can the existing Haupt Garden, in its current location and configuration, be preserved?

Would you like to receive project updates? Yes



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

Buckler, Jessica

To: Estes, Liz
Subject: FW: your underground expansion on the Mall

From: William Turville [<mailto:williamturvillesculptor@verizon.net>]
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 1:04 PM
To: Information , Smithsonian
Subject: your underground expansion on the Mall

Dear Smithsonian,

I'll make this short and sweet.

I read in a fairly recent architectural magazine that you are planning a very very expensive underground expansion under the Mall. Expansions of museum facilities is laudable.

BUT: I do not understand why you, as a science-based museum and "the attic of America" and one of the key cultural institutions in the entire USA, would risk this much money and your collections by putting them below grade in the very low area now known as Washington, DC with absolutely imminent climate change-triggered extreme sea level rises. Washington, DC is mostly lowland at sea level or just a few feet above. As the sea levels rise in the next 50 to 100 years, there will be huge problems for this low area (all over the Chesapeake Bay region and the multiple estuaries that make up this region).

I would think that you could better spend these huge sums on a high and dry remote facility to which you might soon (and/or eventually) transfer your collections...somewhere, perhaps, in the hills nearby. This would preserve your amazing and valuable collections and many important parts of American history.

This scenario seems inevitable at this time (as greenhouse gases rise through the 400ppm-plus range) and you would need to start this now...instead of the plans you have for the very very vulnerable underground expansion.

I would love to hear your thoughts on this.

With highest regards,

Bill Turville

William Turville Sculptor/Architect
1165R Massachusetts Ave., B-1
Arlington, MA 02476
voice/fax: 781-648-4858
mobile: 781-850-5594
williamturvillesculptor@verizon.net

From: [Robert M. Vogel](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Cc: [QWNSLE](#); riteone@rcn.com
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Monday, January 26, 2015 10:00:39 PM

Name: Robert M. Vogel (toolduller@rcn.com) and Helena E. Wright (riteone@rcn.com),
Washington

Comments: Many of the suggested changes and improvements are justified and indeed necessary; others are more gratuitous and would in fact damage these historic structures. We hope that the Smithsonian (SI) can find a balance among these proposals that will maintain its historic fabric without compromising either the structures or the reputation of the Institution – its brand, if you will. The SI has a responsibility to focus on the increase and diffusion of knowledge, and its reputation would suffer if it were to begin chasing novelty and trend, at great expense, when there are so many other pressing needs.

The first consideration should be the preservation and repair of the Castle and the museum buildings cited in the proposal. Clearly the Castle needs work after 44 years of deferred maintenance. The quadrangle roof needs to be replaced, and other proposed preservation tasks are necessary. But the mandate, and the mindset, should be one of maintenance, not a misguided operation to cut and gut and alter the existing campus in the pursuit of something new. Several of the proposed changes, such as the excavation under the Castle to provide access to the quadrangle museums and a seismic retrofit are potentially damaging. Have these changes, plus those proposed to the Hirshhorn and the breaching of the Freer's east wall, been carefully analyzed by preservation architects? The SI has its own staff of professionals in the Office of Facilities Engineering and Operations and the Office of Architectural History and Historic Preservation who should be the first line of inquiry and defense on these questions. An outside firm, with an outsized reputation (and acronym), is sure to be more interested in public relations than in protection.

The Smithsonian's needs are well known. Its historic buildings require preservation and repair, as do many of the collections held by its museums. If \$2 billion dollars are available, there are many more mission-critical projects waiting to be funded, such as collections care, digitization, and adequate staffing, together with the necessary repairs and restoration work.

The stated justification for these splashy changes is pretty pathetic: *"the opportunity to better serve our visitors and staff with facilities in closer alignment to the Smithsonian's strategic plan which emphasizes better connections among our programs."* Better connections among programs can be achieved at far less cost and risk than the project as proposed. In its present form it is as misguided and over-the-top expensive as the Hirshhorn 'Bubble.' The BIG firm would seem to be imposing something new for its own sake. A new 'front door' for the SI is hardly worth the potential damage and expense outlined in this plan. If visitors need redirection to the museums in the quadrangle, surely that can be accomplished with signage rather than the invasive and destructive process under consideration.

The creation of the Renwick Gate in the 1980s is an example of how preservation and new initiatives can work together. Using Renwick's published drawings and modeling a design after another of his gates, an addition was made to the South Campus that incorporated the sensibility of his original work within a new structure, one that was entirely appropriate and welcoming. The Renwick Gate is the Smithsonian's front door, and it would be profligate to replace it in this way.

There are several extreme aspects to this program. The most egregious elements involve underground excavations that would potentially damage the Castle and the A&I Building to very little purpose. The oddly dished effect of the skylights introduced into the revamped Haupt Garden would destroy its functionality and its contemplative spaces. A related consideration is the importance of honoring donors and their bequests, such as for the Haupt Garden. It is well-known in the museum profession that when institutions renege on agreements (such as some deaccession actions), it has a negative effect on future donations. One never really knows the full extent of how damaging it can be, because offers not received cannot be evaluated or counted. Who knows how many potential donors would disappear as a result of this unsympathetic treatment of a treasured – and endowed – garden?

Lately the SI seems to be going through a phase of making controversial plans and then reversing direction, such as the Hirshhorn Bubble and the Hirshhorn docents' debacle. Please consider making corrections to the BIG plan before resources are expended on it. Do the right thing first; forget the flashy wasteful approach. Put available resources into the preservation and enhancement of core buildings and programs. Use the A & I Building appropriately as a visitor center while the Castle and the quad museums undergo necessary repairs. Act responsibly and adhere to the SI's traditional mandate. Thank you.

