



Commission Action

April 5, 2018

PROJECT Walter E. Washington Convention Center Exterior Alterations and Streetscape Improvements 801 Mount Vernon Place, NW Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 7973
SUBMITTED BY Events DC	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 31.20(38.00)44727
REVIEW AUTHORITY Approval per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (e)	APPLICANT'S REQUEST Approval of comments on concept design
	ACTION TAKEN Approved comments on concept design

The Commission:

Supports Events DC's vision for exterior alterations to the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, and the proposed streetscape improvements, to activate the pedestrian experience around the three blocks that encompass the Convention Center.

Notes that the Convention Center is located among several historic districts, which together have become one of the District's most successful and active entertainment areas, and the proposed alterations and streetscape improvements should add to this energy, while being sensitive to the surrounding historic context of the adjacent neighborhoods, and in keeping with the stipulations of the Memorandum of Agreement developed in consultation for Section 106, for the Convention Center's construction.

Finds the introduction of the retail kiosks along 7th and 9th Streets, the publically accessible rooftop terrace, the art installations, and new metro entrance/plaza will activate the site with uses that attract people and break up the monotonous building walls.

Finds the proposed streetscape improvements introduce landscaping that provide shade, soften the otherwise hardscape environment, and manage stormwater.

Finds that while the proposed lighting scheme for each side of the building, the stairs, the underpasses, the metro canopy, and the pylons at the entrance to the Convention Center may better activate the building and the public realm, the cumulative effects of the lighting on adjacent residential areas along 7th Street, NW in the Shaw Historic District, and Mount Vernon Square is unknown and needs to be evaluated as the design evolves prior to final submission.

Notes that a thoughtful lighting plan was developed for the applicant's Carnegie Library rehabilitation project in Mount Vernon Square, during the Section 106 consultation process, and adopted by the Commission as part of the final approval. The approved lighting plan includes the

use of subtle white light to highlight the historic architectural details of the Carnegie Library, in an elegant and sensitive manner. The Carnegie Library is sited towards the north side of Mount Vernon Square, in relatively close proximity to the Convention Center's Mount Vernon Place entrances. Any lighting changes proposed on the Convention Center fronting Mount Vernon Place should relate to the thoughtful approach for lighting the Carnegie Library and not negatively impact Mount Vernon Square or the library.

Requests Events DC provide additional information regarding the proposed lighting, including the proposed color selections, brightness, and duration of colored lighting (if any) in addition to an evaluation of the impacts on residential areas along 7th Street, NW in the Shaw Historic District and Mount Vernon Square. The lighting evaluation needs to demonstrate how the proposed lighting impacts the views as Massachusetts Avenue intersects with Mount Vernon Place, coming from both directions, as well as an evaluation of the proposed lighting impacts on the residential area in the Shaw Historic District along 7th Street, NW.

Requests Events DC provide additional information regarding any projections into the public rights-of-way, the materials used for the exterior alterations (such as the stairs and balconies), and wayfinding elements.

Recommend the applicant coordinate with WMATA on the proposed alterations to the Mount Vernon Square/7th Street-Convention Center Metro entrance.

Notes that the Commission through the Section 106 process and in consultation with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office, Events DC, and consulting parties will make a determination as to whether the project has the potential to have direct or indirect adverse effects on the Shaw Historic District and the Carnegie Library in Mount Vernon Square. If so, the Commission will execute a Memorandum of Agreement.

//Original Signed//	04/05/2018
_____ Julia A. Koster	_____ Date
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission	