



Commission Action

April 4, 2019

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)44899
REVIEW AUTHORITY Approval per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (e)	APPLICANT'S REQUEST Approval of preliminary and final site and building plans
	ACTION TAKEN Approved preliminary and final site and building plans with comments

The Commission:

Approves Events DC's preliminary and final site and building plans for exterior alterations and streetscape improvements at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

Commends Events DC's vision for developing a project that activates 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.

Finds that 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 9th Street, the publicly accessible rooftop terrace, and the art installations will activate the site with uses that attract people and break up the monotonous building walls.

Finds the proposed streetscape landscaping provide shades, softens the otherwise hardscape environment, and manages stormwater.

Finds that the proposed lighting scheme for each side of the building, the stairs, the underpasses, and the pylons at the entrance to the Convention Center better activates the building and the public realm, and is compatible with the adjacent residential areas along 7th Street, NW in the Shaw Historic District, and Mount Vernon Square.

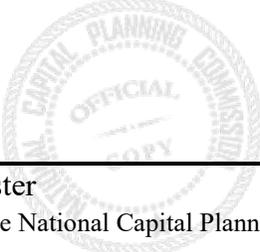
Finds that the proposed lighting plan does not result in adverse effects, either direct or indirect, to historic resources, namely the Shaw Historic District and the Carnegie Library in Mount Vernon Square.

Recommends that the development of minor design components, such as material colors and planting bed location and dimensions be delegated to staff for review and approval.

Notes that any improvements in public space will require a public space permit and coordination with the District of Columbia Department of Transportation Office of Public Space.

Notes that while included in the concept plan, proposed changes to the Mt. Vernon Square/7th Street-Convention Center Metro Station on 7th Street, NW, are not included in the preliminary and final site and building plans, but will be part of a future application, as the applicant and WMATA continue to coordinate.

Recommends the applicant continue to coordinate with WMATA on the proposed alterations to the Mount Vernon Square/7th Street-Convention Center Metro entrance and plaza area.



Julia A. Koster
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission