



Smithsonian Institution

NEPA/Section 106 Public Scoping Notice  
National Air and Space Museum Building Revitalization and HVAC Replacement

October 29, 2014

Dear Interested Party:

The Smithsonian Institution (SI) and the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) would like to inform you of the public comment opportunity on potential exterior work at the National Air and Space Museum (NASM) located on the National Mall in Washington D.C. SI must replace the existing Tennessee Marble stone on the façade of NASM and is evaluating several options. SI is also considering changes to the entrance vestibules and renovations to the terraces surrounding the museum.

The proposed projects are subject to the review of the NCPC under the National Capital Planning Act. NCPC will serve as the lead and responsible federal agency and work in cooperation with SI to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NCPC and SI will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the environmental impacts of a range of alternatives for this project, in accordance with NEPA. Concurrently, SI and NCPC will co-lead consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The purpose of the proposed project is to replace the façade stone panels which are deteriorating. At the time the museum was constructed, the installation of the Tennessee marble (a limestone) was done in such a way that now, 38 years later, the stone panels are warping. To meet the purpose and need of the project, SI is exploring appropriate alternatives to re-clad the façade.

SI also proposes adding exterior vestibules to the north and south entrances to improve visitor experience. The vestibules would also meet security requirements to screen visitors and provide a buffer zone between the exterior environment and the stable interior conditions essential to preserving collections.

Renovations to the terraces, portions of which serve as the roof of the parking garage and loading dock below, may also be addressed as part of the building envelope improvements. This work is needed to address waterproofing to correct leaks into the lower level, the poor/deteriorating condition of the planters, the desire to improve accessibility and visitor experience, and to align the plantings with the mission of the museum (themed gardens), improve sustainability and stormwater management.

NCPC and SI are announcing the start of the public scoping period for the preparation of the Environmental Assessment (EA). The preparation of the EA will enable SI and NCPC to evaluate and analyze the environmental impacts of the project and alternatives under consideration. At the same time, SI and NCPC will be conducting consultation under Section

106 of the National Historic Preservation Act to take into account the effects of the project on historic properties.

SI and NCPC invite you to attend a joint NEPA/Section 106 meeting that will take place on November 12, 2014 at the National Capital Planning Commission from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. The meeting will be an "open house" format. A brief presentation about the project will begin at 6:00pm and will include a discussion of the purpose and need of the project, proposed project alternatives under consideration and issues to be analyzed in the EA.

For 30 days from the date of this notice, NCPC will accept comments concerning the scope of issues to address in the EA. Comments received during the scoping period will be used to refine alternatives and inform the EA analysis. SI and NCPC will be accepting comments at the public scoping meeting or comments can be submitted in writing via mail or email to:

National Capital Planning Commission  
Attn: Cheryl Kelly  
401 9<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20004  
[cheryl.kelly@ncpc.gov](mailto:cheryl.kelly@ncpc.gov)

We look forward to seeing you on November 12th at NCPC, located at 401 9th Street, N.W., North Lobby Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20004. Your participation is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Cheryl Kelly of NCPC at [cheryl.kelly@ncpc.gov](mailto:cheryl.kelly@ncpc.gov) or at 202-482-7291.

To request accessibility services, please contact Cheryl Kelly of NCPC at [cheryl.kelly@ncpc.gov](mailto:cheryl.kelly@ncpc.gov) or at 202-482-7291, one week in advance of the program.