



Information Presentation

Commission Meeting: July 10, 2014

PROJECT

Comprehensive Facilities Master Plan
National Air and Space Museum Facilities

NCPC File No. 7585

SUBMITTED BY

Smithsonian Institution

PRESENTER

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The Smithsonian Institution (SI) has completed a Comprehensive Facilities Master Plan (Facilities Plan) for the National Air and Space Museum (NASM) facilities. The Facilities Plan evaluated the three NASM facilities, which include: the main museum on the National Mall, NASM at Dulles, and the Garber Facility in Suitland, Maryland. The first two facilities are museum spaces with the Dulles site housing larger exhibits, like the Space Shuttle Discovery, while the Garber Facility is used for museum storage. In addition to evaluating these facilities, the Plan includes recommendations on potential improvements to the facilities.

Upgrading the HVAC system and building exterior at the NASM National Mall location are the first improvement projects identified in the Facilities Plan for implementation. Due to the age of the building and deterioration of the existing limestone facade, SI is proposing to re-clad the exterior of the building and is evaluating several alternative replacement materials. Also on the exterior of the building, SI is proposing to construct a new entrance pavilion on the National Mall side of the building to move security elements out of the main building and gallery space. The existing pavilion was constructed in 2001 and does not meet current security standards. SI plans to upgrade the building in phases so that the NASM will remain open to the public during construction.

In addition to the improvements at the National Mall location, SI will submit a site specific master plan to the Commission for the Dulles location. The Facilities Plan identified a need for new storage buildings to house collections from the deteriorating Garber facilities and to serve as swing space while the NASM National Mall location is under construction.

Facts about the National Air and Space Museum:¹

- NASM is the largest of the Smithsonian's 19 museums.
- More than eight million people a year visit NASM's two museum locations, making it the most visited museum in the country. Since it opened in 1976, NASM has welcomed 311 million visitors.

¹ Source: National Air and Space Museum website: <http://airandspace.si.edu/about/facts.cfm>

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- NASM collection encompasses some 60,000 objects ranging in size from Saturn V rockets to jetliners to gliders to space helmets to microchips. One-third of the Museum's aircraft and spacecraft are one-of-a-kind or associated with a major aviation milestone or advancement.
 - More than 12,000 cubic feet of documents recording the history, science, and technology of flight are housed in the NASM's Archives. The facility also holds the most complete collection of aviation and space images — more than 1.75 million photographs and 14,000 film and video titles.
 - Three connecting hangars hold hundreds of aviation and space artifacts at the Dulles location, including the Space Shuttle Discovery; the B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay; a NASA android; Charles Lindbergh memorabilia; space science instruments; and pilot and astronaut equipment and gear.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Previous actions	None
Remaining actions (anticipated)	– Approval of exterior elements related to the HVAC, security, and façade improvements at the NASM on the Mall – Approval of the master facilities plan for the NASM at Dulles