



Delegated Action of the Executive Director

PROJECT American Red Cross Square Site Improvements American Red Cross 431 18th Street, NW Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 7837
SUBMITTED BY American Red Cross	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 23.00(38.00)44509
	ACTION TAKEN Approve preliminary and final site development plans as requested
	REVIEW AUTHORITY Approval Per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)

The American Red Cross (ARC) has submitted preliminary and final site plans to make improvements to the grounds at Red Cross Square to accommodate the relocation of the Red Cross Sculpture and history panel benches from their current location at 2025 E Street, NW, in Washington, D.C. Red Cross Square is bounded by 17th Street, NW to the east, 18th Street, NW to the west, D Street, NW, on the south, and E Street, NW to the north. The Red Cross Sculpture and history panels are being relocated from their current location at 2025 E Street, NW, a building that the American Red Cross occupied but has now vacated. An earlier application to NCPC addressed removing all Red Cross signage and symbology located on the buildings, but did not address the relocation of the Red Cross Sculpture and the history panel benches to Red Cross Square. The original American Red Cross headquarters building facing 17th Street, NW is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The ARC is proposing to create a new plaza area at the corner of 18th Street, NW and E Street, NW to accommodate the Red Cross Sculpture. Currently, this area is a green space, bordered by low shrubs. The proposed ground disturbance to create the new plaza is 4,250 square feet. The sculpture, by artist Larry Kirkland, is a two component art piece, with a white Carrara marble component with a cross cut out in the center at ground level, and an inscription on the rear side. This component measures 13 feet tall, with a width of 24 feet. The second component, set back approximately 10 feet, is a granite red cross, measuring 9 feet tall and 10 feet wide. This same relationship is proposed in the new plaza area. To minimize the amount of new hardscape, a large component of the existing lawn and hedge along E Street, NW will be retained. Two walkways will provide access to the plaza from E Street, NW, with DC standard concrete permeable paving used from the existing sidewalk, transitioning to new granite paving. New holly shrubs will be planted along the western edge of the new plaza, behind the current bus stop on 18th Street, and an evergreen hedge will be planted on the eastern edge to shield the existing parking lot. Two new steps are proposed from the north entrance of the 18th Street office building, allowing access into the plaza. Lighting will be integrated into the granite paving, as it is in the current plaza.

The history panel benches will be relocated to an existing flagstone walkway that connects the three office buildings in Red Cross Square, and will be installed on the north side of the walk, to

The American Red Cross does not have a responsibility to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). However, Red Cross Square and the buildings occupied by the American Red Cross are owned by the United States federal government, and managed by the General Services Administration (GSA). GSA does have a NEPA responsibility and determined that the proposed activity qualifies for a categorical exclusion. NCPC has approval authority over the project and therefore also has a NEPA responsibility for the project. Staff has determined that this project qualifies for a categorical exclusion pursuant to NCPC's Environmental and Historic Preservation Guidelines. The specific categorical exclusion that applies is located within Section 8 (c)(2) of NCPC's Environmental and Historic Preservation Guidelines, which covers the repair, replacement, and routine installation of components such as windows, doors, roofs; and site elements. Prior to applying this categorical exclusion NCPC staff determined that no extraordinary circumstances were present.

In regards to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), both GSA and NCPC have compliance responsibilities, as GSA manages the property on behalf of the federal government, and NCPC has approval authority. GSA initiated early consultation with the DC State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), and NCPC. Both GSA and NCPC made the determination that the proposed improvements to the Red Cross Square would not lead to an adverse effect on historic properties. The DC SHPO concurred with this determination of no adverse effect on historic properties. The CFA approved the application on their Consent Agenda for their June 15, 2017 meeting.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposed preliminary and final building plans on July 21, 2017, and forwarded the proposal to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies are: NCPC, the District of Columbia Office of Planning; the District Department of Transportation; the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office; the General Services Administration; the National Park Service; 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 plan at Red Cross Square, located at 431 18th Street, NW in Washington, DC.

// Original Signed //	July 6, 2017
<hr/> Marcel Acosta Executive Director	<hr/> Date