



## Delegated Action of the Executive Director

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<b>PROJECT</b> <b>Interpretive Signage for the Washington Navy Yard Perimeter Wall</b> Washington Navy Yard M Street, between 6th and 11th Streets, SE Washington, DC	<b>NCPC FILE NUMBER</b> 7800
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b> United States Department of Defense Department of the Navy	<b>NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER</b> 41.11(38.00)44368
	<b>ACTION TAKEN</b> Approve as requested
	<b>REVIEW AUTHORITY</b> Approval Per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)

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The Department of the Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Washington, in partnership with the Naval History and Heritage Command and Capitol Riverfront Business Improvement District (BID), has submitted preliminary and final site development plans for the installation of eight interpretive exhibit panels mounted on the public side of the Washington Navy Yard's historic Perimeter Wall in Southeast, Washington, DC. The panels will be installed along a five-block, section of M Street, SE between 6th and 11th Streets SE. The applicant chose the proposed eight locations based on proximity to bus stops, crosswalks and common pedestrian routes.

The goal of the interpretive signage installation is to transform the M Street corridor into a more interesting space, engage as many people as possible, and educate the public about the Navy Yard's history while maintaining historical accuracy, and visual consistency. The exhibit intends to engage people who travel through the Navy Yard neighborhood, including commuters who travel by car, bike, or public transportation as well as people attending special events in the area. Large, engaging graphics and titles will draw the attention of passers-by while brief captions will capture the interest of pedestrians and appeal to those curious about this historic Navy installation.

Each panel will measure 10 feet wide by 7 feet tall and will project about 4 inches from the perimeter wall. The panels will be manufactured of high pressure laminate over medium density overlay plywood and will have aluminum bar frames that will attach to mounting plates with zee clips. The mounting plates will only attach to the wall at mortar joints rather than the brick – to minimize damage to the historic wall. The panels will feature eight aspects of the history of the Washington Navy Yard as conveyed by images and text contributed by the Naval Historic and Heritage Command. The project will be funded by the Capitol Riverfront BID and a grant from the District of Columbia Preservation League. Installation is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2016.

The Navy determined on June 6, 2016 that the project qualifies for Categorical Exclusion No. 23 of the Navy CATEX guidance, which pertains to "non-routine repair, renovation, and donation or other transfer of structures, vessels, aircraft, vehicles, landscapes or other contributing elements of facilities listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places - which will result

in no adverse effect." NCPC has an independent NEPA responsibility as this is a federal project located in the District of Columbia. The project meets NCPC's categorical exclusion §8(C)(2) of the Commission's Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures, which pertains to "repair, replacement, and routine installation of components such as windows, doors, roofs; and site elements such as site or building identification signs, sidewalks, patios, fences, retaining walls, curbs, or gates. Additional features include water distribution lines, and sewer lines which involve work that is essentially replacement in kind." Prior to applying this categorical exclusion, NCPC staff determined that no extraordinary circumstances were present as required by the Commission's NEPA procedures.

Both the Navy and NCPC have an independent responsibility to satisfy the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. In accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA, NAVFAC Washington initiated consultation with the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Officer (DC SHPO) on November 20, 2015. On June 2, 2016, the DC SHPO determined that the project will have no adverse effect on historic properties conditioned upon continued coordination of any further changes with DC SHPO. NCPC has elected to designate the Navy as lead agency pursuant to the Section 106 regulations to satisfy the Commission's Section 106 responsibility.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal at its June 15, 2016 meeting. The Committee forwarded the proposed alley closing to the Commission with the statement that the project has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies were: NCPC; the District of Columbia Office of Planning; the District Department of Transportation; the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer; the General Services Administration; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

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Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d), I approve the preliminary and final site development plans for the Interpretive Signage for the Washington Navy Yard Perimeter Wall mounted on M Street between 6th and 11th Streets, SE, Washington, DC.

// Original Signed //	July 1, 2016
_____ Marcel Acosta Executive Director	_____ Date