



Delegated Action of the Executive Director

PROJECT NoMa Business Improvement District Chicken and Egg Temporary Art Installation New York Avenue and N Street, NE Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 7990
SUBMITTED BY United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 42.00(70.00)44764
	ACTION TAKEN Approve preliminary and final site development plans
	REVIEW AUTHORITY Approval Per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)

The National Park Service has submitted preliminary site development plans for the installation of a temporary art installation (three-year permit) at the intersection of New York Avenue and N Street in Northeast Washington, DC. The art installation, called the “Chicken and the Egg,” is inspired by the old saying, “Which came first, the chicken or the egg?,” which is a conundrum that traces back to Greek historian Mestrius Plutarchus. This project is part of a larger NoMa Gateways project that contemplates public art at six key intersections in and around the neighborhood that seeks to create positive experiences for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers; provide a strong visual identity for the neighborhood; and celebrate the history and character of the neighborhood.

This installation will consist of two sculptures on NPS Reservation 0183: a chicken that will sit on the western parcel (~460 square feet), and an egg that will sit on the eastern parcel (~290 square feet). The 3” 8” chicken sculpture will be made of architectural foam with hard-coat paint to appear as metal, and it will incorporate an existing traffic signal box (five feet, ten inches tall) that sits at this location. The chicken will be magenta, and the electrical box will be cyan, magenta, yellow, and black. The egg sculpture will be water jet cut half-inch-thick aluminum and feature a repeating “N” pattern along its surface for “N Street.” It will be painted black on the exterior, with cyan, magenta, and yellow on the interior, and will contain an internal solar-powered light at the top of the egg to create shadows. The chosen color palette for this and other sculptures contemplated as part of this project reference the CMYK colors that formed the basis for the printing industry, which has historically been dominant in the area.

Staff has reviewed the project and finds that it will have an overall positive impact on this federal reservation. It effectively conceals the utility box at this location and creates a visual point of interest in an otherwise underutilized park space. Accordingly, staff finds that the project is not inconsistent with the Federal Elements of the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital*.

The NPS has determined that the project is eligible for a categorical exclusion (CATEX) under its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) policies and procedures and has submitted all required documentation. Because it has an approval authority in the review of this project, NCPC has an independent obligation to comply with NEPA, and is applying its own CATEX consistent with

§601.12 (a)(2) of the agency’s environmental policies and procedures. As part of the consultation process required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) has concurred with a finding of “no adverse effect” on historic properties for the project. NCPC is designating NPS as the lead agency for compliance with NHPA.



Figure 1. Plan and Precedents for Chicken and the Egg Art Installation

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal at its November 14, 2018 meeting. The participating agencies were NCPC; the DC SHPO; the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT); the District Department of Energy and Environment; the General Services Administration; the National Park Service; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. The Committee forwarded the proposed preliminary site development plans to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies, except the DDOT, who asked for additional information about the ownership of the utility box and additional information about the project timing in relation to other planned changes at this intersection. The applicant has since reached out to DDOT and addressed any outstanding concerns.

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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 preliminary and final site development plans for the NoMa

Business Improvement District Chicken and Egg Temporary Art Installation at the intersection of New York Avenue and N Street, NW, in Washington, DC for a period not to exceed three years.

// Original Signed //

December 20, 2018

Marcel Acosta
Executive Director

Date