Questions: Whose concept is this program, principally? Was it initiated by SI, and if so, by whom? Where will the money come from?

Would you like to receive project updates? Yes, please.

Buckler, Jessica

To: Estes, Liz
Subject: FW: SI South Mall Master Plan - public comment from NCPC website

-----Original Message-----

From: Hirsch, Jennifer [<mailto:jennifer.hirsch@ncpc.gov>]
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2015 10:27 AM
To: Estes, Liz
Cc: Lee, Vivian
Subject: SI South Mall Master Plan - public comment from NCPC website

Liz,

We received this comment via our website so I don't think you received it via the project website.

Jennifer Hirsch
Federal Preservation Officer | Urban Design and Plan Review | 202.482.7239
401 9th Street, N.W. | Suite 500
Washington, D.C., 20004
jennifer.hirsch@ncpc.gov
www.ncpc.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: NCPC General Information
Sent: Friday, January 02, 2015 10:02 AM
To: Dettman, Shane; Hirsch, Jennifer
Cc: Koster, Julia
Subject: FW: Web site comment from marcy wasilewski

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: mwasilew@yahoo.com [<mailto:mwasilew@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 31, 2014 1:55 PM
To: NCPC General Information
Subject: Web site comment from marcy wasilewski

I am writing to express my strong concerns regarding the recently publicized Smithsonian Master Plan. I find the proposed plan objectionable in several ways. The new entrances to facilities under the current Haupt Garden have little if anything to do with the surrounding buildings. They are visually jarring and do not relate in any way to the historic Smithsonian Castle or any of the other existing museums. To me, the designs for the entrances are trite and commercial in appearance. Secondly and equally important, the plans for the existing garden areas, in particular the Ripley Garden and the Moon Garden will rob future visitors of areas for reflection and quiet observation of lovely garden spaces.

Sincerely,
Marcy Wasilewski

From: [Samuel White](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Thursday, January 01, 2015 1:42:24 PM

Name: Samuel G. White, FAIA

Comments: Something definitely needs to be done around the Quadrangle and the question is what is the right thing to do. The four alternatives offered miss the mark completely. They range from doing nothing (which is irresponsible given the deteriorated state of the Castle) to imposing a dramatic but inappropriately "fashionable" intervention on a site loaded with historic structures. Now that the architect has wowed us with his breathtaking ingenuity he should return to the drafting board. I am sure there is a solution to this problem that enhances the character of the Quadrangle, that honors the buildings that frame it, and that serves the needs of both the Institution and the public. Spending millions to transform a section of the Mall into a giant potato chip adds a dazzling formal solution to the architect's portfolio, but not much else.

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates? Yes

Sent from my iPad

From: [Tom and Mary Ann Whitmeyer](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Thursday, January 22, 2015 8:16:04 PM

Name: Mary Ann Whitmeyer

Comments: The Haupt Garden is one of the most beautiful gardens in Washington and should be put back as is after the Quad roof is repaired. The Renwick Gates which open into the garden from Independence Avenue need to be retained because even though they weren't built until 1989, they were designed by the architect of the building James Renwick in 1849 for that very location.

The Mary Ripley Garden is a jewel of a garden and should not be destroyed. Certainly Mary Ripley would agree.

I have been in the Castle on occasion and it is in terrible condition with peeling paint and stonework on the façade crumbling in places. I have been told that the renovation of the building has been put off for over twenty years and that the mechanical systems are failing almost on a daily basis. If this is true, funds should be directed to restoring this National Historic Landmark. Meanwhile, the Arts and Industries Building, which would be a perfect place for a visitor center, education center, and venue for special exhibits, sits empty and unusable. The Smithsonian says it is unable to raise the money to re-open this historically and architecturally important building, but thinks it can raise 2 billion dollars for this?

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates? Yes

From: [Nancy Wrenn](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Thursday, January 15, 2015 4:49:36 PM

Name:Nancy V.B. Wrenn

Comments: At this time with the economy of our country as it is, I plead DO NOTHING !!!

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates? no

Nancy

delivery systems, and avoid duplication of services.

C. Waiver Authority

LSC, upon its own initiative or when requested, may waive provisions in this Notice at its sole discretion under extraordinary circumstances and when it is in the best interest of the eligible client community. Waivers may be granted only for requirements that are discretionary and not mandated by statute or regulation. Any request for a waiver must set forth in writing the extraordinary circumstances for the request. LSC will not consider a request to waive the deadline for an LOI unless it is received by LSC prior to the deadline.

D. Contact Information

For more information about current Pro Bono Innovation Fund projects, please contact Mytrang Nguyen, Program Counsel, (202) 295-1564 or nguyenm@lsc.gov.

If you have a general question or questions about the Pro Bono Innovation Fund application process, please email probonoinnovation@lsc.gov.

For technical questions or issues with the LSC Grants online application system, please send an email to techsupport@lsc.gov.

Dated: January 15, 2016.

Stefanie K. Davis,
Assistant General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2016-01106 Filed 1-20-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7050-01-P

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Smithsonian Institution's South Mall Campus Master Plan

AGENCY: National Capital Planning Commission.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1970, as amended and implemented by the Council on Environmental, and in accordance with the Environmental Policies and Procedures adopted by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), the NCPC announces its intent along with the Smithsonian Institution (SI), and in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will provide a full and fair discussion of the potential

environmental impacts resulting from implementation of SI's South Mall Campus Master Plan. NCPC will act as lead federal agency for NEPA compliance and SI is the project owner, sponsoring the preparation of the EIS. Although SI is not a "federal agency" within the meaning of NEPA and CEQ Regulations, SI works with federal agencies on NEPA compliance when, as here, an SI project requires federal agency approval.

The South Mall Campus Master Plan (Master Plan) will evaluate opportunities to: Better align Smithsonian facilities on the South Mall Campus with SI's mission; increase public access to the museums and gardens; replace and upgrade aging building systems; upgrade security systems campus wide; rehabilitate and restore historic buildings; provide seismic retrofitting; consolidate and upgrade loading functions; enhance public space; and increase the visitor services provided in the area. The Master Plan will revitalize the South Mall Campus by interconnecting programs and services both above- and below-grade; and, by improving physical access for all through enhanced circulation, way finding, and program visibility. These improvements will provide visitors and staff with facilities, amenities, and educational experiences expected of a world class institution.

DATES: The Scoping Period shall run February 22, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Electronic Comments may be submitted at commentsonsouthcampus@si.edu.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Matthew Flis, Senior Urban Designer, National Capital Planning Commission, Urban Design and Plan Review, 401 9th StreetNW., Washington, DC 20004, Phone 202-482-7236; or Michelle Spofford, Senior Planning Manager, Smithsonian Institution, Office of Planning Design and Construction, Facilities Master Planning, 600 Maryland Avenue SW., Suite 501, PO Box 37012, MRC 511, Washington, DC 20013-7012, Phone: 202-633-6558.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NCPC and SI previously conducted scoping for an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Master Plan from December 16, 2014 through January 30, 2015. As part of this process, NCPC and SI held a public scoping meeting on December 16, 2014 and received written comments from local and federal agencies, interested organizations, and the public. Based on the information obtained and additional coordination with local and federal agencies, NCPC and SI have determined that preparation of an EIS is warranted.

Topics for environmental analysis identified through the scoping process include: Historic resources; visual resources; transportation; public utilities; land use; social and economic issues; visitor use; and physical and biological resources, such as air quality, water quality, and climate change.

All private parties, Federal and local agencies, and interested organizations having an interest in the project are invited to comment. All previously submitted comments from the EA scoping period are documented in the administrative record and will be used to inform the Draft EIS; only new issues and concerns need to be submitted at this time. During this scoping period, no public scoping meeting will be held.

All new and relevant environmental information, or additional comments on any issues that may be associated with the proposed project, should be sent to the address or email address below. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publically available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Information related to the project and public involvement opportunities for the draft EIS will be provided at the project's Web site: <http://www.southmallcampus.si.edu/>.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7.

Dated: January 13, 2016.

Anne R. Schuyler,
General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2016-01162 Filed 1-20-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7520-01-P

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

National Endowment for the Arts; Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; 2017 Survey of Public Participation in the Arts

AGENCY: National Endowment for the Arts, National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments request.

SUMMARY: The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1850 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029**

February 22, 2016

Mr. Matthew Flis
Senior Urban Designer
National Capital Planning Commission
Urban Design and Plan Review
401 9th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Scoping for the Proposed Environmental Impact Statement for the Smithsonian Institution's South Mall Campus Master Plan

Dear Mr. Flis:

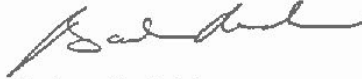
In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Smithsonian Institution's (SI) South Mall Campus Master Plan (Master Plan).

The Master Plan will evaluate opportunities to better align Smithsonian facilities on the South Mall Campus with SI's mission; increase public access to the museums and gardens; replace and upgrade aging building systems; upgrade security systems campus wide; rehabilitate and restore historic buildings; provide seismic retrofitting; consolidate and upgrade loading functions; enhance public space; and increase the visitor services provided in the area. The Master Plan will revitalize the South Mall Campus by interconnecting programs and services both above-and below-grade; and, by improving physical access for all through enhanced circulation, way finding, and program visibility. These improvements will provide visitor and staff with facilities, amenities, and educational experiences expected of a world class institution.

EPA has included information for your consideration and inclusion in the proposed Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) which is provided in the Technical Comments

document (enclosed). Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. EPA looks forward to receiving the DEIS. If you have questions regarding these comments, the staff contact for this project is Karen DelGrosso; she can be reached at 215-814-2765.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Rudnick', written in a cursive style.

Barbara Rudnick
NEPA Team Leader
Office of Environmental Programs

Enclosure (1)

Technical Comments

Cover Sheet

As stated in CEQ 1502.11(f) [The date by which comments must be received (computed in cooperation with EPA under Section 1506.10)] should be clearly indicated on the cover sheet.

Table of Contents

A Table of Contents which specifically outlines the document should be included as well as a list of tables and figures which includes maps that identify the affected area.

Purpose and Need

Since the range of alternatives evaluated is defined by the purpose and need for the project, it is imperative that the purpose and need be clearly identified in the DEIS. The purpose or objective of the proposal should be defined in relationship to the need for the action. Therefore, the need for the action should identify and describe the underlying problem or deficiency; facts and analyses supporting the problem or deficiency in the particular location at the particular time should be specified; and the context or perspective of the agency mission in relation to the need for action should be stated.

Alternative Analysis

As described in the regulations for the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) (40 CFR §1502.14), the examination and comparison of the alternatives under consideration is the heart of the environmental document. It is through this comparison that the lead agency is able to incorporate agency and public input to make informed decisions with regard to the merits of the project and the advantages and disadvantages of each of the alternatives being studied. Consequently, the CEQ regulations require that the details of each alternative, including the "no action" alternative be clearly presented in a comparative form for easy analysis by the reader. The rationale for the selection of the preferred alternative should be clearly stated in the analysis. For those alternatives that are eliminated from consideration, the reasons for their elimination should be given.

Land Use/ Regulatory and Permitting Requirements

The project area should be described in detail and quantified, specifying the type and acreage of land impacted as well as a description of the existing buildings on the site including their current and past use. Discuss any permits required before commencement of the project. This may include a Section 404/Section 10 permit from the Corps of Engineers, state water quality certification, and local construction and zoning permits.

In addition to NEPA, other laws, regulations, permits, licenses and Executive Orders may be applicable to the Proposed Action. A summary of applicable regulatory requirements and approvals with which the Proposed Action must demonstrate compliance should be discussed in the DEIS.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Air Resources

Attainment/Non-attainment: EPA, under the requirements of the 1970 Clean Air Act (CAA) as amended in 1977 and 1990, has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six contaminants, referred to as criteria pollutants (40 CFR 50). These are: ozone (O₃), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), particulate matter (PM), lead (Pb), and sulfur dioxide (SO₂). Particulate matter is divided into two classes, coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀), i.e. particulates between 2.5 and 10 microns in diameter, and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), i.e., particles less than 2.5 microns in diameter. The NAAQS include primary and secondary standards. The primary standards were established at levels sufficient to protect public health with an adequate margin of safety. The secondary standards were established to protect the public welfare from the adverse effects associated with pollutants in the ambient air. The Clean Air Act mandates that state agencies adopt State Implementation Plans (SIPs) that target the elimination or reduction of the severity and number of violations of the NAAQS. The EIS should identify areas that meet the NAAQS standard for a criteria pollutant as well as those areas where a criteria pollutant level exceeds the NAAQS.

Conformity Analysis: A general conformity rule analysis should be conducted according to the guidance provided by the EPA in *Determining Conformity of General Federal Actions to State or Federal Implementation Plans*. Under the general conformity rule, reasonably foreseeable emissions associated with all operational and construction activities, both direct and indirect, must be quantified and compared to the annual de minimis levels for those pollutants in nonattainment for that area.

Construction Permit Requirements/Temporary Impacts: In an effort to eliminate a NAAQS violation, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) should control or minimize construction/demolition/renovation emissions through use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and appropriate safety methods associated with each proposed construction/demolition/renovation and/or decontamination action.

Practice BMPs in association with each proposed project involving on-site construction:

- Utilize appropriate dust suppression methods during on-site construction activities. Available methods include application of water, soil stabilizers, or vegetation; use of enclosures, covers, silt fences, or wheel washers; and suspension of earth-movement activities during high wind conditions;

- Maintain a speed of less than 15 mph with construction equipment on unpaved surfaces as well as utilize fuel with lower sulfur content;
- Employ a construction management plan in order to minimize interference with regular motor vehicle traffic;
- Use electricity from power poles instead of generators whenever possible;
- Repair and service construction equipment according to the regular maintenance schedule recommended for each individual equipment type;
- Use low-VOC architectural materials and supplies equipment; and
- Incorporate energy-efficient supplies whenever feasible.

Executive Order 13693

Executive Order (EO) 13693, *Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade*, was signed by President Obama on March 19, 2015. Section 16 of the EO revokes Executive Order 13514, *Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance* of October 5, 2009 and Executive Order 13423, *Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management* of January 24, 2007 (as well as Presidential Memorandums specified in EO 13693, see <http://www.fedcenter.gov/programs/eo13693>). However, EO 13693 retains the breath of these revoked executive orders (and Presidential Memorandums) while establishing newly defined targets. Thus, the goal of EO 13693 is to maintain Federal leadership in sustainability and greenhouse gas emission reductions.

The EO 13693 outlines a combination of more efficient Federal operations to reduce agency direct greenhouse gas emissions while fostering innovation, reducing spending and strengthening the communities in which Federal facilities operate. Agencies shall increase efficiency and improve their environmental performance. Improved environmental performance will help protect our planet for future generations and save taxpayer dollars through avoided energy costs and increased efficiency, while also making Federal facilities more resilient. To improve environmental performance and Federal sustainability, priority is placed on reducing energy use and cost, then on finding renewable or alternative energy solutions. Pursuing clean sources of energy will improve energy and water security, while ensuring that Federal facilities will continue to meet mission requirements and lead by example. Employing this strategy for the next decade calls for expanded and updated Federal environmental performance goals with a clear overarching objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions across Federal operations and the Federal supply chain.

Information relating to EO 13693 can be obtained through the following links below:

- Regulations, Guidance, and Policy
 - EO 13693
- Supporting Information and Tools
 - Databases/Software Tools
 - Libraries/Repositories
- Lessons Learned
- Training, Presentations, and Briefings
- Conferences and Events

Climate Change

Alternatives should consider future climate scenarios and weather events from the National Climate Assessment (NCA), and describe how those scenarios may impact the project and its design. Any assessment done to identify climate trends and sustainable design should be mentioned in the NEPA analysis and design or construction commitments brought into a final document. We recommend considering climate adaptation measures based on how future climate scenarios may impact the project. The U.S. Global Change Resource Program released the Third National Climate Assessment, the authoritative and comprehensive report on climate change and its impacts in the United States. For more information, please visit <http://www.globalchange.gov>.

Water Resources

All water quality issues including surface water, groundwater, drinking water, stormwater management, wastewater management, wetlands, oceans and watersheds should be addressed.

Groundwater: The principal aquifers in the region should be identified and described. All wells, both public and private, that could potentially be affected by the project must be identified. Areas of groundwater recharge in the vicinity should also be identified and any potential impacts from the proposed action examined.

Surface Water Resources: The DEIS should outline measures to protect surface waters. The aquatic ecosystem must be evaluated carefully and include a detailed discussion of runoff, sediment and erosion control measures. Such mitigation measures must address both short term renovation/construction/demolition/decontamination impacts and long term project impacts.

Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Chesapeake Bay Executive Order 13508, *Protection and Restoring a National Treasure*, tasked a team of federal agencies to draft a way forward for protection and restoration of the Chesapeake watershed. This team, the Federal Leadership Committee for the Chesapeake Bay, developed the *Strategy for Protection and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*. This strategy sets out clear and aggressive goals, outcomes, and objectives to be accomplished through 2025 by the federal government, working closely with

state, local, and nongovernmental partners, to protect and restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The strategy deepens the federal commitment to the Chesapeake region, with agencies dedicating unprecedented resources, targeting actions where they can have the most impact, ensuring that federal lands and facilities lead by example in environmental stewardship and taking a comprehensive, ecosystem-wide approach to restoration. Please discuss if the Proposed Action will impact the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and potential measures to reduce/mitigate impacts.

Wetlands: Wetlands present on, or immediately surrounding the site should be delineated according to the 1987 Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands. Impacts to wetland should be avoided or minimized whenever possible. The total size of the wetlands should be provided, in addition to the size of the wetland in the study area and size of the direct impact. The DEIS must analyze the size and functional values of all impacted wetlands and develop a mitigation plan for their protection.

Stormwater Management/Low Impact Development: Stormwater runoff in urban and developing areas is one of the leading sources of water pollution in the United States. In recognition of this issue, Congress enacted Section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) to require federal agencies to reduce stormwater runoff from federal development and redevelopment projects to protect water resources. Although the focus of the DEIS is alignment of facilities on the South Mall Campus, rehabilitating/restoring historic buildings, etc. it is important to address stormwater runoff from impacted buildings and if development and/or future development is planned then Section 438 of the EISA should be implemented. Implementation of Section 438 of the EISA can be achieved through the use of the green infrastructure/low impact development (GI/LID) infrastructure tools described in the Technical Guidance (www.epa.gov/owow/nps/lid/section438). For more information on specific GI/LID practices and how they function, visit: www.epa.gov/greeninfrastructure. The intention of the statute is to maintain or restore the pre-development site hydrology during the development or redevelopment process. To be more specific, this requirement is intended to ensure that receiving waters are not negatively impacted by changes in runoff temperature, volumes, durations and rates resulting from federal projects.

For additional and more comprehensive LID information, please refer to the following web sites.

U.S. EPA's Low Impact Development Website: www.epa.gov/nps/lid

U.S. EPA's Smart Growth Website: www.epa.gov/smartgrowth

International Stormwater BMP Database: <http://www.bmpdatabase.org>

Floodplains: Floodplain encroachments must be evaluated and coordinated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Federal Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) states, "If an agency has determined to, or proposes to, conduct, support, or allow an action to be located in a floodplain, the agency shall consider alternatives to avoid adverse effects and incompatible development in the floodplains." Where no practicable alternatives

exist, Executive Order 11988 goes on to state, "If property used by the general public has suffered flood damage or is located in an identified flood hazard area, the responsible agency shall provide on structures, and other places where appropriate, conspicuous delineation of past and probable flood height in order to enhance public awareness and knowledge about flood hazards." To promote public safety, we recommend that at a minimum, a permit condition be included to require conspicuous delineation of past and probable future flood heights at multiple locations across the project site. These signs should be in place within six months of permit issuance.

Physiography

The physical and natural resources of the project area should be described including physiographic provinces, topography, climate and geologic setting. Soils at the project should be mapped and outlined. Distribution and classification of soils within the study area, and the major soil types found at the project site should be described. Because soils have the potential to be impacted by demolition/decontamination activities, please state the intent to sample soils and follow-up actions if contamination exceeds safety thresholds.

Terrestrial Resources

The DEIS should provide a complete description of the terrestrial habitat resources in the study area. Complete species lists for mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and plants present in the study area should be provided. The composition and characteristics of each community type should be summarized and the functions and total acreage indicated. Discuss potential impacts to these communities as a result of demolition/decontamination activities and possible mitigation measures to minimize/avoid impacts.

Threatened and Endangered Species

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) provides for the listing of endangered and threatened species of plants and animals as well as the designation of critical habitat for listed species. The ESA prohibits the taking of any listed species without (for federal agencies) an "Incidental Take Statement." The DEIS should provide a description of terrestrial, wildlife and aquatic species in the study area. Any threatened or endangered species must be listed. Critical habitat for threatened or endangered species should be properly identified. The DEIS should describe the potential project impacts to these species as well as mitigation measures to minimize/avoid impacts. The most recent state and federal threatened and endangered species coordination letters should be included in the DEIS. In addition, we recommend that the appropriate state and federal agencies be contacted annually at a minimum regarding these issues.

Waste Management

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) passed in 1976 sets standards for hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities. The management of hazardous waste

at SI should be conducted in compliance with RCRA. The DEIS should also state/discuss if a Hazardous Waste Management Plan and a Hazardous Waste Minimization Plan are in place.

Identify known hazardous materials as well as asbestos-containing materials (ACM), lead-based paint (LBP), and oil and other hazardous materials (OHM) located within the study area. The status of the materials should be discussed as well as alternative remedial methods described in addition to providing a detailed plan for proper disposal.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)

The LEED Green Building Rating System is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. Members of the U.S. Green Building Council representing all segments of the building industry developed LEED and continue to contribute to its evolution. LEED standards are currently available for:

- new construction and major renovation projects
- existing building operations
- commercial interiors projects
- core and shell projects

LEED was created in order to define "green building" by establishing a common standard of measurement; promote integrated, whole-building design practices; recognize environmental leadership in the building industry; stimulate green competition; raise consumer awareness of green building benefits; and transform the building market.

LEED provides a complete framework for assessing building performance and meeting sustainability goals. Based on well-founded scientific standards, LEED emphasizes state of the art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality. LEED recognizes achievements and promotes expertise in green building through a comprehensive system offering project certification, professional accreditation, training and practical resources. For more information, contact the U.S. Green Building Council at the following web address: <http://www.usgbc.org/leed>.

COMMUNITY IMPACTS

Noise: EPA retains authority to investigate and study noise and its effect, disseminate information to the public regarding noise pollution and its adverse health effects, respond to inquiries on matters related to noise, and evaluate the effectiveness of existing regulations for protecting the public health and welfare, pursuant to the Noise Control Act of 1972 and the Quiet Communities Act of 1978. Noise pollution adversely affects the lives of millions of people. Studies have shown that there are direct links between noise and health. Problems related to noise include stress related illnesses, high blood pressure, speech interference, hearing loss, sleep disruption, and lost productivity. Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) is the most common and often discussed health effect, but research has shown that exposure to constant or high levels of

noise can cause countless adverse health effects. Please discuss potential noise impacts that may result from the Proposed Action as well as mitigation measures (i.e., maintenance of construction equipment and installation of mufflers to reduce noise; time of day restrictions on construction and maintenance activities to eliminate noise during those times of day when it is considered to be most objectionable; and timing of demolition and/or construction activities to avoid primary breeding and nesting seasons of avian and other affected species.

Socioeconomics: Discuss the socioeconomic and cultural status of the area, including number of people, employees and/or jobs impacted as a result of the proposed project(s). The DEIS should address the decrease or increase of people/employees/jobs in relation to its effect on tax base, local housing, job markets, schools, utilities, businesses, etc.

Traffic and Transportation: The DEIS should address traffic and transportation as it relates to the Proposed Action. It may be necessary to provide an evaluation of existing roads specifying existing levels of service at major intersections near the project area as well as accident data. If appropriate, an evaluation of the impacts associated with an increased number of employees should be provided. The DEIS should discuss existing and proposed public transportation to the area under consideration and provide estimates of expected usage. Traffic projects should then be made to show expected conditions for a completed project, if applicable.

Environmental Justice: Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, directs each federal agency to incorporate Environmental Justice (EJ) into its mission and activities by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.... The Executive Order also explicitly called for the application of equal consideration for Native American programs. The DEIS should identify EJ communities in the study area and discuss potential impacts that the Proposed Action may have on these communities.

Human Health: Please discuss the human health risks associated with renovation/construction/demolition/decontamination activities and estimate the nature and probability of adverse health effects in humans who may be exposed to contaminants.

Children's Health: Executive Order 13045, *Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks*, requires each federal agency to identify and assess environmental health and safety risks to children. "Environmental health and safety risks" are defined as "risks to health or to safety that are attributable to products or substances that the child is likely to come in contact with or ingest." When conducting assessments of environmental risks, the lead agency should consistently and explicitly take into account health risks to children and infants from environmental hazards. Please identify/discuss children in the study area and potential impacts that may result from the Proposed Action.

Cultural Resources: Consultation with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer throughout the planning process is strongly recommended to identify historic properties/archaeological resources that may potentially be affected by the implementation of the Proposed Action and to seek ways to resolve potential adverse effects. Please include within the DEIS a detailed descriptions of the affected sites and potential impacts including correspondence with agencies and a Memorandum of Agreement, if applicable.

Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. The Council on Environmental Quality in 40 CFR 1508.7 defines cumulative impacts as "impacts on the environment which result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions." Therefore, a cumulative impacts assessment should be an integral part of the DEIS.

Distribution List

The DEIS should include a Distribution List of agencies, organizations, and persons to whom copies of the document were sent. A Distribution List identifies those parties who have been given the opportunity to comment and reveals that those not included on the list may need to be given the DEIS for review. This information is critical to ensuring all necessary parties are given the opportunity to review and provide input to the impacts associated with the Proposed Action.

From: [Marjorie Pray](#)
To: [Comments on Campus Plan](#)
Subject: Comments/Questions on the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan
Date: Monday, February 20, 2017 10:29:29 AM

Name:marjorie pray

Comments:

I understand that one of the plans considered for the Master plan would remove what is now one of the most beautiful gardens in all of Washington DC, that being the historic gardens behind the 'castle'. This would not only destroy a garden of the utmost beauty, it would eliminate one of the big tourist draws to the Mall. I haven't taken the time to review the alternate plans, but will do so in the future.

Questions:

Would you like to receive project updates? yes please.

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Opinions

Don't destroy the Smithsonian's beloved Haupt Garden

30

Save for Later

Reading List



A model showing the new subterranean features where the Enid Haupt garden now resides, as Smithsonian officials and architects announce major changes to several core buildings in November. (Bill O'Leary/The Washington Post)

By James M. Goode March 18

The [Smithsonian Institution](#) proposes to destroy one of Washington's most

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Most Read

- 1

Don't fall for the media distortion about Trump
- 2

Nightmare nominee: Nobody likes Donald Trump. Not even white men.
- 3

The Dangerous Donald

beloved outdoor spaces: the [Enid A. Haupt Garden](#). Situated behind the iconic [Smithsonian Castle](#) and nestled between the [Arts and Industries Building](#) and the [Freer Gallery of Art](#), the garden is, arguably, one of the few peaceful and contemplative places on the Mall.

Conceived by then-[Smithsonian Secretary S. Dillon Ripley](#), this quadrangle complex comprises not only the garden but also the pavilion entrances to the underground [Arthur M. Sackler Gallery](#), the [National Museum of African Art](#) and the [S. Dillon Ripley Center](#). Fronting Independence Avenue SW are also the garden's splendid entrance gates, based on a design by Castle architect [James Renwick Jr.](#) himself.

I have a personal interest in saving the [Renwick Gates](#) because I was responsible for the concept and the oversight of their design and erection. The quadrangle complex was hailed by the American Institute of Architects as a masterful blending of the old and new when it opened in 1987. Its proposed demolition is being challenged by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Committee of 100 on the Federal City and the D.C. Preservation League.

A year and a half ago, then-Smithsonian Secretary G. Wayne Clough unveiled the [Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan](#), an element of which calls for the removal of historic features of the quadrangle complex. This is no small master plan. It also proposes extensive improvements throughout six museums (from the Freer to the Hirshhorn), including renovated and expanded gallery space, better visitor access and amenities, and much-needed office space.

The plan is a joint vision of Smithsonian management and the Danish architectural firm [BIG-Bjarke Ingels Group](#), famous for [bold, futuristic and bravura-packed designs](#). The selection of this firm for a project demanding subtlety, nuance and sensitivity to a historic setting is questionable.

This multi-decade and increasingly expensive master plan (now estimated to cost [\\$2 billion](#)) proposes some admirable objectives; chief among them is much-needed restoration of the Castle itself. However, the [quadrangle's garden](#), gates and pavilions have become historically significant and a tangible thread of the Smithsonian's [175-year physical development](#) in our nation's capital, no less worthy of preservation for future generations than



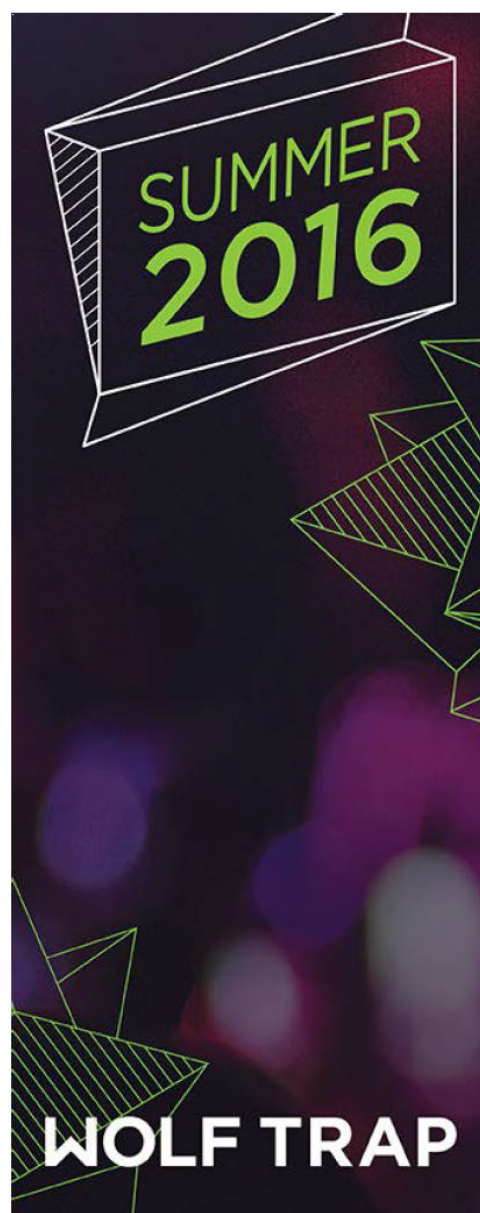
4 Obama: How we can make our vision of a world without nuclear weapons a reality



5 Trump makes fools of RNC and supporters



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the Castle itself.



Bjarke Ingels's replacement is a wasteland of skylights reminiscent of a regional shopping mall. The erupting "swoops" of turf, glass and steel lack respect for the surrounding historic buildings. Peaceful and contemplative are replaced with arid, windswept and unfriendly.

The Smithsonian should have more respect for its Castle and the institution's own history.

The writer is a former curator for the Smithsonian Institution.


Read more about this issue:

[The Post's View: One small step for the Smithsonian, one great leap for its fundraising](#)

[The Post's View: The Smithsonian made the right call on the Cosby exhibit](#)

[Thomas Luebke: Let's get past the Mall turf war](#)

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 30 Comments

The Post Recommends

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Online crossword



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The risks of California's minimum-wage increase

Some workers might be priced out of jobs they could have had at below the new \$15 rate.

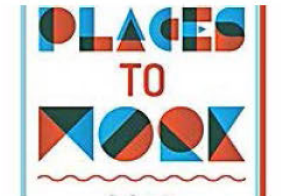


The Supreme Court needs a ninth justice immediately

An evenly divided court leaves a cloud of uncertainty around critical legal disputes.

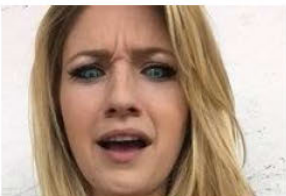
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2015 10 Best Places to Work

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Business Insider



Don't Show Your Age With This Common Credit Card Mistake

CreditCards.com



Wedding Pictures: What Were These Couples Thinking?

Relation Blips



The 2016 New Sedan Models

Yahoo!

30 | Show Comments



From: [Flis, Matthew](#)
To: [Gorder, Joel](#)
Cc: [Estes, Liz](#); [Hirsch, Jennifer](#); [Spofford, Michelle](#)
Subject: Re: SI Campus Master Plan NOI
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 8:16:19 AM
Attachments: [SMITH Coop Agency Agreement Request and Comment Letter 012915 PM Signed.pdf](#)

Good Morning Joel,

Thank you for your email. We will be sure to carry forward the original NPS comments as part of the EIS. As questions arise for discussion, we'll be sure to reach out.

Best,
Matt



The Federal Planning Agency for America's Capital

Matthew J. Flis, AICP-CUD, LEED-AP
Senior Urban Designer | Urban Design & Plan Review Division
Main: 202.482.7200 | Direct: 202.482.7236
401 9th Street, NW | Washington, DC 20004
matt.hew.flis@ncpc.gov | www.ncpc.gov

From: Gorder, Joel [mailto:joel_gorder@nps.gov]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 3:40 PM
To: Flis, Matthew <matt.hew.flis@ncpc.gov>; Peter May <pmay@nps.gov>; Catherine Dewey <Catherine_Dewey@nps.gov>; Tammy Stidham <tammy_stidham@nps.gov>
Subject: SI Campus Master Plan NOI

Hi Matthew,

We just wanted to let you know that NPS will not be providing any formal comments on the NOI at this time. The comments we have on the basic design elements of the proposed master plan/EIS are basically consistent with the comments we provided back in February 2015 (see attached). We do appreciate being acknowledged as a cooperating agency in the Federal Register notice. We look forward to further collaboration on this project. If you would like to discuss further, please feel free to give me a call tomorrow morning.

Take care,

Joel Gorder
Regional Environmental Coordinator
National Capital Region, National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive Southwest
Washington, DC 20242
Joel_Gorder@nps.gov

202.619.7405 (office)

202.870.0877 (cell)

202.401.0017 (fax)



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

1.A.1 (NCR-LPD)

February 3, 2015

Liz Edelen Estes, Project Director
Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan
c/o Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
6110 Frost Place
Laurel, Maryland 20707

Dear Ms. Estes:

This letter provides the National Park Service's (NPS) initial scoping comments on the proposed Smithsonian Institution (Smithsonian) master plan for the South Mall Campus. The South Mall Campus encompasses the Smithsonian campus from the Freer Gallery of Art on the west to the Hirshhorn Gallery and Sculpture Garden on the east, between Independence Avenue and the National Mall. The NPS understands that Smithsonian and the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) are undertaking this proposal for the purpose of improving the alignment between Smithsonian facilities and their strategic plan, increasing public access, and realizing the added benefits from the efficiencies of an integrated plan. Due to the proximity of the South Mall Campus the National Mall the NPS is requesting to become a cooperating agency in this National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning process, as well as a consulting party for the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 (Section 106) consultation process. We appreciate being given the opportunity to provide the following comments and questions during this initial scoping process:

- The NPS has an overall general concern about the potential for all projects within the master plan to affect NPS land. Actions that will require an NPS decision (i.e., issuance of special use permit, transfer of jurisdiction, potential alignment changes to Jefferson Drive, etc.) will require that the compliance for this project be done in a manner that is easily adoptable by the NPS (43 CFR 46.120). To ensure this, the NEPA compliance done for this Master Planning process should be done in a manner that meets the policies set forth in the NPS's Director's Order 12, *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis and Decision-Making*, and accompanying Handbook, which sets forth the policy and procedures by which the NPS complies with NEPA.
- Insofar as the Master Plan relies on major structural, access, or setting changes to the two National Historic Landmarks within the planned area (Smithsonian Institution
- Building "Castle" and the Arts and Industries Building), NPS retains an interest in safeguarding the integrity of these buildings under Section 110(f) of the NHPA.
- The NPS needs a better understanding of how the current compliance pathway is laid out, and how NPS will be integrated into that process. How does the Smithsonian and NCPC

plan to evaluate the impacts for all projects proposed within this Master Plan under NEPA and NHPA?

- Lastly, as presented, it is assumed that the NEPA/Section 106 process will be completed within this calendar year. For a Master Planning process of this scope and complexity, the NPS has concerns regarding the expedited schedule of this planning process, and is interested in seeing a more detailed project schedule, and how exactly the NPS is incorporated into this effort.

We look forward to your formal recognition of NPS as cooperating agency and consulting party for this proposal. For continued consultation and coordination with the National Park Service, please contact me at (202) 619-7025 or via email at pmay@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter May', with a stylized, flowing script.

Peter May
Associate Regional Director
Lands, Planning, and Design

cc:

Cheryl Kelly, National Capital Planning Commission

Jennifer Hirsch, National Capital Planning Commission

Ann Trowbridge, Smithsonian Institution