



## Commission Action

July 6, 2023

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<b>PROJECT</b> <b>District of Columbia Archives Building</b> 4200 Connecticut Avenue, NW Washington, DC	<b>NCPC FILE NUMBER</b> 8473
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b> District of Columbia Department of General Services	<b>NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER</b> 72.10(00.00)45691
<b>REVIEW AUTHORITY</b> District Projects Outside the Central Area per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1)	<b>APPLICANT'S REQUEST</b> Approval of comments on concept plans
	<b>ACTION TAKEN</b> Approved comments on concept plans

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The Commission:

**Approves** the following comments on the new District of Columbia Archives Building on the University of the District of Columbia campus in northwest Washington, DC:

### *Background*

**Notes** the proposed project site at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) is based on a multi-year study that considered other District locations and future programmatic needs for long-term archival and records storage.

**Notes** the current 2020-2029 University of the District of Columbia Campus Plan shows multiple potential future uses for Building 41 including new student housing, new academic space, or expanding the building to accommodate its future use as a new District of Columbia Archives.

**Notes** the Commission is concurrently reviewing the 2020-2029 UDC Campus Plan (#MP40) and recommends the plan be updated to accurately reflect the proposed DC Archives Building.

### *Project Proposal*

**Notes** the project design is driven by a number of specific factors that relate to “best management practices” for archival and records storage.

**Notes** the new building would be a public District building and not directly related to the University of the District of Columbia, with a design that reflects a mixture of UDC’s predominant Brutalist architecture and the more modern design of the UDC student center building.

**Notes** that current plans show the new DC Archives Building will meet LEED Gold and will include solar rooftop photovoltaic panels and a section of green roof area.

**Encourages** the applicant to consider designing to a LEED Platinum standard for the project given the urgency of climate change and the District's larger goals of sustainability.

**Notes** the applicant will need to remove 31 trees and will replace these with 35 trees on the building site.

**Encourages** the applicant to do the following:

- Plant additional trees along the west-side of the new access drive, Dennard Plaza, and directly north of the project site.
- Incorporate milkweed and other pollinator plant species into the project's landscape design where possible.
- Design all new proposed outdoor lighting to comply with International Dark-Sky Association (IDSA) standards.

**Notes** that any planned removal of larger trees (14" in diameter or larger) would require a Special Tree Removal Permit issued by the Urban Forestry Division of DDOT.

**Notes** the current site plan does not include security bollards; however, should a threat assessment warrant perimeter security measures, the District should consider creative protective solutions such as additional landscaping and hardened street furniture and outdoor light fixtures.

**Requests** the applicant provide lighting and signage plans as part of the next submission.

*Coordination*

**Encourages** the applicant to continue coordination with all relevant planning stakeholders, including the DC Archives Advisory Group and local ANC.

**Recommends** the applicant coordinate with the District Department of Energy and Environment regarding stormwater management requirements.

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Julia A. Koster  
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission

