

Public Comments for New Monumental Arch

Total comments: 319

July 2, 2026 1:07 pm

Name: Adelia Moore

Date: July 2, 2026 12:47:44 pm

As a resident of DC in junior high and high school I feel pride in our capital as a former resident as well as a citizen. The architecture and design of our monuments has been carefully done including the relationship of one to another. Trumps massive arch is too big out of place and honors no one but himself . I strongly oppose it.

Name: Kathleen Eyster

Date: July 2, 2026 12:35:55 pm

I oppose the construction of the monumental arch in the traffic circle at the west end of the Memorial Bridge for several reasons.

- 1) The arch appears too large for the available space and expanding the space to accommodate the arch will likely impede both vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Providing safe access to the center of the traffic circle for pedestrians has not been addressed.
- 2) The arch as proposed is so tall, it may interfere with air traffic to Reagan Airport. This could increase the possibility of plane crashes.
- 3) It is not clear in the documents submitted that the ground at the proposed site is capable of supporting the weight of the arch without substantial, costly in-fill. Nor is it clear that such measures would be sufficient to ensure the long-term stability of the structure.
- 4) Other monuments in the National Mall and surrounding area commemorate specific events or individuals in the country's history which have had a documented impact on the nature of our country and its government. Exactly what this arch is meant to honor or commemorate, except for the American people in general, is not clear. Thus the structure is not in keeping with the traditions and intentions of our current set of memorials.
- 5) The size and location of the arch would interfere with the clear sight line of Arlington House from the Lincoln Memorial and of the Lincoln Memorial from Arlington House and the surrounding cemetery. This line was specifically constructed to commemorate the re-unification of the North and South. Building the arch in this location would severely diminish the impact and importance of these two monuments and the physical and symbolic connections between the two.
- 6) As proposed the height of the arch exceeds the Height of Buildings Act and as such disrupts the skyline of the greater DC planning policy.

In conclusion, I do not believe this arch is in keeping with the historical and civic plans of the area, nor does it carefully consider the impact it will have on the safety of visitors or the nearby airport. Therefore, I recommend final approval of this project be denied and the arch not be built.

Name: Suzanne Crockett

Date: July 2, 2026 12:19:17 pm

Dear Planning Commission,

You must not accept this evil measure. It reeks of Trump, Trump, and more Trump. A monument to one man which disgraces and obscures the graves of those who gave the last full measure of devotion, and highlights the home of the man who fought a war to keep people enslaved.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Crockett
5340 Joyner Ave
Spring Hill, FL 34608

Name: Lisa Smith
Date: July 2, 2026 11:55:18 am

I strongly urge the Commission to deny any approvals for the proposed Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle. As a registered architectural historian with the state of Kentucky, it is clear to me that this 250-foot structure is a massive planning failure.

It completely disrespects the historic L'Enfant and McMillan layout of the city, ruins the vital visual line between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery, and is completely out of scale with the surrounding federal landscape. We do not need an oversized, expensive "McMonument" cluttering the Potomac and blocking our historic skyline. Listen to the thousands of citizens, veterans, and preservation experts opposing this: do not approve this project.

Sincerely,

Lisa Smith

Name: Jennifer Wells
Date: July 2, 2026 11:42:23 am

This is a disgusting, ugly, graceless edifice that further cheapens our public spaces proposed by a tacky, ignorant and corrupt administration.

Name: Andrew Kalukin
Date: July 2, 2026 11:13:35 am

I oppose the proposed monumental arch. Architecturally, it will be an eyesore and it is in bad taste. It is a waste of taxpayer money. It sends the wrong message of glorifying military conquest rather than national unity. It is another vainglorious expression of excessive pomp and homage to an autocratic plutocrat. If built, it will become a symbol of national shame rather than pride.

Name: Doris Lucia
Date: July 2, 2026 10:53:11 am

DITCH IT! This is a WASTE of taxpayer money and is nothing more than a vanity project for Trump!

Name: Mary Arndorfer
Date: July 2, 2026 10:04:23 am

There are so many reasons Trump's arch is a bad idea. You know what they are. Please do the right thing and reject this ridiculous, meaningless vanity project.

Name: Beth Wing
Date: July 2, 2026 10:01:25 am

I am opposed to the proposed Monumental Arch. It will be out of proportion to the Lincoln Memorial and will disrupt the historic sightline to Arlington National Cemetery, one of America's most sacred landscapes, the vista from the Lincoln Memorial, across Arlington Memorial Bridge, to Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington House. This administration's determination to look like every other dictatorship in the world, with banners, parades and arches in honor of one man, is repulsive to me. We need to preserve the tradition in the United States to honor the ideas that formed our nation. We must uphold and continue our respect for our national heritage. I sincerely hope that our comments will influence the decision-making process and preserve our dignified historic places.

Name: Ruth Rizzo
Date: July 2, 2026 9:57:23 am

07-02-2026

Please do not allow the Monumental Arch to be built. To those of us who are family of generations of military it is unthinkable that that atrocity would be built near the entrance of Arlington cemetery. That area is to honor our nations heroes not Donald Trump.

The area is beautiful and peaceful, as it should be. The arch belongs in Las Vegas, not Arlington.

Doing what's right is sometimes hard, do it anyway.

Please don't desecrate this area.

Name: Maya Hasegawa
Date: July 2, 2026 9:46:18 am

I believe that the proposed arch is much too massive and therefore out of place with its surroundings. Further it blocks the beautiful view to Arlington Cemetery.

I urge that the arch not be approved.

Name: Judith Heinz
Date: July 2, 2026 9:30:55 am

I object to the proposed arch. The proposed size and location will interfere with the other national monuments such as the Jefferson and Lincoln and Washington memorials and will degrade their power as well as the sacred feeling of Arlington National Cemetery.

Name: Larry Madison
Date: July 2, 2026 12:02:22 am

I strongly oppose any construction of an arch unless and until Congress reviews the proposed arch for appropriateness, including size, location and makeup of the arch. Should Congress vote to go ahead with the arch, then they should fund it. Any such monument should be paid for by the people of the US and it should be to honor the citizens of the US, not any one person.

Name: Amy Noel
Date: July 1, 2026 11:55:14 pm

My ancestor Firmin Breaux fought in the American Revolution.

My grandfather fought in WW2.

My husband is active duty for 23 years.

It is distasteful in the extreme for a draft dodger who illegally invaded a nation AND LOST that war to have the privilege of ordering any statue or monument in front of our military dead.

Fix our healthcare. Fix our veterans. Stop illegal wars.

That is the legacy we need, not some gold arch.

This is a shameful waste of everyone's time and money.

We the People don't want gilded monuments, we want a government to support our ability to have good lives.

Name: Michael Gould
Date: July 1, 2026 11:01:27 pm

This project is an abomination! There is no need for a large, expensive and purposeless monument at this location. It is a huge claim on public resources for a project for which there is no demand except from the President. I will overshadow the Cemetery and this is an insult to our veterans who died for our country. Please do not approve this project!

Name: Teresa Brendler
Date: July 1, 2026 10:10:29 pm

I'm a fifth generation Washington, an Army veteran and a Military Spouse for over three decades. Since my ancestors and those buried in Arlington cannot speak for themselves, I feel compelled to make my first comment of this nature.

This proposed arch honoring a living president is un-American. Nothing like this has ever been done before and I beg you to rule against it. Desecrating Arlington Cemetery with such a grotesque, overbearing arch should never be allowed. People visit Arlington Cemetery to honor those veterans who have served in uniform and were willing to sacrifice it all to protect and defend our constitution. Their graves should be the focus, not an overbearing monument to a living president who never joined the ranks.

Those hallowed grounds should remain a peaceful, contemplative, respectful final resting place for Americans who were willing to give their lives in service.

Memorial Circle is no place for any sort of triumphal monument to anyone. I plead with you to reject this insult to those buried there and those who love them.

Name: Diane DeFries
Date: July 1, 2026 6:09:10 pm

I am writing to oppose plans to build the New Monumental Arch, also called the Monumental Arch, also called the Triumphal Arch, also called Trump's Arch. That there is not even a consistent name for this ill-conceived project is an indication of the lack of clear planning, complying with established processes, and obfuscation of fact-based news to the public.

In comments submitted previously, I noted the Arch proposal's assault on the aesthetics of Washington, DC, the profound disrespect of the history of this country as memorialized in other monuments in Washington, and the disregard for the significance of the physical relationship of the Arlington House and the Lincoln Memorial. None of that has changed. This is still a bad project. It is ridiculously overblown, does not represent the will of the people, and only serves to further the attempts to disrupt a long history in order to reshape a beautiful city to boost one man's ego.

That man with the enormous ego has enormous power. Our country was founded on the acts of courageous people. Will you respect what the citizens are telling you about this project or will you bow to the orders from this President, whether under pressure or under his spell? Please do not approve this project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Patricia Kress
Date: July 1, 2026 5:35:55 pm

This is an obscene plan to cater to the ego of one man using taxpayer money and forever altering an historical location. The proposed arch is ridiculously enormous, reminiscent of the aspirations of the Nazis. No, no, no. I object most strenuously.

Name: Eric Wyse
Date: July 1, 2026 4:10:33 pm

Please do not destroy the beauty of the cemetery with the proposed monumental arch. Not needed. Not beautiful. Not respectful. It is expensive, not in context for both size and message.

Name: Rebecca Stevens
Date: July 1, 2026 2:47:33 pm

The construction of the Triumphal Arch would constitute an Adverse Effect. No mitigation strategies can compensate the American people for the profound loss resulting from altering Washington, D.C.'s most revered commemorative and ceremonial landscape. Its presence would not only disrupt the dignity of adjacent national monuments, memorials, and grave sites but also compromise the iconic vistas that have defined the city's character for generations. Erecting such a structure at this location—regardless of its size—would cause both symbolic and tangible harm to the heart of Washington, D.C., Memorial Avenue, and Arlington National Cemetery. The integrity and legacy of these historic sites demand preservation, and the proposed arch would irreparably undermine their significance.

General Observations on the Draft Assessment of Effect

Executive Order (EO) 14252: The proposed Triumphal Arch does not align with the objectives outlined in EO 14252. Rather than enhancing the area, it would decrease green space and increase safety risks for both motorists and pedestrians. This project disregards the historical significance of the site and stands to be a source of national regret.

Instead of constructing a new monument that requires additional care, a more impactful approach to meet the goals of EO 14252 would be to invest in the consistent upkeep and preservation of the distinguished public spaces already in existence—many of which have suffered from deferred maintenance over decades. New construction only magnifies the challenge, diverting attention and resources from the continued care these cherished places deserve.

The assessment of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is incomplete, as it fails to include the U.S. Air Force Memorial and its grounds (VA DHR-ID number 000-9821), which are relevant and located near the proposed arch. Additionally, although significant individual structures—such as presidential graves and military memorials—are listed in Appendix D, they are not clearly identified on the APE maps found in Appendix C. While the surrounding areas are depicted, this omission makes it difficult to fully evaluate how the Triumph Arc may impact these important sites. Notable examples include Presidents Taft's and Kennedy's gravesites, Presidents T. Roosevelt's and L.B. Johnson's memorials, the Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima), and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures: The claim that a 250-foot arch is ideal because smaller arches would negatively affect cultural landscapes is unconvincing. Even with visibility through the arch, the proposed height would interrupt the view between the Lincoln Memorial and the Hemicycle, acting as an oversized visual barrier. This imposing structure would disrupt vistas across the city and from nearby historic districts, monuments, memorials, and gravesites.

The Section 106 assessment does not address the impact of exterior lighting for the arch, nor does it consider how this lighting could affect nearby monuments, memorials, historic districts, and the parkway. Thoughtful lighting design is essential, particularly at night, as it will make the new structure a prominent feature on the Washington D.C. skyline. Without careful planning, the illumination of the arch could easily outshine the Lincoln Memorial and other significant landmarks, detracting from their visual presence.

Name: Jennifer Gates
Date: July 1, 2026 1:41:26 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch is problematic. The scale, location, and design of it will dwarf the Lincoln Memorial and disrupt the long, open, and uninterrupted viewsheds, overwhelming the entry to Arlington National Cemetery. Arlington is the hallowed resting place of 400,000 veterans and their families, and a powerful reminder of American military sacrifice, selfless service, and national unity. It would be a waste of taxpayer money to build something to honor our nation's history when it would in fact be blocking and disfiguring powerful symbols of our history. Please find another, more respectful and less wasteful way to celebrate our country's 250th anniversary.

Name: Trip Reimann
Date: July 1, 2026 1:35:19 pm

Memorial Circle is no place for any sort of Triumphal Monument. It is not a place where we beat our chest or exhort our glory- especially when it's done in dedication to someone still living, who had never served the country in uniform before.

This cemetery, this final resting place for so many who have given their last full measure, is sacrosanct and contemplative place for every citizen to visit and solemnly give thanks to those who have so valiantly defended and protected our Republic. A structure of any kind that incomes images of beating our chest as a nation, of doing anything other than allowing open spaces for contemplation and thanksgiving would be a grave injustice to all those resting in peace.

Our national monuments should unite the American people, not further divide us— which is exactly what this proposed arch is already doing, coast to coast.

Name: Kate Reimann
Date: July 1, 2026 1:14:40 pm

I opposed the Arch, particularly because of its size, location, and stated intent. Memorial Circle is supposed to be a place of quiet contemplation before the sweeping National Cemetery—which houses my grandfather, Paul Reimann, a WWII veteran, my grandmother, his wife, Patricia Reimann; my great uncle, William Reimann, a WWII veteran, and Frank “Bruiser” Bryant, KIA in Afghanistan in April 2011, a week before his deployment was set to end. Bruiser was an F-16 pilot in the Air Force with my husband, and we frequently pay our respects to our family and my husband’s colleagues and friends at Arlington. The proposed arch is inappropriate in location and purpose, and should not be permitted to move forward. Arlington is a sacred place and one that our family, and many others, hold with reverence. The arch would be disrespectful to both the families of and those laid to rest, the men and women who’ve made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. This is not partisan, this is about respecting those who’ve fought and died for all of us. My family, and our friends. Please do not allow the arch to move forward in this location. Thank you.

Name: Mary MacLaren
Date: July 1, 2026 12:46:03 pm

My parents, Joseph F. Loftus, Col USAF ret'd and Mary P. Loftus, who served our country in WWII are buried at Arlington National Cemetery, a place of rest for those who served our country in war and in peace. This Arch will cast a political shadow and block the view from the Cemetery to the Lincoln Memorial. It will also shadow the Women's Memorial at the entrance to the cemetery. As a ret'd Air Force Colonel, this effort to revamp Washington's holy ground disgraces and dishonors those who lived and died serving our country. Please do not approve this proposal.

Name: Dean Hagerman
Date: July 1, 2026 12:02:38 pm

The attached PDF is respectfully submitted for NCPC consideration.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Kristen Olson
Date: July 1, 2026 9:35:54 am

The proposed monumental arch would be an oversized, embarrassing blight on one of our country’s most sacred landscapes, the vista from the Lincoln Memorial across Arlington Memorial Bridge to Arlington National Cemetery. Such a clumsy and poorly conceived vanity project belongs in Soviet Russia or North Korea, not in the United States of America.

Name: Laura Bachman
Date: July 1, 2026 9:18:01 am

This new monumental arch should NEVER BE APPROVED FOR CONSTRUCTION. It is out of proportion to all existing landscaping and view corridors. Its design parameters are based on the President's ego, not on the actual historic nature of Washington DC's other monuments and public spaces.

Name: Elizabeth Jamison
Date: July 1, 2026 7:04:17 am

I strongly oppose the proposed "National Victory Memorial" arch in Memorial Circle at Arlington National Cemetery.

My opposition is personal. My grandfather and both of my grandmothers are buried at Arlington. I also have friends who lost their lives in U.S. Navy helicopter accidents and service to our country who are buried there. Arlington is not an abstract national landmark to so many of us military families: it is a sacred place where we go to remember and honor people we love.

Memorial Circle was intentionally designed as an open space for reflection, remembrance, and quiet contemplation. That space serves an important purpose. It allows families, friends, veterans, and visitors to pause and consider the sacrifices of those who rest there. Constructing a massive "triumphal" arch in that location would fundamentally alter the character of one of our nation's most revered cemeteries.

Arlington National Cemetery should never become a place for personal glorification, political symbolism, or monuments associated with any living individual. The cemetery exists to honor the service and sacrifice of those buried there, not to celebrate a political figure. Our national cemeteries should remain places that unite Americans in remembrance rather than divide them through partisan associations.

I am also concerned that significant questions remain regarding the project's impact on traffic, aviation safety, and the historic design and integrity of the cemetery grounds. Those concerns deserve thorough study before any proposal moves forward.

Most importantly, Arlington National Cemetery is a sacred final resting place. Families who visit loved ones there deserve a setting marked by dignity, reverence, and reflection. Memorial Circle should remain dedicated to that purpose. I respectfully urge the Commission to reject this proposal and preserve the solemn character of Arlington National Cemetery for future generations.

Name: Nadja Gutowski
Date: July 1, 2026 6:55:35 am

Please consider the current sacred and historical viewshed and do not allow this massive arch to be built. The viewshed you are protecting represents the values of the American experiment—restraint, modesty, and inclusivity. The current viewshed honors the memory of extraordinary people (soldiers and presidents) whose contributions should not be overshadowed by a massive, unnecessary, and meaningless arch.

Name: Margaret Harper
Date: July 1, 2026 5:36:24 am

Dear madams and sirs,

I am deeply opposed to the proposed monumental arch.

Memorial Circle is for just that: a place of memorial for my countrymen and women. It is no place for any sort of Triumphal Monument. Arlington should always be a peaceful, contemplative, respectful final resting place for Americans who were willing to give their lives in service. This proposed arch — in this size, location, and with this stated intent — will interfere with that respect and peace.

We must not desecrate our most cherished Cemetery. Doing so insults those buried there and those who love them.

Our monuments should unite the American people, not further divide us. This one dwarfs in size some of the other monuments that define Washington DC and our country's purpose, such as the Lincoln, Jefferson, and Washington memorials. This country should be a democracy, not a place to ape imperial Rome or Napoleonic France. I want my country to be a democracy and my nation's Capitol to be a place of decency, respect, and restraint.

Thank you.
Margaret Harper

Name: Alan Herman
Date: June 30, 2026 11:46:31 pm

PLEASE STOP THIS!
Our Arlington Cemetery is most very sacred!
It should NEVER be contradicted with another Trump tribute!
What are they thinking?
Do NOT desecrate our Nations honoring of our great soldier and heroes who provided me with all the Constitutional Blessings!

Name: Stephen Eubank
Date: June 30, 2026 10:08:23 pm

I commented in the previous NCPC meeting on
* the absurdity of this proposed monument—with its politically pre-ordained acceptance that ignores massive public opposition—as a way to commemorate 250 years of democracy,
* the disrespect it shows to those buried at Arlington—including several of my close relatives, and
* the dishonor it will bring to those who are attempting to whitewash history with it.
Today, I am writing to urge you to pay attention to the letter of June 15 from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which outlines why the process you are using is essentially illegal, citing clearly the statutes you as a committee are violating with the charade of a Section 106 Assessment of Effects Report. You are also completely ignoring the Height of Buildings Act, imposing a ridiculously short public comment period, and blatantly lying about compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. As just one example, the letter lists “the Fort Myer Historic District” as one of the National Historic Landmarks that will be adversely affected without any effort on your part to avoid or minimize the effects. I was married at Fort Myer and I resent you treating it as a stage prop for this monument to a narcissist. We all know how to minimize or avoid adverse effects to these landmarks. The best way is simply not to build the arch there, but somewhere more appropriate, like on the beach at Mar A Lago, where it can crumble into the ocean as sea levels rise without taking the Metro, the GW parkway, and the Memorial Bridge viewshed with it. Second best would be to listen to any one of the thousands of comments you have received opposing the enormous size and siting of the arch. You are on the wrong side of history and your descendants will be ashamed of what you are doing. It’s right up there with the ridiculous military parade for his birthday last year, the green slime and peeling paint in the reflecting pool, and the political rally disguised as an empty state fair on the Mall. Do this right by involving the public and respecting our laws and historic monuments and your descendants could instead be proud of you.

Name: Daniel Lorenz
Date: June 30, 2026 9:56:37 pm

1. Memorial Circle is no place for any sort of Triumphal Monument.
 2. We cannot desecrate our most cherished Cemetery, doing so insults those buried there and those who love them.
 3. Our monuments should unite the American people, not further divide us
-

Name: Jessica Lawson
Date: June 30, 2026 9:26:02 pm

I am strongly opposed to plans for the new Monumental Arch, period, but even more so in its proposed location in Memorial Circle. This location has long been a place for somber and quiet remembrance of the sacrifices made by the many national heroes interred at Arlington National Cemetery. A garish and gargantuan arch is both out of place and crass -- anywhere in

Washington, but especially here. America is not a nation that has to flaunt its triumphs with a gaudy "architectural" bauble. Washington, D.C., is a capital city designed with quiet dignity, and it should remain so.

Name: Darrel Wood
Date: June 30, 2026 9:20:26 pm

I am deeply opposed to the monumental arch. Its location and scale are quite inappropriate and would permanently deface the environment that current monuments and commemorative works. The proposed sculpture atop the arch simply adds to the poor design and obscures the public spaces adjacent.

Name: Laura Stassi
Date: June 30, 2026 8:18:56 pm

There are many reasons to oppose the arch, but the biggest is that Arlington National Cemetery should always remain a peaceful, contemplative, respectful final resting place for Americans who were willing to give their lives in service. This arch, in this size, location and stated intent, will greatly interfere with that. Please do not allow this to proceed. Thanks, Laura Stassi

Name: Mary Wagner
Date: June 30, 2026 8:18:48 pm

The arch will interrupt the significant relationship between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington Memorial Bridge to Arlington Cemetery and along Potomac.
The vista is designed to represent post Civil War reconciliation of North and South.
The scale, location and design will disrupt this important visual and symbolic vista.
Arch will dwarf the Lincoln Memorial and disrupt long and open uninterrupted view sheds. It will overwhelm the entry to Arlington National Cemetery, a hallowed resting place for 400,000 veterans and their families.
Finally there is no merit to such a disruptive vanity project. We the people are tired.

Name: Sheryl Anderson
Date: June 30, 2026 7:48:55 pm

Please find attached my comments in opposition to the monumental arch.

[Attachment](#)

Name: DavisD McGowan
Date: June 30, 2026 7:39:45 pm

This is a travesty and a slap in the face to the brilliant planners who closely protected the view from Arlington House. I have often sat on the bench in front of and marveled at the beauty of our Nation's Capital. The Trump arch is a vanity project which will mar the view for future generations. Please do everything possible to stop this I'll advised and I'll planned project by a real estate developer who has no sense of history or decorum We are defunding school lunch programs to spend money on something very few Americans want.

Name: Gayle Frinak
Date: June 30, 2026 6:05:59 pm

My friend whose parents are buried in Arlington (her father lost his life serving in Vietnam) feels that this arch structure will negatively affect the reverence of the cemetery. I feel that it is an insult to someone ,who grew up without a father because of his sacrifice , to build a monstrous arch to a draft dodger overlooking and dominating her father's sacred resting place.

Name: Russell Frum
Date: June 30, 2026 5:44:26 pm

As former residents and frequent visitors to our nation's capital, we are writing to share our concerns about the proposal to construct a new Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle on the George Washington Memorial Parkway. We ask the National Park Service to consider these comments as you consider this proposal.

Our concerns are about the location, size, scale, air traffic obstruction and design of the proposed Triumphal Arch. Also, the way it will interfere with existing commemorative works and fails to protect existing public uses and cultural resources. The location of the proposed Arch, at Memorial Circle, will interrupt the meaningful connection between the Lincoln Memorial, across Arlington Memorial Bridge, to Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington House. One of the most symbolic landscape vistas in Washington, DC, the vista was designed to represent the post-Civil War reconciliation. Arlington Memorial Bridge, with its low profile, creates visual and symbolic vistas connecting the National Mall and National Cemetery. If built as proposed, the new Triumphal Arch will block the carefully planned sightlines between the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge, and Arlington House.

We're also concerned about the sheer size of the proposed Triumphal Arch, which will overwhelm the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and Arlington House. The proposed Arch would be double the size of the Lincoln Memorial. It's so tall it would interfere with National Airport air traffic landing from the north.

In addition, the proposed location of the Arch, at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, would clash with the quiet dignity of the solemn historic character of Arlington National Cemetery. The resting place of 400,000 veterans and their families. The Arch would dominate Arlington National Cemetery and be inconsistent with its hallowed character of solemn graves with powerful, unadorned white markers.

Respectfully,
Russ Frum
Janice Peebly

Name: Beth Talbott
Date: June 30, 2026 4:00:24 pm

The Arlington National Cemetery is hallowed ground. It is where the nation has buried its war heroes and national heroes for many years. This new monumental arch project would diminish the beauty of this solemn and hallowed ground. I urge you to reject this project and allow this cemetery to maintain its beauty and dignity.

Name: Elaine Chang
Date: June 30, 2026 3:32:44 pm

I am concerned about the location, scale, and design of the proposed Triumphal Arch. The location of the proposed Triumphal Arch, at Memorial Circle, will interrupt the highly significant relationship between the Lincoln Memorial, across Arlington Memorial Bridge, to Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington House. One of the most symbolic landscape vistas in Washington, DC, the vista was designed to represent the post-Civil War reconciliation of the north and south of the United States. Arlington Memorial Bridge was intentionally designed with a low profile to respect the visual and symbolic vistas connecting the National Mall and National Cemetery. If constructed as planned at the proposed location, the new Triumphal Arch will obscure the intentional axial and aesthetic relationships between the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge, and Arlington House. Additionally, the design is imperialistic and monarchical; triumphal arches are unAmerican, unpatriotic, and too reminiscent of European powers.

Name: Sue Johnson
Date: June 30, 2026 3:13:45 pm

Please do not approve the arch planned for Arlington.

Our heroes buried there need peace and quiet.
It is also a danger to the air traffic needs for the region.

This is simply not appropriate. Period.

Name: Leslie Lincoln
Date: June 30, 2026 2:37:55 pm

Please consider downsizing or rejecting the proposed Arch. It is too large and will dwarf the Lincoln Memorial, as well as ruining the viewscape from Arlington and overwhelming the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery. It would be more meaningful to spend the money on something the nation needs.

Name: Dustin Hughes
Date: June 30, 2026 2:32:28 pm

With all due respect, this project is a complete waste of American tax payers dollars in my perspective. Please complete a thorough and comprehensive environmental impact statement. Oops, let me guess - another project finds itself categorized as a National Security Emergency.

I would prefer that tax dollars are spent on cancer research, providing sustenance for impoverished youth or any other suitable project other than one symbolizing the vanity of one man who has never served his country over seas during conflict or understands what true civil service looks like. A complete embarrassment to the fabric of this once Great Nation. May God show mercy on the grifters currently hijacking the USA!!

Name: Helen Perry
Date: June 30, 2026 2:13:47 pm

As a citizen of this country, a veteran and a caregiver to a combat wounded veteran who's last wish is to be buried at Arlington on its sacred grounds I cannot state enough how against this arch I am. This is not a tribute to our past, but an ego trip for our current president. 1. Memorial Circle is no place for any sort of Triumphal Monument for ANYONE. It's a place of quiet reflection and awareness of what sacrifice means to our nation. .
2. We cannot desecrate our most cherished Cemetery, doing so insults those buried there and those who love them.
3. Our monuments should unite the American people, not further divide us.

Name: Kalya Mason
Date: June 30, 2026 2:08:08 pm

I vehemently oppose the building of this arch at this location. The Memorial Circle was never intended to be a place for a monument that the president is using to honor himself. He's never served and will never understand the sacrifice so many families have made. This circle is for those with family members who sacrificed all. When you start desecrating a place of honor for the whims of one man, you will continue to divide this country.

Name: John Bennett
Date: June 30, 2026 2:03:00 pm

Let's not erect a shameful monument to a would be dictator. We will just have to tear it down later. This proposed monument stands for something many US service people fought AGAINST. Scrap it, while there is still time.

Thank you.

Name: Mary Ayers
Date: June 30, 2026 1:35:20 pm

Please DO NOT build this proposed Monumental Arch.
It is unnecessary,
it is unattractive,
it disrupts the visual flow of Arlington Cemetery.

Vote NO to building the Monumental Arch.

Name: Earl Vaughan Jr
Date: June 30, 2026 1:34:01 pm

1. Memorial Circle is no place for any sort of Triumphal Monument.
 2. We cannot desecrate our most cherished Cemetery, doing so insults those buried there and those who love them.
 3. Our monuments should unite the American people, not further divide us.
 4. We build monuments to honor our fallen heroes. We do not build them to living self-obsessed narcissists who evaded the draft five times.
-

Name: Stephanie Bourgeois
Date: June 30, 2026 1:18:31 pm

I am not in support of the arch project, particularly the proposed location. My father is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. The drive into the cemetery is one of quiet contemplation and unity. It is respectful of those whom have earned the right to be buried there. An arch designed to honor any one person is simply not appropriate in this space.

Name: Peyton Roberts
Date: June 30, 2026 1:10:56 pm

My husband served as a Navy SEAL for 20 years during the Global War on Terror. We have several dear friends and family members buried at Arlington. As a visitor who holds Arlington National Cemetery in deep reverence, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the construction of the proposed monumental arch. Arlington is a sacred space defined by its quiet dignity, humility, and the powerful, somber uniformity of its headstones. Introducing a massive architectural structure like a monumental arch risks shifting the focus from a place of quiet reflection and mourning to one of grand spectacle. When I go visit friends and family members who paid the ultimate price in service to our country, I can't help but see how the true power of Arlington lies in its understated solemnity. A new monument of this scale would disrupt that delicate, respectful atmosphere. I urge the planners to preserve the simple, dignified character of these hallowed grounds and reject the addition of the arch.

Furthermore, this arch in any location in our nation's capital is a colossal waste of taxpayer dollars. Please use funding responsibly to fix existing National Park sites, not to build new monuments that are not wanted, not needed, and not helpful. Thank you.

Name: Emily Gyimah
Date: June 30, 2026 12:50:19 pm

I oppose the Arce de Trump for several reasons: it is not appropriate to put a monument to someone who has never served in the U.S. military in a military cemetery, the proposed height is a safety concern for air traffic, it will cause traffic in hallowed grounds and the proposed area is currently designated for quiet contemplation and should be kept that way.

Name: Lynn Funkhouser
Date: June 30, 2026 12:08:26 pm

Memorial Circle is no place for any sort of Triumphal Monument and especially for the worst president in our 250 years!!

We cannot desecrate our most cherished Cemetery, doing so insults those buried there and those who love them especially since this president used bone spurs to stay out of the military!!!

Our monuments should unite the American people, not further divide us. Trump has cost this country too much money already and his constructions have been failures!!!

Name: Barbara Pearce
Date: June 30, 2026 11:26:47 am

I am opposed to the building of this Arch. I don't think it fits the location. It is too big and is not in character with the historic pieces that are there. The cost that would be incurred is totally inappropriate when so many Americans are struggling to feed and care for their families. Please stop this project.

Thank you.

Name: Ellen van Iwaarden
Date: June 30, 2026 10:46:49 am

I strongly oppose the construction of the proposed Triumphal Arch. Absolutely everything about it is wrong: the location, its height, its scale, and its design. The proposed Triumphal Arch would ruin a beautiful and significant public space. I lived in Arlington, Virginia as a young woman and appreciated the symbolism and simple beauty of this public space between Washington, D.C. and Virginia. The changes to the design to address the public's many concerns have been minimal. Please reject this design and this location. Our proud country does not need a Triumphal Arch.

Thank you,
Ellen van Iwaarden
Minneapolis, MN

Name: Rebekah Sanderlin
Date: June 30, 2026 10:39:03 am

I strongly object to the proposed triumphal arch. I lost 42 friends to the Global War on Terror and many of them are buried in Arlington National Cemetery's Section 60. My husband — a combat veteran and valor medal recipient — and I have discussed being buried in Arlington ourselves. Many of my widow friends and their children regularly visit their lost loved ones in Arlington. It is a sacred space that should only, ever, inspire visitors to contemplate the true cost of freedom and those who have paid that cost. Memorial Circle is not a place to celebrate triumph but to meditate on sacrifice. A triumphal arch does not belong there. Building this arch there will desecrate the cemetery and insult all buried there and all who mourn them.

Name: Annie Brock
Date: June 30, 2026 10:35:48 am

My father is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. One day, my mother will join him there. Like thousands of other families, Arlington is not an abstract national symbol to me—it is sacred ground.

The purpose of Arlington is unlike that of any other place in our country. It is not meant to celebrate presidents or administrations. It is not designed to impress visitors with grand architecture. It exists to honor those who served and sacrificed, and to provide their families with a place of dignity, reflection, remembrance, and quiet.

Its power comes from its simplicity.

Every path, every row of headstones, every pause in conversation reminds us that this is a cemetery first. It asks nothing of the visitor except reverence.

Adding a monumental arch in Memorial Circle risks changing that character. Even if well-intentioned, it introduces another focal point competing with the reason people come to Arlington in the first place: to remember those who are buried there.

We have many places in our nation to build monuments, memorials, and statements of national pride. Arlington should remain what it has always been—a place where the individuals who served are the monument.

Future generations deserve to experience Arlington as generations before us have: not overwhelmed by new structures, but moved by the extraordinary power of quiet sacrifice.

Please preserve the solemn character of Memorial Circle. Some places are already complete.

Name: Emma Smith
Date: June 30, 2026 10:33:35 am

I am opposed to this proposed monument. First, the Memorial Circle is no place for any sort of Triumphal Monument. We cannot desecrate our most cherished Cemetery, doing so insults those buried there and those who love them. Our monuments should unite the American people, not further divide us.

Name: Pat Canfield
Date: June 30, 2026 10:28:34 am

I oppose construction of the Monumental Arch as it's design is unbecoming to the architecture of the neighboring area. I also oppose it's location disrupting the architect's intended view of the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington cemetery. The Arch, in it's design lacks the ability drawing Reverence from it's viewers as Every Other Monument on the National mall does.

Name: Maria Powers
Date: June 30, 2026 9:56:53 am

Ghana has a similar arch, as does France and some other countries. Why the lack of originality - keeping up with the Jones? This is a waste of taxpayer money at the same time as Congress is cutting Medicaid and Snap and support for ACA premiums. Shame on all of you. History will remember. Do not build this arch.

Name: Catherine Cathers
Date: June 30, 2026 9:12:43 am

I am opposed to the proposed Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle on the George Washington Memorial Parkway, near Arlington National Cemetery and along the Potomac River.

One of America's most sacred landscapes, the vista from the Lincoln Memorial, across Arlington Memorial Bridge, to Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington House communicates the magnitude of the Civil War, the obligation its unimaginable cost imposes on all Americans, and the aspiration of a post-Civil War reconciliation in a new birth of freedom.

It is because this viewshed carries so much meaning to the country that I have concerns about the proposed Monumental Arch, whose scale, location, and design will disrupt this important visual and symbolic vista. In addition, the Arch will dwarf the Lincoln Memorial and disrupt the long, open, and uninterrupted viewsheds, overwhelming the entry to Arlington National Cemetery—the hallowed resting place of 400,000 veterans and their families and a powerful reminder of American military sacrifice, selfless service, and national unity, all within sight of the monumental core of the Nation's Capital.

There is trust in your thoughtful consideration, please do not support this project.

Name: Taylor Miller
Date: June 30, 2026 1:37:38 am

Dont build this stupid arch.

Name: Ray Wells

Date: June 30, 2026 1:36:05 am

The planned triumphal arch will destroy the connection between the Lincoln Memorial and the Arlington National Cemetery. Our father and our cousin are memorialized at the Korean War and Vietnam War Memorials on the National Mall. Our parents are interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

It is not possible to improve on the 400,000 who served their country and lie in Arlington. As one of the families whose loved ones lie there we are unalterably opposed to the defilement of this sacred ground.

Cancel the arch.

Name: Esther Labib-Kiyarash

Date: June 30, 2026 12:36:09 am

Please don't build another monument. What a colossal waste of time and money. We can barely afford to live. Noone wants this, we want affordable healthcare

Name: Nancy Zemirah

Date: June 30, 2026 12:33:49 am

American citizens view this project unfavorably. They do not wish to spend precious taxpayer money on this project. It will be a blight on the landscape of Washington D.C. The majority of Americans disapprove of this president do not want this arch. Maybe someday we could build an arch when the majority of Americans want it and in a location that is appropriate; but not this arch in this location. I vote no.

Name: Sarah Bachman

Date: June 30, 2026 12:25:29 am

The proposed arch is out of scale for the surrounding monuments, whose scale has been carefully calibrated and balanced.

The proposed arch also appears to loom inappropriately over the entrance to the hallowed ground of Arlington National Cemetery.

The proposed arch would be a gross waste of money, time and construction materials.

Name: Louise Stark

Date: June 29, 2026 9:50:10 pm

One of America's most sacred landscapes, the vista from the Lincoln Memorial, across Arlington Memorial Bridge, to Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington House communicates the magnitude of the Civil War, the obligation its unimaginable cost imposes on all Americans, and the aspiration of a post-Civil War reconciliation in a new birth of freedom. But the proposed arch glorifying Trump's ego would interrupt this historic viewshed and diminish these iconic landmarks. In addition, the arch's scale and design would overwhelm the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery—the hallowed resting place of 400,000 veterans and their families, a powerful reminder of American military sacrifice, selfless service, and national unity. Until 2025 additions, changes, architecture and gardens connected to and part of public government spaces in Washington, D.C. were treated with sensitivity, expertise and deep reverence for history. Do not change this now. Do not allow Trump to destroy any more of the public spaces that belong to us, as he has the Rose Garden and the East Wing.

Name: RJ Walker
Date: June 29, 2026 7:32:21 pm

When my ancestors came to the New World in the 1600s (yes, the 1600s) they were leaving the stifling world of monarchies behind, the world where divine right determined who ruled, who was worshipped, and who monuments were built to honor. A veneer of civility overlaid brutal power struggles and the old ways. Not here, not in the then colonies, not 150 years later when a democratic republic was born to never worship a King again.

Our National Parks honor our history as a nation forged in Liberty. From war battlegrounds where my ancestors fought against their own kin and country to set the colonies free, to the homes of Presidents I can call cousin, to the haunted cemeteries where kin fought kin again, to Arlington where the everlasting flame is a beacon of sacrifice, to the majestic wild lands of the westward spirit that lives on today, these Parks are our Parks. Never meant to honor someone who wants to be tyrant ruler. This Arch is something that belongs in the old world, the one my ancestors fought and died to leave behind.

This arch will forever blot the landscape of Washington D.C. A place carefully planned with the vista of monuments and clean skyline to be the majesty of the seat of democracy. It spoils the carefully designed views and shamefully blocks the line of sight from the mall to Arlington Cemetery, the most hallowed of grounds where we bury our heroes.

It is irresponsible to build such a tall, heavy structure with no true impact survey that will be a hazard to air traffic and an eyesore for the generations who come after us who deserve to be as proud of their heritage and history as I am of mine. To catch their breath when looking across the mall to the monuments to great men and great sacrifice. Not to a petty toddler.

Name: Thomas Solomon
Date: June 29, 2026 7:17:02 pm

Re the new Monumental Arch.
DO NOT BUILD it!
We are a democracy, with Presidents and a Constitution, not an empire with Emperors who rule by decree.
Empires build monumental arches, not democracies.
This is an insult to the founders who fought King George III and the Revolutionary War.
Do Not Build this thing.

Best regards,
Tom Solomon

Name: Anthony Goodson
Date: June 29, 2026 7:04:57 pm

I believe the proposed triumphal arch violates the tenets used in planning and developing our national capital city. It will be out of place, will dishonor our veterans by impacting sightlines between Arlington National Cemetery and the monuments on DC proper, is too darned big, and undermines the sense of humility that underpins our national approach to monuments.

We have truly been the "shining city on the hill" for the last 80 years, in part because we avoided braggadocio edifices such as this one.

I encourage you to perform your duties with a view to both our past and our future -- this "triumphal arch" has no place in either and should be roundly rejected.

Name: Nancy Biner
Date: June 29, 2026 6:38:27 pm

This proposed Triumphal Arch is just plain hideous. This is not who we are. Overshadowing Arlington National Cemetery, it should never have been considered. It's gaudy and graceless, and the motivation behind it is wrong. A monument to a cruel,

ignorant, amoral man, it should only be erected if there is a provision to bulldoze it in 2029. Or just something temporary, made with plywood and vinyl, like the melting travesty on the National Mall. NO.

Name: Monica Eshelman
Date: June 29, 2026 6:35:45 pm

No, no, no. No gaudy ugly arch that destroys the view of historical and beautiful monuments. Look at the destroyed White House. Look at the reflecting pool. Look at the Kennedy Center. No! He is destroying our nation's meaningful monuments with tacky Hobby Lobby faux gold. No!

Name: Maureen Becker
Date: June 29, 2026 6:18:16 pm

To the members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

I respectfully request that you prevent the construction of the proposed “Independence Arch” on Memorial Circle near Arlington National Cemetery. This structure will block the historic and symbolic sightlines between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery and overshadow the solemnity of the resting place of those who have served this country with honor and dignity. Rather than enhancing the viewscape, it will dominate and detract from it. Changes to the landscape of federal lands within Washington DC are subject to approval by Congress, not the dictates of the President. This is an unnecessary and unwanted project that will be yet another drain on the coffers of the United States. Please remember that you are duty-bound to protect the federal properties as well as the parklands within the District of Columbia. You are not and should not be beholden to the president, whose role is that of temporary steward and resident, not an owner. The president does not have the authority to dictate the construction of any structure simply because he alone thinks that it is needed and/or wanted. Please exercise your authority and do your duty. Thank you.

Name: Tim Maudlin
Date: June 29, 2026 6:07:01 pm

As an American citizen, and as a native of the District of Columbia, and as a grandchild whose grandparents are interred at Arlington cemetery—so I have visited many times from my youth—I find the proposed arch inappropriate, garish, and an eyesore that would pointlessly block the direct view from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington.

Furthermore, it is perfectly clear that the main motivation for the arch is not to celebrate anything to do with the United States, but just the egocentric desire of one person to put his mark on as much of DC as possible. Fortunately, in the case of the Kennedy Center that naked ambition for self-promotion has been reversed. In this case, it should not be approved in the first place.

Name: De Nada
Date: June 29, 2026 5:27:19 pm

I submit this comment in strong opposition to the proposed Trump arch.

This project is a waste of money, a misuse of public attention, and an embarrassing attempt to glorify one of the most divisive and corrupt figures in American political history. A public monument should reflect shared civic values, historical seriousness, or genuine public benefit. This arch does none of those things. It is not a tribute to the nation. It is a tribute to one man's ego.

At a time when communities face urgent needs — safer streets, better infrastructure, affordable housing, stronger schools, and more reliable public services — dedicating money, space, and political energy to a vanity project is indefensible. Residents deserve investments that improve daily life, not symbolic excess designed to flatter a political personality.

Supporters may call this a statement of pride. In reality, it would stand as a monument to narcissism, grievance, and misplaced priorities. If the goal is to build something that captures the true dignity of this proposal, a pile of filth would be a more honest symbol.

This project should be rejected.

Name: john walton
Date: June 29, 2026 5:14:38 pm

no, we don't want a trump arch; it's ugly, imperial, and a waste of taxpayers money.

thanks!
John

Name: William Swislow
Date: June 29, 2026 5:10:38 pm

While there is value to renovating and upgrading historic places, there is also value to historic landscapes. The vista from the Lincoln Memorial is precious and should be appropriately treasured. Construction of a giant arch will accomplish the opposite. If an arch is needed, find a less obtrusive site.

Name: Julia Austin
Date: June 29, 2026 4:52:52 pm

I oppose the use of government dollars on the proposed Monumental Arch

- It's unnecessary.
- It's unearned.
- It's solely for stroking the ego of Donald Trump.
- It will scar our capital with EVEN MORE memories of this terrible period of history.
- What Triumph does it even commemorate?

NO THANK YOU!

Name: Andrew Malof
Date: June 29, 2026 3:56:10 pm

This project is a terrible idea: it will permanently alter a sacred viewshed and is tremendously out of scale for the space.

Name: Christine Grondalski
Date: June 29, 2026 3:29:37 pm

I highly object to building this arch!
A president should not be allowed to build a monument to himself.
The monument itself would interfere with the beautiful views that are part of our Nation's Capital, and would not fit with the statues and monuments that are a tribute to those who have contributed to our great country.
Please vote NO!

Name: Nancy Brck
Date: June 29, 2026 3:18:33 pm

Please do not approve this project. It is out of scale in relation to its environment, and it will mar the view cape vis-a-vis Arlington National Cemetery. Also, it looks quite costly! I do not want any of my tax collars spent on such an unnecessary vanity project.

Name: Benjamin Recchie
Date: June 29, 2026 3:03:08 pm

I am writing to ask the commission to reject the proposed new monumental arch. In its design and in its location, it is inappropriate and violates the careful design of our capital region.

The scale, location, and design of the proposed monument will disrupt the important visual and symbolic vista in which it is placed. In addition, the Arch will dwarf the Lincoln Memorial and disrupt the long, open, and uninterrupted viewsheds, overwhelming the entry to Arlington National Cemetery—the hallowed resting place of 400,000 veterans and their families and a powerful reminder of American military sacrifice, selfless service, and national unity, all within sight of the monumental core of our nation’s Capital.

Washington, D.C. is a planned city. Its design is not haphazard or driven by individual whims but is a carefully crafted expression of our principles and ideals. The context of our most meaningful buildings and monuments and their relationship to each other communicate our system of government. Achieving this requires deep respect for what has gone before and careful planning, in measured steps and with carefully built consensus, that honor our history and our aspirations.

Because of this, I urge the commissioners to deny approval to the proposed arch. Washington--and America--deserve better.

Name: Chuck Miller
Date: June 29, 2026 2:37:30 pm

Greetings,

I am totally opposed to the redesign of Washington DC, be it the reflecting pool, the Kennedy Center, and this Arch. Having a felony develop a "trimuphal" arch is incredible. It's too big, it will block honored views, and will add another stain on what was a beautiful capital. There is such a thing as over doing it, and this is another example. Please stop this madness.

Chuck Miller
American
Lawrenceville, GA

Name: Frank Leone
Date: June 29, 2026 2:32:59 pm

I strongly opposed placement on the monumental arch at the end of memorial bridge. It will disrupt the ceremonial view linking the Lincoln Memorial with Lee House and Arlington Cemetery. Having just flown over the circle, it's too close to national airport. And if the Arch at the State Fairs exhibition is an indication, the golden statues are tacky, ugly, and not befitting a Democratic Republic. Please put an end to this nonsense. Thank you.

Name: Elizabeth Waters
Date: June 29, 2026 2:13:41 pm

I object in the strongest terms to Trump’s proposal for a Monumental Arch between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. It is completely out of scale with Washington’s monumental core and would defile a sacred location. As a citizen, urban planner and preservationist I I’m-lore you to do all you can to block this. Law requires Congress to make these decisions and no one should agree to this.

Name: Adam Blake
Date: June 29, 2026 2:05:43 pm

This arch is completely unnecessary and will ruin the viewshed on DC. Just another vanity project from a corrupt administration.

Name: Debbie Jones-Steele
Date: June 29, 2026 1:15:40 pm

Name: Jennifer Ross
Date: June 29, 2026 1:03:22 pm

As a military veteran who has served this nation for 20 years, I am writing to formally log my deep objection to the construction of the proposed 250-foot Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle. This comment is submitted not out of partisan animosity, but out of a profound sense of dismay regarding what this structure symbolizes, where it is placed, and how it radically breaks from the sacred traditions of American monumentation.

I ask that you consider the following points regarding the historical rationale, the physical location, and the message this monument sends to the men and women who wear the uniform.

1. A Flawed Historical Rationale. The very concept of a "Triumphal Arch" is borrowed from the imperial hubris of Roman emperors and Napoleon Bonaparte. When Napoleon commissioned the Arc de Triomphe in 1806, it was designed with a clear, immediate rationale: to celebrate a massive, definitive victory in war (the Battle of Austerlitz) and to honor the active troops of the Grande Armée.

The proposed arch in Washington D.C. lacks any such foundation. It does not mark the conclusion of a successful war, nor does it celebrate a collective triumph of the American people. Raising a colossal monument of imperial victory during a historical period defined by unresolved, costly conflicts—where American service members are continually put in harm's way without clear congressional authorization—is an affront to reality. It attempts to project a triumph that has not been earned on the battlefield, turning a serious military tradition into an empty, gaudy display.

2. Severing the Sightline to Arlington. The most painful aspect of this proposal is its location. Memorial Circle was intentionally designed as a sacred, symbolic gateway. The sightline across the Arlington Memorial Bridge was engineered to connect the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington House, symbolizing national healing and reunification.

Placing a massive, 250-foot granite structure directly in this corridor will physically and visually obstruct the view of Arlington National Cemetery. For those of us who have lost brothers and sisters in arms, Arlington is holy ground. A triumphal arch celebrates those who return to march through it. Arlington holds those who never will. By dominating the landscape, this arch effectively avoids the sight of Arlington's white headstones. It closes off the capital city from the reality of military sacrifice, shielding the eyes of the public from the true cost of freedom. We should never build a monument that casts a shadow, literal or figurative, over our nation's fallen.

3. A Departure from Decades of Memorial Tradition. For the past 60 years, the philosophy behind American monuments has shifted toward solemn remembrance, individual sacrifice, and humility. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, and the World War II Memorial do not glorify individual leaders or abstract imperial power; they honor the collective sacrifice of ordinary citizens who answered the call of duty.

This arch represents a sharp, regressive turn toward the glorification of a single, living political figure's legacy. Monuments in our capital are meant to stand the test of time, raised long after a leader has passed, allowing history to weigh their contributions objectively. Building a "shrine" of this magnitude for a living president violates the democratic principles this country was founded upon.

4. The Threat of a Long, Bureaucratic Blunder. We must also look to history as a warning. Napoleon's arch was supposed to be a quick celebration, yet it turned into a 30-year logistical and political nightmare, halted by regime changes and abandoned for a decade. With legal challenges already mounting, immense public pushback, and the bypassing of traditional congressional approvals, this arch is on a path to becoming a protracted, multi-year bureaucratic blunder. The National Mall and its surrounding gateways should not become a construction site for an unstable political symbol that divides the country

rather than uniting it.

Our nation's capital belongs to the people, and its monuments should reflect our highest ideals: humility, sacrifice, and democracy. This arch honors none of these. To look toward Arlington Cemetery through the legs of a gaudy, unearned monument to individual ego is a profound dishonor to those who gave everything for this country. I urge the Commission to reject this concept and preserve the sacred, solemn integrity of Washington, D.C.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Ross, USAF, Ret.

Name: Thomas Speech
Date: June 29, 2026 10:36:17 am

As a lifelong U.S. citizen with a long-standing interest in U.S. history, I strongly oppose the proposed 'Monumental Arch.' This project is not in keeping with the carefully thought-through planning that has characterized the development of our nation's capital city since its beginning. It would impede the intended vista that makes manifest important elements of our history. Furthermore, the size and style of this project would greatly detract from the very important and meaningful existing monuments and structures.

Name: Gloria Stuart
Date: June 29, 2026 8:33:18 am

NO, NO, NO. PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THIS TO BE BUILT.

Name: Richard Gardner
Date: June 29, 2026 5:45:09 am

Greetings from Colorado to you! The proposal for a triumphal arch for our nation's capital has been of considerable interest as I am both a historian of American history and an architectural historian and preservation consultant. If this proposal is implemented I'd like to pass along these suggestions that might help inform everyone's decisions for this.

This arch would be placed within a landscape created to represent and symbolize the reunification of America from the Civil War. However, there is more to the significance of this than simply the physical and visual. It is a triumph of American history, both for preserving the union and what it represented and accomplished in liberty to that point, and for what it has achieved in liberty beyond, here and for the world. The site tells a story of our reunification and the arch can help tell the story of why this was so consequential to the ages.

To this end I have noted that this proposed arch does not presently include artistic representations of pivotal triumphs of American liberty preserved and made possible by this unity, even though it may be best to keep it simpler in design in reflection of such design of the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington House. However, if anywhere on site one did wish to include such representations, one should select such highlights from our history that may be universally recognized and inspiring. Representations with high artistic value can depict American triumphs of liberty that took place in four different centuries, and can include, but not be limited to, Washington's crossing the Delaware, raising the flag on Iwo Jima, and raising the flag at Ground Zero. While the Civil War pitted Americans against each other in deadly combat, I also know of how after the war, many years later, time and again those veterans who fought in it came together not in opposition, but in unification, with celebrations even to where old men were jubilant and acting as happy as school kids. I'd encourage a representation from this chapter be that of our soldiers of North and South reuniting, fulfilling the wish of the founder of the newspaper in my home of Golden who fought for the Union, that in future national anniversaries "...we shall be inspired to a great rejoicing over a thoroughly re-united, harmonious Union, and that our national anthem will then be sung by a free and prosperous people from one extremity of the country to the other, in a harmonious and unbroken strain." The arch can help tell the story of the fulfillment of Lincoln's wish at Gettysburg, that the honored dead of the battlefield shall not have died in vain, but that their ultimate sacrifice gave a new birth of freedom that was a triumph that reunited the nation, and that reunified nation went on to make a difference in the world. These things are great triumphs worthy of representation in the American landscape.

If real gold is to be used upon this monument, then I advise that folks be prepared and plan accordingly to safeguard it. Here in Colorado our capitol dome was first gilded in gold in 1908, and being outdoors in variable climate it has been subject to wear and abuse by the elements over time. We have found it necessary to re-gild the capitol dome in gold leaf an average of

every 25-30 years. I do not know how the material will respond in Washington's coastal climate but this is at least its track record in ours. Certainly this isn't to discourage use of the material, but to be prepared to maintain any monument or ornament made with it accordingly.

I advise to ensure that the inscriptions upon the arch be crafted in such a way as enables them to be legible from the greatest distance possible. I have found that gold on white can potentially have the effect of "washing out" when viewed from afar, being light on light in nature, and one would want these words to be able to be most readily seen. This may be achievable by the use of rose gold or bronze, or an enhanced raised or engraved effect, helping provide shadowing or color differentiation to embolden them, but it could be well worth your time to study what technique may work best to achieve this effect.

Given the use of statuary and potentially delicate elements, I definitely encourage making certain the design accounts for wind loading, to protect against high, potentially hurricane force winds. This is important for public safety as well as for its own preservation.

Unlike many past monuments this one would be constructed in a time and age where use of light and lighting can be well planned and installed to highlight the monument at nighttime very well. I advise and encourage taking the opportunity to maximize the arch's potential in this. Many times we need to adapt existing monuments, even from ancient times, to be viewed well at night and have often achieved good results, but this one has the opportunity to be optimally lit from the very beginning. Use a form and color temperature of lighting that fits it best.

While I do not have the luxury of viewing the area landscape in person, if the design concepts are correct the proposed arch would appear to have some effect of framing Arlington House and the Military Women's Memorial in looking in one direction, and framing the Lincoln Memorial in the other direction. It may need to be of a certain size to successfully achieve this effect and minimize obstruction. One should take advantage to maximize the focus and framing effect to the most realistic extent possible.

I hope all this has been useful to your commission, and I thank you for your time and attention in this matter!

Name: Julie Frankino
Date: June 29, 2026 5:09:38 am

Do not spend one penny of our tax dollars on this ludicrous, obscene project! The very concept is an embarrassment and antithetical to true American values.

Name: M Rebecca Carr
Date: June 29, 2026 1:22:06 am

Please don't approve this proposed monumental arch. It is unnecessary and would irretrievably break the historic viewshed. The monies can be used elsewhere on existing properties. There is no valid reason to construct this arch.

Thanks for your consideration.

Name: Virginia Jansen
Date: June 28, 2026 9:34:37 pm

The proposed arch is MUCH too large. It does not fix the context nor the landscape. Even if it were much smaller, it is a monument to a president who considers himself more than others. His ego is too big, more than any other presidential ego that I have observed. He can have his presidential "library" or building on his own land. The American people that I know do not want more excessive buildings, acts, nor events from this president. Thank you.

Name: Scott Mckinstry
Date: June 28, 2026 7:20:52 pm

The only good thing about this would be the tearing down of it.
Trump is a stain on America, don't set it in stone.

Name: Margie Ritter
Date: June 28, 2026 6:41:27 pm

STOP THE ARCH! It's expensive, ugly, and disrespectful to those buried at Arlington Cemetery. We don't build memorials to living presidents. STOP THE ARCH!

Name: Janice Kimmons
Date: June 28, 2026 6:03:20 pm

There are many arguments that can be used to protest this totally vanity project that is not needed, not wanted, and will destroy the cherished vista on the proposed site. Please vote against this terrible "monument" that means nothing to our country. The money spent on it would be much better used to celebrate what the United States of America is. There is no one who truly wants this stupid thing!

Name: Lillian Martinez
Date: June 28, 2026 5:27:53 pm

The so called triumphal arch should NEVER be allowed to be built. It would be a monstrosity. Let's take care of the American people and use funds for healthcare, housing and lowering prices for food.

Name: carol Pyper
Date: June 28, 2026 12:46:19 pm

The Arch should not be placed in the current location for multiple reasons:

1. Desecration of Hallowed Ground-Arlington Cemetery: The massive arch (approximately 250 feet high = 17-25 building stories high) would desecrate a space meant for reverence of our fallen heroes. It will overshadow/obscure the vista of the cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial.
 2. Violates Existing Law: The project bypasses congressional approval, violates the Commemorative Works Act, and relies on unauthorized funding.
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 4. Traffic Circle Congestion: Close to 70,000 cars travel through the circle and over the bridge each week day.
-

Name: Derek Palank
Date: June 28, 2026 12:37:21 pm

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-

Name: Roger Albright
Date: June 28, 2026 12:35:26 pm

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Name: Patrick Biederman

Date: June 28, 2026 12:32:36 pm

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-

Name: Monica Barbee

Date: June 28, 2026 12:30:34 pm

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-

Name: Matt Regan

Date: June 28, 2026 12:27:59 pm

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-

Name: Marl Lawler

Date: June 28, 2026 12:26:09 pm

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stories high) would desecrate a space meant for reverence of our fallen heroes. It will overshadow/obscure the vista of the cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial.

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Name: Mary Stevens

Date: June 28, 2026 12:23:21 pm

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Name: Mark Liipfert

Date: June 28, 2026 12:21:08 pm

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Name: Lucia Baez

Date: June 28, 2026 12:17:39 pm

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Name: John Degnan

Date: June 28, 2026 12:14:58 pm

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Name: Frank Zappala

Date: June 28, 2026 12:13:06 pm

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Name: Ellen Musa

Date: June 28, 2026 12:11:51 pm

The Arch should not be placed in the current location for multiple reasons:

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Name: Billy Burroughs

Date: June 28, 2026 12:08:58 pm

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Name: Ramona Jones

Date: June 28, 2026 11:53:06 am

To Whom it May Concern: Please nullify President Trumps New Monumental Arch for consideration. He has spent enough taxpayer monies on these ugly, crass monuments. Please, please stop this!

Sincerely,

Ramona Jones, Austin, Texas

Name: JM McDonnell

Date: June 28, 2026 8:43:13 am

Please reject the Monumental Arch. It interferes with the view and wastes taxpayer money. I visited the mall frequently when I was young and do not want that memory tarnished.

Name: Patricia Kephart

Date: June 28, 2026 12:55:01 am

I urge the Commission to reconsider this oversized and inconsistent concept proposal placing an enormous Triumphal Arch in front of the solemn Arlington National Cemetery. It will block the viewscape that integrates memorials intended to commemorate the Civil War and reunification of North and South. The National Park Service planing procedure should take the time and consideration of experts to make further decisions. Congressional approval is essential and required. Please keep this unified memorial as is. Do not put an arch dwarfing the Lincoln Memorial in front of Arlington.

Name: Medina Dean

Date: June 28, 2026 12:53:00 am

As a proud American, who has visited D.C., seen the Lincoln Monument, the water basin, Arlington, and all the monuments remembering the men and women we have lost in battles and war, I believe the proposed arch is a monstrosity that should not be built. I do not wish my tax dollars to be used to change the landscape, block views, or distract from the monuments meant to remember and reflect on those we've lost.

I vote NO on Trump's proposed arch. We are not France, we are the United States of America. Please leave our beautiful National Mall as is. Thank you!

Name: Dalia Salgado

Date: June 27, 2026 10:34:17 pm

I am opposed to the proposed Triumphal Arch for the following reasons:

The proposed triumphal arch would violate the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. §706(2)(A), because it is arbitrary and capricious, an abuse of discretion, and not authorized by law. Agency action must be grounded in statutory authority and consistent with constitutional limits on federal power. The proposed triumphal arch has not received the required Congressional approval or appropriations. Federal law at 40 U.S.C. § 8106 requires Congressional approval for construction of any structure on public land in Washington, DC. Article I, section 9, clause 7 of the United States Constitution requires Congress to appropriate federal funds before they can be spent. The proposed triumphal arch would sit on federally controlled land and, therefore, requires Congressional approval and congressionally appropriated funds before it can be built. Congress has not approved the proposed project nor appropriated any funds for it. Allowing a major federal monument to move forward without explicit Congressional authorization and appropriations would undermine the U.S. Constitution's separation of powers and would improperly shift core legislative authority over public spending and land use into the Executive Branch.

The proposed triumphal arch would violate the Commemorative Works Act, which prohibits construction of a "commemorative work," defined to include a monument designed to perpetuate permanently the memory of an individual, until after the 25th anniversary of the individual's death. This constraint is not advisory. Rather, it is statutory and reflects Congress's continuing constitutional authority over the design of the nation's capital. President Trump has stated that the proposed triumphal arch is intended to honor him. The proposed arch in his honor would violate the Commemorative Works Act.

The 250-foot-tall proposed triumphal arch would violate the Height of Buildings Act and the Comprehensive Plan for the Capital. Section 5 of the Height of Buildings Act establishes a height limit of 130 feet on all structures in Washington, DC, including federal projects on commercial streets. The urban design element in the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital, consistent with the Height of Buildings Act, focuses on preserving Washington, DC's picturesque, horizontal character. The proposed triumphal arch would be 250 feet tall and, therefore, would violate the Height of Buildings Act and the District's Comprehensive Plan. The proposed project would destroy the city's picturesque, horizontal character.

The proposed triumphal arch would have significant adverse effects on existing monuments and other historic properties. For proposed projects on federal lands administered by the NPS, Section 106 of the NHPA and its implementing regulations require the NPS to consider the effects of those proposed projects on historic properties and to seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects. Section 106 also requires that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation be given a meaningful opportunity to comment before a final decision is made on the proposed projects. The NPS completed its Assessment of Effects under Section 106 in June 2026. Its preliminary finding: adverse effect. The NPS's Assessment of Effects concludes the proposed arch "would alter, directly and indirectly, characteristics of those properties that qualify them for inclusion in the National Register," diminishing their integrity of setting, design, feeling, and association. Based on the NPS's preliminary finding under Section 106, the proposed triumphal arch should not be built because of its significant adverse effects on existing monuments and other historic properties in our capital city.

The NPS has not complied with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as it has not completed the requisite environmental analysis of the proposed arch. NEPA at 42 U.S.C. § 4332(C) requires preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) when a proposed federal action significantly affects the quality of the human environment. A federal agency prepares an environmental assessment (EA) to determine whether a proposed action may cause significant environmental effects and, therefore, requires preparation of an EIS. Both of these documents require an analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed action, alternatives to the proposed action (that may include a recommendation of no action), and ways adverse environmental impacts can be avoided, minimized, or mitigated. The proposed arch is subject to NEPA because it is a proposed federal action that could significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The NPS has initiated the NEPA review process on the proposed triumphal arch but has not completed it, and no final EA or EIS have been issued.

The proposed arch would have significant adverse impacts on monuments and other historic properties in our nation's capital by ruining their aesthetic beauty and view lines. At nearly twice their height, the proposed arch would dwarf the Lincoln Memorial and the White House. Moreover, the proposed arch would disrupt the sightline between the U.S. Capitol, the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, and Arlington National Cemetery, a view that represents the national unity that was brought about by the end of the Civil War. The placement of the Lincoln Memorial was designed to connect the U.S. government, the president who founded it, and the president who saved it. The proposed arch would destroy this symmetry and historical connection by sitting along the same axis as the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial.

The pending litigation challenging the proposed arch should be resolved before the proposed project proceeds. On February 19, 2026, three Vietnam War veterans filed a lawsuit to stop construction of the proposed arch, which would sit just beyond Arlington National Cemetery. The veterans allege violations of the Commemorative Works Act, 40 U.S.C. § 8106, NHPA, NEPA, separation of powers, and the take care clause of the United States Constitution. This lawsuit should be resolved before the proposed project proceeds. Otherwise, taxpayer dollars could be wasted on building an expensive structure and then having to tear it down if a court determines that it is illegal.

In summary, the proposed triumphal arch would violate federal law and the United States Constitution because the project has not received the required Congressional approval or appropriations. Congress, not the Executive Branch, controls federal spending and authorization of major public works. Implementing this project without Congressional approval and appropriations would undermine basic constitutional principles and the separation of powers. The proposed triumphal arch would violate the Commemorative Works Act because it would honor a sitting president. At 250 feet tall, the proposed triumphal arch would violate the 130-foot height restriction in the Height of Buildings Act and Washington, DC's Comprehensive Plan. The proposed triumphal arch would have significant adverse effects on existing monuments and other historic properties in Washington, DC. The proposed triumphal arch would have a significant adverse impact, altering the aesthetics of our capital city's picturesque horizontal skyline. The proposed arch would dwarf the Lincoln Memorial and would block the view from the U.S. Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial. This is not simply a design dispute. It is a test of whether powerful political figures can circumvent legal safeguards and reshape our shared national spaces for personal glorification. No individual, especially a sitting president, should be permitted to use public monuments to elevate personal legacy above the law.

For these reasons, the proposed rule must be withdrawn.

Name: Raymond Phillips
Date: June 27, 2026 9:28:30 pm

I feel the project is out of scale with the surrounding area and in a bad location blocking the view of the Washington DC buildings as well as the cemetery,

Name: Christiane Tanis
Date: June 27, 2026 7:43:25 pm

I'm opposed to this gross misuse of my tax dollars. How about restoring cut social programs? People are suffering. This is absurd! So angry!

Name: Susan McGrath
Date: June 27, 2026 6:23:43 pm

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Name: Anne Murphy
Date: June 27, 2026 6:17:16 pm

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Name: Ann Gourley
Date: June 27, 2026 6:15:25 pm

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Name: elinor Schultz
Date: June 27, 2026 6:13:05 pm

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Name: Clay Calhoun
Date: June 27, 2026 6:09:17 pm

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-

Name: Carl Tiska
Date: June 27, 2026 6:08:29 pm

I am opposed to the construction of a 'Triumphal Arch' in Washington DC.

In Catesby Leigh's April 2025 article in The American Mind, he stated that Washington D.C. is the "only major Western capital without a monumental arch." We should take pride in that fact, for it is part of what makes the United States of America different from and exceptional to other nations, rather than try to imitate those other countries with a structure that would overshadow Arlington National Cemetery. The United States was the first nation to establish national cemeteries. Let us take pride in the fact that the largest of those National Cemeteries is in our Nation's Capital, for it is part of what makes the United States an exceptional nation, and is a more powerful statement than a 'Triumphal Arch.'

Name: Nancy Thielman
Date: June 27, 2026 6:04:30 pm

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Name: Michael Brocato
Date: June 27, 2026 6:02:31 pm

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Name: Coral Hawthorne
Date: June 27, 2026 5:59:07 pm

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Name: Rosemary Schroeder
Date: June 27, 2026 5:52:14 pm

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Name: Rose Sita
Date: June 27, 2026 5:49:13 pm

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Name: Rose Johnson
Date: June 27, 2026 5:44:26 pm

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Name: Petey Oneill
Date: June 27, 2026 5:41:49 pm

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Name: Maureen Barbee

Date: June 27, 2026 5:39:52 pm

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Name: ME Savarese

Date: June 27, 2026 5:36:04 pm

The Arch should not be placed in the current location for multiple reasons:

1. Desecration of Hallowed Ground-Arlington Cemetery: The massive arch (approximately 250 feet high = 17-25 building stories high) would desecrate a space meant for reverence of our fallen heroes. It will overshadow/obscure the vista of the cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial.
2. Violates Existing Law: The project bypasses congressional approval, violates the Commemorative Works Act, and relies on unauthorized funding.
3. Aviation Safety Concerns: The 250-foot structure—and the cranes needed to build it—poses severe safety hazards to the hundreds of flights passing through nearby air space along the Potomac River daily to DCA-Reagan National Airport.
4. Traffic Circle Congestion: Close to 70,000 cars travel through the circle and over the bridge each week day.

Name: Luz Maria Paraud

Date: June 27, 2026 5:33:42 pm

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Name: Pat Byrne

Date: June 27, 2026 5:13:23 pm

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Name: Kathy White
Date: June 27, 2026 5:08:49 pm

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Name: Susan Redding
Date: June 27, 2026 5:07:11 pm

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Name: Vivian Schulthess
Date: June 27, 2026 5:03:42 pm

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-

Name: joann pedri
Date: June 27, 2026 4:57:06 pm

The Nat Park Service has had budget cuts over the last 10 years. You don't need anything else to take care of. Our country has many more worthy causes to put money than an arch.

Name: Tina Ragan
Date: June 27, 2026 4:55:54 pm

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-

Name: Jess Zimmerman
Date: June 27, 2026 4:31:25 pm

I was born and raised in the DC area and I think my city has already suffered enough from this man's self-aggrandizement. With no recourse or representation they've been forced to deal with pointless military presence, fascistic banners of his face, the defacement of the Kennedy Center, and the farcical disruption of the Reflecting Pool. But at least these things can be reverted. A permanent monument to one man's ego, deliberately obstructing the image of Lincoln and his legacy of abolition, would go beyond mistreatment of the city and rise to the level of national shame.

Name: Cece Hathaway
Date: June 27, 2026 4:22:48 pm

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Name: Stephanie Burns
Date: June 27, 2026 4:19:43 pm

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Name: Joe Fama
Date: June 27, 2026 4:14:54 pm

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Name: Leo Farias

Date: June 27, 2026 4:12:37 pm

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Name: Jim Migely

Date: June 27, 2026 4:11:11 pm

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-

Name: Laura Noble

Date: June 27, 2026 4:09:34 pm

I am strongly against this arch being built. We must not allow this to destroy the sweeping views that are a part of America's history. Please do not allow this to be built.

Name: Dennis Hunsecker

Date: June 27, 2026 4:06:28 pm

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Name: Barbara Kaye
Date: June 27, 2026 4:06:15 pm

I am writing to oppose adding a monumental arch to the Washington DC landscape. This presidential vanity project is completely unnecessary. Its' size would dwarf the Lincoln Memorial, which would be inexcusable, and the location would interrupt the lovely view from the Lincoln Memorial to the Arlington National Cemetery. The United States is not a country that puts forward giant, gaudy monuments. We are an egalitarian country and our monuments should reflect our commitment to equality for all. So NO GIANT ARCHES!

Name: Terry McMullen
Date: June 27, 2026 4:04:54 pm

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Name: Alan Crombie
Date: June 27, 2026 4:03:34 pm

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Name: Norman Decker
Date: June 27, 2026 3:59:55 pm

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Name: George Frye
Date: June 27, 2026 3:58:07 pm

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Name: Hortensia Torres

Date: June 27, 2026 3:54:49 pm

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Name: Ann Forquer

Date: June 27, 2026 3:53:34 pm

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-

Name: Anne Vivino-Hintze

Date: June 27, 2026 3:52:23 pm

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Name: Betty Burns

Date: June 27, 2026 3:47:15 pm

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Name: Debra Benjamin
Date: June 27, 2026 3:26:01 pm

I am opposed to the construction of the arch. Aside from the dreadful design of the structure, it is disruptive to the view of two of our greatest memorials—Arlington Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial. It is disturbing that this project is even under consideration.

Name: Jean Grondalski
Date: June 27, 2026 3:19:13 pm

I am 100% against the proposed Monumental Arch. It's size alone will dwarf the honored and well-known monuments in front of and behind its proposed location. The current view is known and recognized world-wide. If the proposed arch is built, it's unclear if anyone at Arlington will be able to see the entire Lincoln Memorial or vice versa. There is national significance between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington and the bridge between them. The symbolism of a shared peace between North and South and the unity now achieved will be hidden from view. And for what? What does the Arch symbolize? To me, it's trying to convince everyone of the country's power and majesty (even though the US has no kings). Our true power doesn't need to be announced. It needs to be shown. Finally, why so tall? I think it's simply one upmanship because it would be taller than the Arc de Triomphe in France.

I also am appalled at how gaudy the design is. The nearby monuments are understated and simply majestic. All the gold on the proposed arch does not fit in with any of our national monuments or federal buildings. The United States is not Europe and our aesthetic is NOT the gilded grandeur of 17th and 18th century Europe.

Please do NOT approve the building of the arch.

Name: Susan Turner
Date: June 27, 2026 3:14:26 pm

To Whom It May Concern June 27, 2026

Regarding: Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle

As an American citizen and retired historic preservation architect, I am writing to express my profound objections to the construction of President Trump's "triumphal" arch in our nation's capital.

There are a number of reasons for my concerns. The first concern is regarding its size, scale and design and the resulting impact on significant cultural landscapes and monuments. As designed it will exceed the height of other monuments and dwarf the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington House. The height will tower over the area, vastly exceeding the city's height limits, which are important in creating the open and stately quality of Washington DC. The arch's mass will interrupt important views from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington House. It will generally transform a thoughtful and contemplative landscape by brutally inserting an arrogant statement of hubris. The imposition of this arch into this important landscape clearly constitutes an adverse effect.

The Assessment of Effects report prepared for the National Park Service documents the scope of this adverse effect and notes "The proposed undertaking would introduce adverse direct and indirect effects" for numerous significant cultural resources and monuments, including Memorial Avenue Corridor Cultural Landscape, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington House, and the Lincoln Memorial to name only a few. However, the Assessment of Effects and Draft Programmatic Agreement contain only very minimal measures to address those adverse effects. The Assessment of Effects and Programmatic Agreement are written as though it is a foregone conclusion that a monumental arch should be built on Memorial Circle. Consideration of other, smaller scale or more visually transparent monuments, or in fact no monument at all, are not addressed. The Avoidance, Minimization and Mitigation Measures section of the Assessment of Effects discusses the evaluation of smaller arches and deems them more visually intrusive since a taller arch can "frame" the view rather than blocking it. This appears to simply be justification for a tall arch. The scale of the proposed arch will clearly disrupt the

intentional axis between Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial. These planning documents give no meaningful consideration to other, more appropriate options – options that are not triumphal arches.

The Assessment of Effects and Programmatic Agreement also note that the design has not been completed but make no reference to altering it in any substantial way. Nor do they offer constructive suggestions for changes that should be considered as the design is completed. The Programmatic Agreement’s Resolution of Potential Adverse Effects makes statements that the National Park Service will “continue to consult” or “continue to refine the design” but the examples offered are mere tweaking of details, not any serious consideration of the size and scale of this proposed action and its serious adverse impact on the affected cultural landscape and monuments. In short, these compliance documents appear written to support a preconceived notion rather than thoughtfully address the proposed project.

As inappropriate as the design and physicality of this monument is, its symbolism seems somehow more troubling. It is said that it will be built to commemorate 250 years of American independence by honoring America’s founding principles. However, those very founding principles are now under attack by the government administration that proposes to build the arch. Sadly, we are in a time where we have little to celebrate, being led by an administration that has been actively working to destroy everything positive and honorable about our nation.

At home, the executive branch is undermining the rule of law, fouling civil discourse, violating public trust, destroying the effectiveness, integrity and expertise of our institutions, and corruptly enriching themselves in the process. All while the legislative branch enables this national destruction.

Abroad, the administration is failing the responsibilities that come with wealth and power, abandoning our alliances, and undermining our dependability, leadership and moral authority. Just like at home, the administration destroys the trust that undergirds the values and relationships that make us strong. All the while, they are replacing every positive aspect of our national identity with immoral and illegal aggression.

There is no triumph in the behavior of the United States of America under the Trump administration, only national shame. It is exceedingly inappropriate to surrender our values and principles and then build a monument to triumph. It seems an Orwellian attempt to project triumph when the reality is complete failure.

Monuments should be treasured. The Assessment of Effects report quotes a guiding Executive Order that in part states that federal property should “generate in the citizenry pride in and respect for our nation”. This proposed monument will do the opposite - it is likely to be despised by a significant portion (probably majority) of the population. Veterans have sued to prevent its construction. In our democracy, monuments should be initiated and authorized by Congress, the people’s representatives, to reflect the will of the people – not be the vision of one man. Through its unilateral conception and by its sheer size, scale, grandiose design, and brutal imposition into a revered landscape, this monument reflects the values of the Trump administration, not the values of the American people or the founding of our great nation.

These monuments and cultural landscapes form the built heart of our democracy. To say that they are highly significant is an understatement. It is the responsibility of the National Capital Planning Commission to protect these national treasures by carefully and honestly reviewing any proposal to change them, regardless of who wants to make that change.

The NPS compliance documents describe the history and evolution of this important area and state that it is a “symbolic landscape commemorating national unity and reconciliation following the Civil War.” The visual connection between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery reinforces that idea of reconciliation. Blocking that view with an oversized monumental arch attacks that idea of reconciliation and instead evokes an idea of division. Sadly, this is an honest reflection of today’s America, but not one to be commemorated with a monument.

As we commemorate 250 years of our democracy, we face great differences of opinion about the values that we treasure and that define us. It would be worthwhile to have a serious national discussion about how to celebrate 250 years, to decide what values to elevate and how best to commemorate these values. We have the rich heritage of our existing national monuments as examples of how to express and commemorate complex ideas. This proposed triumphal arch will not add a meaningful chapter to our story. It is instead an ironic, superficial and arrogant statement that is tone deaf to the current state of our democracy.

Sincerely,
Susan M Turner
Preservation Architect, retired

[Attachment](#)

Name: Karen Bandera

Date: June 27, 2026 12:34:45 pm

I lived in Alexandria, Virginia for several years. It was amazing to me the feeling I got every time I drove into Washington DC. It was a sense of history for sure, but more than that, there's a palpable sense of energy. One of my favorite things to do was to drive into DC on Sunday mornings when it was quiet and I could really appreciate the history and the sacrifice of so many Americans. The city is laid out to honor all our history in a subtle yet profound way that makes you feel and understand, to be proud of being American. The arch that is planned will ruin the best of DC. Not only will it destroy the hallowed view from Arlington National Cemetery and dwarf the Lincoln Memorial but it will also change the way we honor our country from profound and subtle to gaudy and unnecessary. The French and the Romans built arches to recognize achievements during war. We do not recognize achievements of war, we recognize the service and sacrifice. War is not something to think of as achievement. Not only will this arch change the view of DC. It will change the way Americans think of service and sacrifice. Please do not go forward with building this arch.

Name: Carolyn Moore

Date: June 27, 2026 11:57:29 am

The triumphal arch would obscure the message intended by the bridge linking the Lincoln Memorial and the Robert E. Lee mansion in Virginia which was to bring the country, North and South, symbolically together after the Civil War. This arch will block current vistas of the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Memorial. It is an unneeded expense to the taxpayers.

Name: Barbara Brunson

Date: June 27, 2026 11:09:56 am

I am absolutely opposed to the Triumphal Arch or a large structure of any kind at Memorial Circle on the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

I write as the spouse, daughter, and daughter-in-law of veterans interred at Arlington National Cemetery. And it will ultimately be my final resting place.

My family's connection to ANC gives me a personal stake in preserving its dignity, context, and historic character.

Rather than "physically and symbolically uniting the nation's history along a corridor already lined with monuments honoring diverse figures of American significance" such a structure will destroy the sight lines of the existing historic landscape design that connects locations within Arlington National Cemetery and the monuments on the National Mall.

I am appalled that anyone would seriously consider putting that proposed structure in any location, much less Memorial Circle. Its massive size and excessive ornamentation is totally out of character with the dignity of the existing memorials in the Washington DC area.

It is an affront to every veteran and family member interred at Arlington National Cemetery. Please do the only decent thing and put an end to this proposal.

Sincerely,

Barbara Brunson

Norfolk, VA

Name: Daniel Marsteller

Date: June 27, 2026 11:06:21 am

Please kill this obscene proposal!

Thank you.

Name: Ariana Newcomer

Date: June 27, 2026 9:02:55 am

No, No, No. This arch is an extremely bad idea. DJT has already ruined the reflecting pool, the White House, and the Kennedy Center. NO DJT ego-stroking "monumental arch." It will destroy the views, meant to extend to Arlington, dwarf the Lincoln Memorial and betray our country and history in new ways. No, No, No. Don't do it. Save our capitol from DJT's ego.

Name: Darlene Callis

Date: June 27, 2026 9:02:02 am

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Name: Pat Gransbury

Date: June 27, 2026 9:00:17 am

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Name: Diane Tuluceanu

Date: June 27, 2026 8:58:13 am

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1. Desecration of Hallowed Ground-Arlington Cemetery: The massive arch (approximately 250 feet high = 17-25 building stories high) would desecrate a space meant for reverence of our fallen heroes. It will overshadow/obscure the vista of the cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial.
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 3. Aviation Safety Concerns: The 250-foot structure—and the cranes needed to build it—poses severe safety hazards to the hundreds of flights passing through nearby air space along the Potomac River daily to DCA-Reagan National Airport.
 4. Traffic Circle Congestion: Close to 70,000 cars travel through the circle and over the bridge each week day.
-

Name: Lucia Biederman

Date: June 27, 2026 8:56:22 am

The Arch should not be placed in the current location for multiple reasons:

- 1-Desecration of Hallowed Ground-Arlington Cemetery: The massive arch (approximately 250 feet high = 17-25 building stories high) would desecrate a space meant for reverence of our fallen heroes. It will overshadow/obscure the vista of the cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial.
- 2-Violates Existing Law: The project bypasses congressional approval, violates the Commemorative Works Act, and relies on unauthorized funding.
- 3-Aviation Safety Concerns: The 250-foot structure—and the cranes needed to build it—poses severe safety hazards to the

hundreds of flights passing through nearby air space along the Potomac River daily to DCA-Reagan National Airport.
4-Traffic Circle Congestion: Close to 70,000 cars travel through each weekday.

Name: Sue Creekmore
Date: June 27, 2026 8:54:22 am

No to the hideous arch.

Name: Lee Baron
Date: June 27, 2026 8:41:10 am

The Arch should not be placed in the current location for multiple reasons:

1-Desecration of Hallowed Ground-Arlington Cemetery: The massive arch (approximately 250 feet high = 17-25 building stories high) would desecrate a space meant for reverence of our fallen heroes. It will overshadow/obscure the vista of the cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial.

2-Violates Existing Law: The project bypasses congressional approval, violates the Commemorative Works Act, and relies on unauthorized funding.

3-Aviation Safety Concerns: The 250-foot structure—and the cranes needed to build it—poses severe safety hazards to the hundreds of flights passing through neat by airspace along the Potomac River daily to DCA-Reagan National Airport.

4-Traffic Circle Congestion: Close to 70,000 cars travel through the circle each weekday to cross into Washington DC via Memorial Bridge.

Comment ID:

Name: Jean Freedberg
Date: June 27, 2026 5:39:35 am

DO NOT ALLOW CONSTRUCTION OF THIS ARCH! Its scale, height, vulgar design, and blocking of carefully planned memorial sightlines is a desecration of our nation's capital. Please stop it.
Thank you sincerely.

Name: Jack Eisel
Date: June 26, 2026 11:16:13 pm

There is no need for this arch. Trump is wasting our money every Day. The White Housw, the Lincoln reflecting pool, the Rose Garden, and our country have been destroyed because of this fascist senile old man.
This arch will destroy the view of Arlington. Our heroes deserve better. Stop the building of the "ballroom" bunker and this travesty of trump's ego.

Name: Veronica Gagnon
Date: June 26, 2026 9:56:17 pm

I oppose the new monumental arch construction as I deem it totally unnecessary and a vanity project for the current administration. It will be an eyesore on the existing landscape.

Name: Thomas OConnell
Date: June 26, 2026 8:34:26 pm

I am a retired newspaper and magazine editor and Navy veteran having served in the Philippines, the Tonkin Gulf and at the Pentagon from 1968-72. It was at that final duty station that I came to understand the significance of the sacred monuments that encircle the Metro DC area, including most notably at Fort Meyer. I lived at Fort Meyer briefly before starting at the Pentagon and spent a good deal of time visiting the monuments at the facility and Arlington National Cemetery. Any tinkering

with the roster of structures that commemorate the nation's history must be undertaken with great care and forethought; at a minimum, the notion of more slapdash vanity project construction from a President who clearly has no understanding or concern about preserving the country's heritage should be avoided above all other considerations.

Name: Laura Ahearn
Date: June 26, 2026 6:52:00 pm

The profane consecration of the Capital area must stop. No ridiculous ego arch. Proud Americans who honor the legacy of our Founders and the history of our country do not want or need this.

Name: Philip Arnold
Date: June 26, 2026 6:20:08 pm

Absolutely NO. This shameless self promotion by the sitting President is unacceptable. Under no circumstances should any further vanity projects be permitted anywhere in Washington DC, or any other location to glorify his shameless narcissist behavior. He is a disgrace to this nation and our Constitution. No more 45/47.

Name: Tony Caver
Date: June 26, 2026 3:44:18 pm

Please do not deface the DC landscape with the Arch Trump is wanting to build. We do not need this at a time when so many are suffering under the highest inflation in years. Money should be allocated to the citizens of the U.S. and not another monument.

Name: Patti Willard
Date: June 26, 2026 3:23:26 pm

Please say NO to this project. It will destroy the layout & the view of the Lincoln Memorial & Arlington Cemetery.

Name: Pat Blackman
Date: June 26, 2026 2:05:33 pm

I absolutely oppose the proposed arch. It is unnecessary, it is wasteful spending, and it will ruin the view of Arlington National Cemetery. The necessary aircraft warning lights on top of it will be a blight on the entire area. It is an attempt by a narcissistic, insecure man to overshadow the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington. Please stop this proposed arch before it begins!

Name: L N Seekamp
Date: June 26, 2026 1:59:18 pm

This 250 foot arch is the worst idea ever. It is way out of proportion to all the surrounding National Capitol monuments and other historical commemorations in the area. To have this huge out of proportion arch block the sight line from the Arlington National Cemetery is crazy. The current view/sight lines are good the way they are now and should not be changed.

Name: DJ Jecker
Date: June 26, 2026 1:26:46 pm

Erection of this this monument should be approved BY THE PUBLIC.

Appropriate design and location should be decided and approved by the public.

Its design should NOT have gaudy gold adornments.

It should NOT have Donald Trump's name it.

Its purpose should NOT be to honor Trump.

Name: John La Farge

Date: June 26, 2026 1:19:00 pm

Washington, D.C., is the capital of our nation and the symbol of our success and our being exceptional. The keyword here is, "our". Washington is stands for all of us, not for just one, not for just the President, it is the expression of all the citizens of the U.S.A. All. To turn the city into a monument for the President, let alone one particular President, is to corrupt the symbolism and majesty of our commonality. The constitution says, "We the people." We. Please observe this and turn down the monument to one man.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

Name: John Trimble

Date: June 26, 2026 11:33:19 am

The Monumental Arch does not match the lower profile of the surrounding area such as the Lincoln Memorial. It would detract from the view of the city from Arlington National Cemetery, disrupting the visual impact of the dead watching over the capital city. The gold does not match the unadorned marble of the other monuments. I would potentially support a lower, scaled-down version that would blend in better with the surrounding view.

Name: Faye Cook

Date: June 26, 2026 11:20:14 am

No, no, no. That sight line between Arlington and DC across the Potomac should be preserved. Just because there is green space does not mean it is wasted. Leave it alone, for quiet reflecting time. The grandeur of Washington, D.C. is that the monuments are not gilded, that space has been preserved. No, to the arch.

Name: Arnie Graber

Date: June 26, 2026 11:07:15 am

The proposed arch is a garish tasteless eyesore with no identification with any significant event in American history. Erecting this outsized ugliness is an insult to all of us. Please come to your senses and cancel this project.

Name: Sheri Burden

Date: June 26, 2026 10:59:22 am

I'm very much against the building of this new arch for several reasons.

First, this administration seems to want to spend taxpayer money on vanity projects instead of helping the people of this country. It is shameful the way money is being spent without permission to tear down, re-do, expand parts of the DC area. And so far all of them have been a disaster as far as money spent and lack of results.

This arch is not needed. It will be an eyesore. It will detract from Arlington Cemetery as well as other historic buildings and monuments. The size and design are both offensive.

I do not think permission should be given to build this monumental arch.

Thank you.

Name: Elizabeth W. Ratigan
Date: June 26, 2026 10:55:32 am

As a student of DC History and the development of the city of Washington, D. C., I strongly protest the building of an arch in the circle at the end of Memorial Bridge.

Sight lines are more significant in Washington, D. C. than in most cities. Elements of the city have been placed and erected with sight lines in mind. Given that, the arch would greatly disturb the intentional line from the Lincoln Memorial to Lee Mansion, Arlington Cemetery and JFK's grave. Even the Memorial Bridge was lowered from its original proposed height so as to not interfere with that view.

The monuments in the city are erected years after an individuals' service to the country, allowing for adequate time to assess that President's contribution to the United States as a whole. If there is to be a monumental arch, then it should be considered in ten-twenty years following the end of President Trump's term. In that way, his contribution to the history of the United States can more fully be appreciated.

Name: Amy Abrams
Date: June 26, 2026 10:13:44 am

The proposed Monumental Arch would completely disrupt the comprehensive planning of the DC monumental area. One of America's most sacred landscapes, the vista from the Lincoln Memorial, across Arlington Memorial Bridge, to Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington House communicates the magnitude of the Civil War, the obligation its unimaginable cost imposes on all Americans, and the aspiration of a post-Civil War reconciliation in a new birth of freedom. It is because this viewshed carries so much meaning to the country that the National Trust has raised concerns about the proposed Monumental Arch, whose scale, location, and design will disrupt this important visual and symbolic vista. In addition, the Arch will dwarf the Lincoln Memorial and disrupt the long, open, and uninterrupted viewsheds, overwhelming the entry to Arlington National Cemetery—the hallowed resting place of 400,000 veterans and their families and a powerful reminder of American military sacrifice, selfless service, and national unity, all within sight of the monumental core of the Nation's Capital.

Name: Kevin Kemps
Date: June 26, 2026 9:41:01 am

Too expensive. too big, too ugly, too much like a dictator's show of power. I do not want the US government to build an Arch Monument.

Name: An American
Date: June 26, 2026 9:29:18 am

It is clear from the documentation that the NPS is not appropriately following the NEPA and Section 106 processes. NPS must conduct and complete these processes in good faith in accordance with their respective regulations. NCPC needs additional information before reviewing this project.

Name: Beryle COSEY Jackson
Date: June 26, 2026 9:24:01 am

Build the Arch! Keep America Beautiful!

Name: Tracey Dryden
Date: June 26, 2026 9:16:06 am

I oppose vociferously the proposed new arch. This is not a time for construction that highlights one individual. We need to maintain projects that are already constructed and find ways to bring all citizens together.

We are not a military dictatorship--and this arch is completely inconsistent with American values.

Name: Roy Stein
Date: June 26, 2026 7:27:59 am

Please reject the construction of the proposed Monumental Arch. It's massive size and ornate design are grossly out of proportion and inconsistent with the refined, dignified nature of our national monuments. The disruption of the view from Arlington National Cemetery is disrespectful to service members and their families.

Name: Colleen and Joe OMeara
Date: June 26, 2026 6:39:30 am

We are concerned about the location, height, scale, and design of the proposed Triumphal Arch, the manner in which it interferes with existing commemorative works and fails to protect existing public uses and cultural resources. Notwithstanding comments and recommendations by Commission members at the April 2026 meeting, the modifications to the proposal have been minimal. Most notably, the 68-foot-high sculpture at the top of the proposed Arch has not been removed or reduced, contrary to the Commissioners' recommendation.

The location of the proposed Arch, at Memorial Circle, will interrupt the highly significant relationship between the Lincoln Memorial, across Arlington Memorial Bridge, to Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington House. One of the most symbolic landscape vistas in Washington, DC, the vista was designed to represent the post-Civil War reconciliation of the north and south of the United States. Arlington Memorial Bridge was intentionally designed with a low profile to respect the visual and symbolic vistas connecting the National Mall and National Cemetery. If constructed as planned at the proposed location, the new Triumphal Arch will obscure the intentional axial and aesthetic relationships between the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge, and Arlington House.

We are also deeply concerned about the unprecedented height and scale of the proposed Triumphal Arch, which will overwhelm the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and Arlington House. The proposed Arch would be double the size of the Lincoln Memorial and would risk disrespecting this powerful and beloved monument. As such, the Triumphal Arch is inconsistent with the McMillan Plan and subsequent planning decisions that have stewarded the National Mall as a unified composition characterized by long, open, and uninterrupted viewsheds, with a clear hierarchy of monumental elements, that culminates at its western end at the Lincoln Memorial.

In addition, the proposed location of the Arch, at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, is inconsistent with the solemn historic character of Arlington National Cemetery. The hallowed resting place of 400,000 veterans and their families, Arlington National Cemetery is a powerful reminder of American military sacrifice, selfless service, and national unity, all within sight of the monumental core of the Nation's Capital. Distinguished by the Tomb of the Unknowns, Memorial Avenue, and rolling hillsides of uniform rows of simple headstones, Arlington National Cemetery is a living memorial that honors thirty funeral services each day. The Arch, as proposed, would dominate Arlington National Cemetery, and be inconsistent with its hallowed character of solemn graves with powerful, unadorned white markers.

Finally, it is important to note that review of the proposal under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act has not yet been initiated. We understand that the National Park Service will be initiating Section 106 consultation soon, but the statute mandates that the review process be completed "prior to" approval of the project. 54 U.S.C. § 306108. In addition, based on past experience with Section 106 consultation in the National Capitol region, the proposed plans will be improved in response to the collaborative review and comments from the expert professional staff of the involved agencies, including the Commission itself. We urge the Commission members to await the Section 106 process, which has not yet been initiated.

We would also remind the members of the CFA that the Commemorative Works Act requires the project to be approved by Congress.

Name: David Warner

Date: June 26, 2026 2:55:05 am

The New Monumental Arch would grotesquely detract from our nation's capital and insult our veterans by overshadowing the cemetery with a monumental testimony to a megalomaniac's vanity.

Name: Robin Fisher

Date: June 26, 2026 2:51:58 am

I am writing to voice my grave concern concerning and total opposition to the currently proposed 250 foot arch at Memorial Circle, near Arlington National Cemetery. I am opposed to the construction of the arch for the following reasons:

*** PURPOSE**

A monument should be transcendent and timeless, and it should allow each individual to find meaning that unifies rather than divides. This proposed structure, with its emphasis on overpowering all around it, is irreconcilably linked to the current political context with no attempt to fit within the historical context of those monuments it follows. There is nothing about this monument that speaks in a unifying manner. In fact, according to Commission of Fine Arts Chairman Rodney Mims Cook, Jr., "This is personal for the president." President Trump himself, when asked who the arch is for replied, "Me." It is antithetical to American values to have a living leader build a monument to himself.

*** PROCESS**

Congress must be consulted and must go on record with its approval or rejection of this proposal. The current process provides no accountability should this offensive and expensive project move forward. Something of this significance must be approached soberly, giving adequate time for sharing of perspectives, reflection, and renewed discussion. Monuments should never be "fast-tracked." Enduring additions to our collective civic assets require time and more time, and engage those from across the spectrum of perspectives. The impact of unintended consequences in a project of these epic proportions can be disastrous, and every effort must be expended to protect Americans from the long-lasting negative results of a forced decision.

*** HISTORICAL ARTIFACT DISRUPTION**

The site of the proposed arch has been identified as having specific artifact sensitivities due to its location near the core zone of the War of 1812's activities. Predictive models and geotechnical borings suggest that intact pre-colonial and early colonial archaeological deposits may be buried beneath the landscape. The deep-foundation drilling required for such a massive, 250' structure risks damaging and/or destroying arrowheads and spear tips, scrapers and knives from early hunters and gatherers, low-fired clay pottery used by indigenous groups for cooking and storage, domestic artifacts related to the Arlington House estate, preserved organic materials from the historic shoreline, War of 1812 military refuse including lead musket balls, belt buckles and other iron camp equipment and hardware from American and British troops, as well as tool fragments, historical machinery parts and specialized structural elements dating to the 1920's.

*** SCALE**

The proposal details a top-heavy and oversized structure that is out of scale with the surrounding environment. It is also inconsistent with classical architecture in that it is dominating rather than complimentary, overpowering and disrespecting all existing local landmarks including the Lincoln Memorial, the Capital and the White House - "the People's House." The structure screams for attention, prioritizing impact and with no attempt to find harmony or co-existence with the current surroundings, evoking the fundamental narcissism of the current administration. This location requires dignity and restraint.

*** SIGHT LINES**

The proposed arch would obstruct current and intentional sight lines including that between Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial. The structure would undermine the Arlington Memorial Bridge's representation of the reunification of the North and South after the Civil War.

*** SYMBOLISM**

Historically, a triumphal arch has been a monument to a conquering emperor, not to a nation, and conveys a very specific message about victory, power and domination. Napoleon's Arc de Triomphe immediately comes to mind. Current American arches, including those in Washington Square Park and in Brooklyn, are inspired by those who are long dead or are a collective of citizens, and are much smaller and understated. This proposed arch loudly proclaims triumph with no acknowledgment of the sacrifices made by so many to keep our fragile democracy alive. The design is mismatched to the purported purpose. The proposed location between Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial, both evoking sacrifice, humility and great loss, and inspiring reflection, is completely inappropriate for a structure that gives no acknowledgment to these characteristics but screams loudly for all to attend to it above all else. Rather than reflecting on the

cost of conquest, the proposed arch celebrates it.

* INSCRIPTION

"One Nation Under God" promotes a religion-centric perspective that is divisive and offends the spirit of the Constitution which does not presume a god but empowers each citizen to make his or her own determination about where a god may fit or not.

* GILDING

The proposed arch intends to use gilding, which recalls the excesses of the late Roman Empire, or the Gilded Age of the United States, both of which were devastating for all but the wealth class. Particularly today, when Americans cannot afford health insurance, medical care and food, while watching the billionaire class become wealthier and wealthier, the proposed gilding looks tawdry and deeply offensive, and seems to foretell the doom of the United States, based on history, rather than its "triumph."

* COSTS

As we have seen with President Trump's proposed ballroom, any estimates of costs are highly likely to be not only significantly understated, but the source of funding is certain to evolve once the project begins to shift the majority if not all of the burden to the tax payers.

At a time when Americans cannot afford health insurance, medical care, food or higher education, when we are in the middle of an unauthorized war costing billions of dollars each day that have been diverted from caring for our own citizens, when Americans are suddenly faced with paying for a multi-million dollar ballroom that they did not ask for, that they were told would be privately funded, and that they do not want, and when the National Park Service has been decimated by drastic cuts to staffing resulting in downgrading of our current public assets, this proposed arch if built would symbolize not "triumph" but complete disregard for the well-being of the 300 million plus Americans in this country. The proposed construction schedule alone, with its 20-hour daily two to three year work schedule and required traffic controls, will create significant unnecessary costs. Given what we've seen with the East Wing of the White House and the Reflecting Pool, there is nothing to protect taxpayers from this being another no-bid contracts transactional project intended to reward loyalists.

This arch will not put food on our tables. It will not fund medical care. It will not replace all of the researchers and scientists who have been cut from our ranks. It will not encourage tourism from outside of our country. It will be both a gaudy reminder of the excesses of the current billionaire class and a constant budgetary drain as it will require staffing to attempt to prevent vandalism as well as to repair the inevitable vandalism it will inspire. The proposed arch immediately brings to mind the image of Nero fiddling while Rome burned, leadership with no regard for the ravages of its behavior.

* LOCAL IMPACTS

Engineering predictions include severe traffic disruptions and multi-year congestion among one of the primary transit arteries connecting Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. should this construction occur. Disruptions to the 70,000 daily vehicles using the bridge include years of lane closures and persistent shifting and re-shifting of lanes around the rotary. The heavy machinery impact includes massive 320' cranes, drilling rigs and heavy supply trucks within the 300' diameter of the traffic circle, adding to the significant impeding of traffic. Construction will impede emergency vehicle access during regional events and will complicate funeral processions entering Arlington National Cemetery.

* PERMANENT SAFETY IMPACTS

The footprint of the arch's massive support walls will span more than half the diameter of the traffic circle, obstructing drivers' vision as they try to merge into the rotary, resulting in increased collisions and time spent negotiating the circle. Vehicular access to the arch will be impossible, requiring all access to be on foot which means pedestrians will need to cross the large rotary intended to create a constant and smooth flow of traffic. Tourist drop-offs and pedestrian crossings will permanently compromise the safe flow of traffic.

* POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES

While speculative, it is reasonable to believe that the actions of the current administration will result in years of investigation and litigation once sanity is regained. Although Richard Nixon was pardoned, imagine the consequence of a newly completed, divisive, costly, and visually and symbolically offensive structure dominating the local landscape as he stepped down from office. This structure will be irrevocably associated with the criminality, graft and greed of the current administration, and a successive leader would be hard-pressed to ignore the citizens' pleas to destroy this monstrosity.

Moving forward with this proposed arch would set an alarming precedent in which presidents act unilaterally to build monuments to flatter themselves at the cost of American citizens, rather than find methods that are harmonious and unifying to recognize our country rather than the current leadership.

I wholeheartedly oppose the construction of the proposed arch and condemn the potential use of my tax dollars in any direct or associated way with this project.

Name: Patricia Hagan
Date: June 25, 2026 11:37:01 pm

I STRONGLY OPPOSE the construction of this monument to Trump! No other sitting president has ever ordered monuments built or renamed for himself. There should be no exceptions now! This proposed monument is an eyesore and will destroy the beautiful, unobstructed view from the Lincoln Memorial to National Cemetery. It is also a proposed hazard to flights in and out of National Airport which is already a crowded and difficult airport.

Trump's favorite person in history is Adolf Hitler. His proposed arch is almost identical to Hitlers! That is NOT what the USA should ever celebrate!!

Name: Beth Levin
Date: June 25, 2026 11:02:24 pm

This is ridiculous narcissistic nonsense from Trump, no arch!!!

Name: Richard Stern
Date: June 25, 2026 10:41:14 pm

I am in complete agreement with the following letter previously submitted by The National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States. Thank you.

April 15, 2026

Mr. Rodney Mims Cook, Jr.
Chair
U.S. Commission of Fine Arts
401 F Street, NW, Suite 312
Washington, DC 20001

Re: CFA 16/APR/26-1 Memorial Circle, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Columbia Island, Washington, DC. New monumental arch. Concept.

Dear Mr. Cook:

The National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States (“National Trust”) is a private charitable, educational, nonprofit corporation headquartered in Washington, D.C. and chartered by Congress in 1949 to further the historic preservation policy of the United States. 54 U.S.C. § 312102(a). This Congressional charter obligates the National Trust to “facilitate public participation in the preservation of sites, buildings, and objects of national significance or interest.”

We respectfully submit the following comments concerning the current proposal by the U.S. Department of the Interior to construct a new Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle, George Washington Memorial Parkway. We urge the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) to consider these comments in connection with its responsibility to (1) advise on the plans and merits of the designs of public buildings to be erected in the District of Columbia by the federal government, and (2) advise on the merits, location, and design of statues, fountains, and monuments to be erected in the public squares, streets, and parks in the District of Columbia under the authority of the federal government; (3) review, advise, consult, and approve in accordance with the duties of CFA provided for in the Commemorative Works Act.

After our initial review of the information available to the public, the National Trust is concerned about the location, scale, and design of the proposed Triumphal Arch. The location of the proposed Triumphal Arch, at Memorial Circle, will interrupt the highly significant relationship between the Lincoln Memorial, across Arlington Memorial Bridge, to Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington House. One of the most symbolic landscape vistas in Washington, DC, the vista was designed to represent the post-Civil War reconciliation of the north and south of the United States. Arlington Memorial Bridge was intentionally designed with a low profile to respect the visual and symbolic vistas connecting the National Mall and National Cemetery. If constructed as planned at the proposed location, the new Triumphal Arch will obscure the intentional axial and aesthetic relationships between the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge, and Arlington House.

The National Trust is also deeply concerned about the overwhelming height and scale of the proposed Triumphal Arch, which will overwhelm the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and Arlington House. While some element may be appropriate at this location, the planned Triumphal Arch is double the size of the Lincoln Memorial and will risk diminishing the preeminent importance of this powerful and beloved monument. As such, the Triumphal Arch is inconsistent with the McMillan Plan and subsequent planning decisions that have stewarded the National Mall as a unified composition characterized by long, open, and uninterrupted viewsheds, with a clear hierarchy of monumental elements, that culminates at its western end at the Lincoln Memorial.

Finally, the location of the Arch, at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, is inconsistent with the solemn historic character of Arlington National Cemetery. The hallowed resting place of 400,000 veterans and their families, Arlington National Cemetery is a powerful reminder of American military sacrifice, selfless service, and national unity, all within sight of the monumental core of the Nation's Capital. Distinguished by the Tomb of the Unknowns, Memorial Avenue, and rolling hillsides of uniform rows of simple headstones, Arlington National Cemetery is a living memorial that honors thirty funeral services each day. The Arch, as proposed, will overwhelm Arlington National Cemetery, and be inconsistent with its simple historic character of solemn graves with simple white markers.

Thank you for considering the views of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Sincerely,

Carol Quillen
President and Chief Executive Officer

Name: Sven Lapiner
Date: June 25, 2026 9:47:05 pm

As we have learned from the proposed ballroom and the disaster of the reflecting pool how can we rely on no bid contracts and shoddy workmanship to build this unnecessary arch? It will scar the beautiful landscape and diminish the view of the Lincoln memorial. It is only important to one person, the current president of the United States. I do not want my hard earned tax dollars to help fund a monumental disaster. Instead of building unneeded structures let us put the money to restoring and maintaining real historic buildings already in existence. Thanks for reading.

Name: Kim Tyssowski
Date: June 25, 2026 9:38:40 pm

I live in close proximity to D.C. and make the trip several times a year to visit points of interest and many of the museums there. I believe the proposed arch as presented is inappropriate in scale for the location selected and would dominate the landscape and historic monuments and buildings that are important iconic landmarks.

Aside from that, I think this is a frivolous use of my taxpayer dollars at a time when so many infrastructure maintenance and repairs have been long overdue and priority precedence should be given to these projects for the sake of public safety and the provision of uninterrupted services and transportation of necessary goods. I hope these points are given serious consideration. In all earnestness - Kim Tyssowski

Name: Paul Roberts
Date: June 25, 2026 8:07:37 pm

I STRONGLY OPPOSE the building of Trump's monstrosity of a monument in an area that was designed SPECIFICALLY with a view from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington Cemetery. Trump either doesn't understand this or doesn't care. Either is UNACCEPTABLE! Stop this dim-witted narcissist from ruining AMERICAN HISTORY AND LEGACY!

Name: Barbara Wertz
Date: June 25, 2026 7:27:33 pm

I strongly oppose the project to build a triumphal arch in Memorial Circle. It would interrupt the view from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington House.

At the time of the Civil War what is now known as Arlington House was the home of Robert E. Lee. Since the Lees were not at home during the war the grounds were used to bury war dead. A lot of people in the Union thought it was both ironic and appropriate to bury soldiers in "Robert E. Lee's front yard."

So the mansion relates to the Lincoln Memorial across the Potomac. Linked by the Arlington Memorial Bridge they symbolize the reunion of of the United States with the former Confederate States..

The proposed arch would make it impossible to see Arlington House from the Lincoln Memorial and vice versa.

On a practical level, having an outsized arch in the middle of Arlington Circle would further distract drivers on a road that is already plagued by tourists paying more attention to views on both sides of the river than to their driving.

Name: Catherine Brockington
Date: June 25, 2026 7:08:48 pm

The arch proposed by the president has no cultural value in Washington D.C. It will disrupt the landscape of the entire area. It will be an insult to the hallowed ground of Arlington Cemetery, The Lincoln, Jefferson and Washington memorials. Please do not all this monstrosity to be built.

Name: Kathleen Lisle
Date: June 25, 2026 6:30:51 pm

Dear Commission Members,
I strongly oppose the Monumental Arch which is proposed for the Washington D.C. Mall. The view from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington House represents, more clearly than words ever can, the relationship between the president who saved the Union, those who gave their lives in that struggle, and one who fought to oppose them. This arch would obstruct the view and overwhelm the impact of the existing monuments. The whims of one should not be allowed to outweigh the tributes to those who gave up everything, including their lives, to defend their nation and to free former slaves. Please preserve this sacred space.
Sincerely,
Kathleen Lisle

Name: Karen Twer
Date: June 25, 2026 6:07:38 pm

The historic view from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington National Cemetery encapsulates the profound responsibility that all Americans share in remembering the sacrifices of the 400,000 individuals who rest there. This vista serves as a symbol of national unity and freedom. However, the proposed Monumental Arch threatens to disrupt this important visual and symbolic perspective. Moreover, the Arch will overshadow the Lincoln Memorial. Its design bears a striking resemblance to France's Arch de Triumphe, making it an inappropriate representation of America.

Name: Lauren Strouse
Date: June 25, 2026 6:02:02 pm

I share the same concerns as the National Trust. The proposed arch is so large it will dwarf the Lincoln Memorial. It will impede views especially of Arlington cemetery. It is totally out of proportion with the surroundings. Not to mention it will use tax payer funds for something unnecessary at a time when much of the population is struggling financially & it will honour a living president which has never been done

Name: Steven Bay
Date: June 25, 2026 5:48:21 pm

I am opposed to the creation of a new monumental arch in the proposed location between the Lincoln memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. Its design is oversized for the location and not reflective of the historical relationship between Lincoln, Arlington National Cemetery, the impact of the Civil War or honor to those who have died in our wars. Candidly, the design at that location is a monstrosity and highly inappropriate. If, a triumphal arch must be somewhere it should be in a location that reflects American achievement and success, like Mt. Rushmore, Cape Canaveral, or a Texas spaceport. If it has to be in the national capital area, a smaller version might be appropriate as an entry arch to Theodore Roosevelt island.

Name: Suzanne Paridee
Date: June 25, 2026 3:12:47 pm

Please do not allow this monstrosity to be built. This nation and all that it stands for deserves better.

Name: Phillip Updike
Date: June 25, 2026 2:50:29 pm

There is absolutely no reason whatsoever to spend taxpayer money on a monument to a narcissistic fool ! Emulating Hitler is a horrible idea and not what America is all about. Save our taxpayer dollars to help people. Do Not Build this arch, or any arch. The St. Louis arch is beautiful and was built for all the right reasons. Stand up and refute this terrible arch proposal!

Name: Shellaine Conant
Date: June 25, 2026 2:46:53 pm

I am writing as a deeply concerned constituent to express my strong opposition to the construction of the proposed 250-foot "Triumphal Arch" at Memorial Circle. I urge your office to utilize every available legislative mechanism—including appropriations riders and oversight demands—to halt this project permanently. The proposed monumental arch represents an egregious disruption to the historical, architectural, and cultural landscape of our nation's capital for several critical reasons:

Desecration of Sacred Viewsheds: At 250 feet tall, the structure would stand more than twice the height of the Lincoln Memorial. It directly compromises the historic, open visual corridor between the Lincoln Memorial and the entry to Arlington National Cemetery. This sacred axis was specifically designed to symbolize post-Civil War national reconciliation and must not be obstructed.

Disrespect to Veterans: As noted in active legal challenges brought forward by military veterans, placing a massive, self-aggrandizing monument at the gateway to our nation's most hallowed burial ground is deeply disrespectful to the families of the fallen and the heroes honored there. National landmarks on federal land should honor collective American values and history, rather than serving as partisan or personal vanity projects.

Aviation and Traffic Safety Hazards: The arch's immense height introduces serious logistical dangers. It sits dangerously close to the flight corridor used by commercial aircraft on final approach to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA), prompting rightful scrutiny from aviation experts. Furthermore, constructing a massive monument in the center of Memorial Circle will severely disrupt regional traffic and create severe pedestrian safety bottlenecks.

Bypassing Congressional Authority: The administration's attempts to build this monument on federal land without explicit authorization violate the core principles of the Commemorative Works Act. Congress maintains sole statutory authority over permanent installations on the federal landscape.

The public pushback against this project is overwhelming. I ask that you stand with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, veterans' advocacy organizations, and your fellow lawmakers in blocking any federal funding or agency approvals for this project. Please protect the integrity, history, and safety of Washington, D.C. Thank you for your time, leadership, and continued service to our community.

Name: Lois Dalton
Date: June 25, 2026 2:29:19 pm

I see no reason to build an arch at this time. The rushed job on the ballroom and the reflecting pool have been a disaster. The majesty and open areas in the area around the mall are very appealing and to break up the vistas is a travesty.

Name: Douglas Hancher
Date: June 25, 2026 2:27:11 pm

As a 22-year Navy Veteran, I find the arch project highly objectionable, especially its proximity to Arlington National Cemetery. Arches like this are the hallmarks of dictators, not democratic (small d) people. The design itself is garish and will inappropriately loom over other important cultural structures nearby.

Name: Elinor Bell
Date: June 25, 2026 2:21:41 pm

I'd like to register my extreme opposition to the construction of the New Monumental Arch. Its size is completely out of balance with the surrounding monuments. However, However, that is the least of my objections. I do not think it should be built at all. The relationship, the vista, between Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial was specifically designed. To disrupt the visual link is to minimize the importance of both Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial and their specific relationship to each other. That relationship is of great historic importance, and anything that disrupts it should NOT be allowed.

Elinor Bell

Name: Kari Fowler
Date: June 25, 2026 2:20:59 pm

I am writing to OPPOSE the proposed new Monumental Arch in Washington D.C. NOBODY wants this. NOBODY needs this. NOBODY has asked for this. Its construction would serve to satisfy only one person. Yet it would sully and degrade a thoughtfully-designed historic landscape that belongs not to any individual or administration, but to all Americans. As the NCPD, I would urge you to remember your solemn duty to protect and preserve this irreplaceable historic site for the posterity of the American people. Do not allow yourself to be intimidated by the self-serving whims of one man. STOP THE ARCH. History has its eyes on you.

Name: Martha Maskall
Date: June 25, 2026 2:06:33 pm

I do not support the Monumental Arch.

Name: Margaret McBride
Date: June 25, 2026 1:51:35 pm

As an American citizen, I oppose the construction of the Monumental Arch. The current beauty of the area would be destroyed with the building of this Arch.

Name: Charles Hankins, III, OSB
Date: June 25, 2026 1:43:24 pm

An arch for a pedophile rapist felon President? America is a 250 year old lie. This president want an arch of lies.

Name: Carol Conklin
Date: June 25, 2026 1:35:11 pm

I am opposed to the proposed Arch. I am concerned with the location, height, scale, and design of the proposed Arch, the manner in which it interferes with existing commemorative works and fails to protect existing public uses and cultural resources. The location of the proposed Arch, at Memorial Circle, will interrupt the highly significant relationship between the Lincoln Memorial, across Arlington Memorial Bridge, to Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington House. The unprecedented height and scale of the proposed Arch, which will overwhelm the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and Arlington House, is unacceptable. The proposed Arch would be double the size of the Lincoln Memorial and would risk disrespecting this powerful and beloved monument. The proposed location of the Arch, at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, is inconsistent with the solemn historic character of Arlington National Cemetery, and is an insult to the families and loved ones visiting the Cemetery.

Sincerely,
Carol B. Conklin

Name: David Norris
Date: June 25, 2026 1:03:56 pm

I strongly oppose the plns for the "Monumental Arch". The gigantic size is utterly out of scale with the revered national monuments in the area. The arch will overshadow the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery and overwhelm the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington House as well as the national cemetery. The arch is an expensive and unneeded project, especially in a time the United States faces considerable budget and economic problems.

Name: Jill Wagner
Date: June 25, 2026 1:01:43 pm

It is a terrible idea.
Why ruin that beautiful wide open view.
I don't understand why the country needs this Arch.
Stick it somewhere else.

Name: Nancy Ball
Date: June 25, 2026 12:59:40 pm

Please do NOT approve the arch. It is a tremendous waste of money whether privately funded or paid for with tax-payer dollars. It will ruin the view from the mall to Arliington Cemetery. It is nothing but another one of Trump's ego projects.

Name: jennifer schultz
Date: June 25, 2026 12:23:46 pm

This arch will be a slap in the face to the thousands buried at Arlington National Cemetery. That is the whole purpose of the reflecting pool, and the connection between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington Cemetery. The arch will block the connection that the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument and Arlington National Cemetery.

Name: Ann Tyler
Date: June 25, 2026 12:21:50 pm

Please prevent this project from going forward. It is a monument to a draft dodger's ego obscuring a site devoted to brave men and women of honor. It should not happen.

Name: Patrece Ryan
Date: June 25, 2026 12:07:29 pm

Let there be NO NEW MONUMENTAL ARCH giving recognition to Donald J. Trump. He has done enough to mar our Nation's Capitol. I live in Arizona with family in Silver Spring. I usually take delight playing tourist when I visit. However, I have no desire to see anything in the DC area as everywhere one turns, there HE is. Let us not forget the number of contributors to our DEMOCRACY. Please do not allow this arch to one person. If it must be, name it for a collective effort. Thank you for the opportunity to share an opinion.

Name: Paula Lettice
Date: June 25, 2026 11:51:33 am

An abomination ... pure and simple ... no recognized purpose, no long-range planning, ignorance of DC height restrictions, impact on views across the Potomac -- both ways, and clearly just for one man's ego ... no one has planned their own project in DC. Monuments are to honor events and people who are worthy of such recognition and post humously as well.

Reject, reject, relect!

Name: Beth Brooks
Date: June 25, 2026 11:50:54 am

The proposed Monumental Arch should be scrapped in its entirety, for many reasons, but I'll name a few:

1. Its erection and size will totally diminish the importance and reverence of Arlington Cemetery that honors so many of our fallen veterans.
 2. It will distract from the neighboring monuments, that were much more carefully planned and implemented.
 3. Most importantly, American taxpayers CANNOT afford such an unnecessary project. The cost of living is already way too high for most of us.
-

Name: Jay Bacon
Date: June 25, 2026 11:49:12 am

This gaudy arch would be a blot on the Washington DC landscape. The Arc de Triomphe in Paris was built by Emperor Napoleon. We are not an empire, we are a democracy, and we don't have an emperor! The arch would block the views between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington House that represent the post-Civil War reconciliation of the North and South. The arch would either be funded by donors who expect favors in return (which is the definition of corruption), or there will be a demand for taxpayer funds as with the ballroom. Stop this monstrosity now!

Name: CONNIE COCKRELL
Date: June 25, 2026 11:48:42 am

I absolutely vote to shut down this abominable project. This isn't royal France or the Hapsburg Empire. The arch would be completely out of place and unjustified. If Trump wants his own monument, maybe he should do something to deserve it, like Lincoln and Washington and Jefferson. He isn't fit to wipe their boots. No monument to him.

Name: Jeffrey Blackman
Date: June 25, 2026 11:44:34 am

THIS EDIFICE IS TOTALLY UNNECESSARY

IT IS AN UGLY, CHEAP LOOKING TAKE OFF ON A BEAUTIFUL ARCH IN PARIS

IT WILL BLOCK VIEWS OF THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL

STOP TRUMP FROM CONTINUING TO DESTROY THE VISUAL BEAUTY OF OUR NATION'S CAPITAL

Name: Jan Emerson
Date: June 25, 2026 11:38:35 am

Please, our capitol mall is a beloved and beautiful tribute to all of our history and our people. Do not add a new arch in honor of one person to block the spectacular views for all of us provided by the mall as it is.

Name: Alison Stankrauff
Date: June 25, 2026 11:19:50 am

Please Please Oppose the Monumental Arch. Our taxpayer dollars are absolutely spent better elsewhere.

Name: Robert Wagner
Date: June 25, 2026 11:16:39 am

I strongly urge you to DENY the proposed Arch. The proposed Monumental Arch's scale, location and design will disrupt this important visual and symbolic vista. The Arch will dwarf the Lincoln Memorial. The Arch will disrupt the long, open and uninterrupted viewsheds. The Arch will overwhelm the entry to Arlington National Cemetery—the hallowed resting place of 400,000 veterans and their families and a powerful reminder of American military sacrifice, selfless service, and national unity, all within sight of the monumental core of the Nation's Capital.

Since our nation's founding, Americans have understood the symbolic power of Washington, D.C. Our capital city is a planned city! In their design, context and relationship to each other, our most meaningful buildings and monuments communicate our system of government and the principles on which it is based. Achieving this requires deep RESPECT for what has gone before and careful planning, in measured steps that honor our history and our aspirations.

PLEASE reject any such proposal that affects with this most valuable vista, Please reject anything that interferes with the scale, location and design of our current monuments.

Name: Vickie Wagner
Date: June 25, 2026 11:15:56 am

I strongly urge you to DENY the proposed Arch. The proposed Monumental Arch's scale, location and design will disrupt this important visual and symbolic vista. The Arch will dwarf the Lincoln Memorial. The Arch will disrupt the long, open and uninterrupted viewsheds. The Arch will overwhelm the entry to Arlington National Cemetery—the hallowed resting place of 400,000 veterans and their families and a powerful reminder of American military sacrifice, selfless service, and national unity, all within sight of the monumental core of the Nation's Capital.

Since our nation's founding, Americans have understood the symbolic power of Washington, D.C. Our capital city is a planned city! In their design, context and relationship to each other, our most meaningful buildings and monuments communicate our system of government and the principles on which it is based. Achieving this requires deep RESPECT for what has gone before and careful planning, in measured steps that honor our history and our aspirations.

PLEASE reject any such proposal that affects with this most valuable vista, Please reject anything that interferes with the scale, location and design of our current monuments.

Name: Mark Strunk
Date: June 25, 2026 11:10:54 am

This Monument Must Not be built! Trump is an Egomaniac, Draft Dodger starting Wars in the Middle East!

Name: Clive Siegle
Date: June 25, 2026 11:00:04 am

I strongly oppose building this project; it would have a profoundly negative impact on the surrounding viewshed.

Name: Florence Darwin
Date: June 25, 2026 10:55:25 am

The proposed Arch project poses significant risks. It flouts centuries of planning. It would diminish some of the nation's most sacred landmarks. And its hasty design, lack of consultation, and rush to construction undermine the ideal of government by and for the people.

First, the proposed location. The center of Memorial Circle is not an appropriate place to construct a monument equivalent in height to a 20-story building. The colossal bulk of the proposed arch would block the hallowed vista from the Lincoln Memorial, across Arlington Memorial Bridge, to Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington House. One of the American people's most sacred landscapes, this visual link communicates the magnitude of the Civil War, the obligation its unimaginable cost imposes on all Americans, and the aspiration of a post-Civil War reconciliation in a new birth of freedom.

Although there have been earlier proposals to place structures at this location, including the idea for two memorial columns, these proposed columns would have framed the views of Arlington House and the Lincoln Memorial, not interrupted them. And, after reflection, none of these earlier proposals were built.

Second, with its height and scale, the proposed arch would overwhelm neighboring landmarks. It is double the size of the Lincoln Memorial. It is also inconsistent with the Height of Buildings Act that protects and honors the plan of the city.

Third, constructing a mammoth arch at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery would disrespect the cemetery's solemn character. As the hallowed resting place of 400,000 veterans and their families, Arlington Cemetery is a powerful reminder of American military sacrifice, selfless service, and national unity. The arch would communicate a jarring indifference to the sacrifice of our veterans and mar the outward view for military families and visitors.

Finally, the applicant has not yet initiated review of this project under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The law clearly mandates that this review process be completed "prior to" approval. Submitting these plans for collaborative review and expert commentary as the National Historic Preservation Act requires would signal respect for the rule of law, improve the project, and help protect the President's legacy.

Name: William Milone
Date: June 25, 2026 10:52:22 am

This giant arch will ruin the relationship between existing memorials and will negatively disrupt the skyline for generations. It is about as large as Trump's ego and out of scale and proportion to everything around it. Also, get rid of the stupid gilding on all the statues/statuettes. Washington should not look like Versailles or the UAE.

Name: Jenny Hecker
Date: June 25, 2026 10:49:57 am

I feel that there is no need for a monumental arch that, the is the idea and the grandiose of one man. especially at such a distracting scale. So far the other projects state by this person, or for the honoring of this person have been an unwelcome distraction to Our country's Capitol City.

Name: Kathi Bostelman
Date: June 25, 2026 10:32:05 am

NO to a vanity project monument to the most corrupt president in our history. Why should money be spent on something that will eventually torn down.

Name: Charles Graessle

Date: June 25, 2026 10:25:32 am

The more I read, the more this seems like a bad idea. This seems to be about a war a long time ago, and the idea that there needs to be a reconciliation for that war seems absurd - it's clear who won that and this monument will only muddy the waters. They already built a Lincoln Memorial, so I see this as more government waste. The location is absurd - blocking the view of the Lincoln Memorial from the cemetery is exactly what anti-abolitionists would do, and that view will rub off on everyone who consents or participates in that. You don't want that to happen- whatever its problems, this country is too advanced to not acknowledge that. This sounds like someone invented another massive waste of money. An arch? This sounds too European, like the Arc de Triomphe in Paris or the Brandenburg Gate, and Washington already has different extant reminders of its history. I'm suspicious about how this began, too: I never heard any groundswell of the need for this among the common people; I think the individual who has publicly supported this has already started bunches of armed conflicts and lost at least one of them, which clearly signals he should not be the one deciding on some kind of war-time-looking arch.

Name: Marcille Reed

Date: June 25, 2026 8:54:44 am

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong opposition to the proposed Triumphal Arch. While I recognize that this Administration will likely proceed with the project despite widespread public opposition, there are significant legal, procedural, and planning concerns that should prevent this project from moving forward long before its design, siting, and scale are even considered.

First, Congress has neither authorized nor appropriated funds for the project. Proceeding without congressional approval would violate federal law and Article I of the Constitution, undermining the separation of powers that is fundamental to our system of government.

Second, federal law prohibits commemorative works honoring a sitting president. These safeguards exist to prevent the use of public monuments for political self-promotion and to ensure that historical judgment—not political power—determines who is memorialized.

Third, the proposed arch appears to conflict with both the Height of Buildings Act and the District's Comprehensive Plan, which govern the scale and character of development in the nation's capital.

Finally, the project would irreparably damage the historic viewsheds and carefully balanced symbolism of Washington, D.C. The capital's monumental core was designed to reflect democratic ideals, not personal glorification. The proposed Triumphal Arch is inconsistent with that vision and should not move forward.

Name: Susan Walker

Date: June 25, 2026 8:15:50 am

Please consider stopping the building of this arch as it does not belong in the sacred area proposed. I support that the planning committee should be involved in any such design in alignment with long time help ideals.

Name: Emily Slabaugh

Date: June 25, 2026 7:43:58 am

Dear Planning Commission,

We are vehemently against the building of any monument of this size, scale, cost, and placement. This is a pure vanity project that dates back to Kings, Emperors, and tyrants. As a military family, the area is meant to be solemn, quiet, and thought provoking. It is not a place for ostentatious and ridiculous attempts at ego-pleasing. This land is for the people. It does not belong to one man who keeps trying to build something for himself on the taxpayers dollars, or with the use of any shady money from private donors. This proposed arch would ruin everything in the area and completely disrespect the Arlington

Cemetery as well as all the branches of service who understand the heaviness of the space. The monuments we do have were never built or even requested by the men they represent and pay homage to. This arch is pure vanity and ego and should not be moving forward.

Thank you for your time,
Emily S

Name: JL Miller
Date: June 25, 2026 7:39:16 am

The scale, location and design of the proposed arch will disrupt the view. Plus the US citizens have not asked for this. It is another Trump vanity project.

Name: Michael Lemmon
Date: June 25, 2026 4:26:25 am

[Attachment](#)

Name: Steven Robinson
Date: June 24, 2026 10:11:31 pm

I strongly oppose the proposed arch. Its construction will adversely impact traffic to and from Washington DC via the GW Parkway, the primary route we take to DC. It also will adversely affect traffic going to National Airport.

I am a veteran and I consider it an affront to all the veterans buried in Arlington Cemetery to have a massive monument to a draft dodger looming over the cemetery and blocking the view of the Lincoln memorial and Washington monument.

Thank you for considering comments.

Name: Penny Burley
Date: June 24, 2026 9:02:49 pm

Building this ridiculous oversized monstrosity to honor one man is unAmerican. It is a total waste of taxpayer money while families go without healthcare and can't afford to put food on their table. Surely there are other priorities that millions of our dollars could be spent on for the well-being of many and not just the ego of one man. The proposed arch is hideous and it will ruin the view of the sacred burial grounds of so many American heroes who died defending our democracy. "Leaders" that build monuments to themselves have no concept of service to others. We do not live in North Korea.

Name: Lou Anne Miller
Date: June 24, 2026 8:40:01 pm

I have stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial looking toward Arlington. There is a solemn appreciation for those that have served our country. We DO NOT need a gold clad arch messing with that view. It is against the Constitution for living presidents to construct monuments for themselves. Stop the madness, follow the law and reject the construction of this gaudy arch.

Name: Cynthia Small
Date: June 24, 2026 8:31:31 pm

Please do not approve Trump's proposed monument to himself. It will overpower all the existing monuments and will forever remind us of this corrupt administration.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Name: Linda Farrelly
Date: June 24, 2026 6:53:49 pm

I am against the construction of this memorial arch. It blocks the view and the original design for the view from Arlington National Cemetery to the Lincoln Memorial. This is a waste of public funds. There is no reason to build it. It could also interfere with the flight path to Dulles Airport. Listen to the citizens! Cancel this arch. Thank you.

Name: Nanci gannon
Date: June 24, 2026 6:33:18 pm

Please, Please do not proceed with the Arch project. It is nonsensical, totally unnecessary and without merit. Copying a 19th century Arch (the Arch de Triumph) in the 21st century is ludicrous. We are the United States of America. We lead. We are not copycats of the past, we are purveyors of the future. Do not allow the grandiose delusions of a few remake the wonderful city of monuments that we have.
Respectfully submitted,
Nanci E. Gannon
Citizen

Name: Jane Elfring
Date: June 24, 2026 5:13:30 pm

There is no reason for this project. It dwarfs other structures in the area and blocks the view of the city from Arlington Cemetery. This is solely a vanity project. It doesn't honor our veterans.

Name: Constance Klima
Date: June 24, 2026 2:27:25 pm

I am strongly opposed to the arch being built. It is not an appropriate edifice anywhere in D.C. and especially not the designated location.
It is a personal wish by the current president as a selfish and gratuitous example of his sick ego.
However I would still strongly oppose the arch if it was suggested by ANY government official.

Connie Klima

Name: Krista Delorey
Date: June 24, 2026 2:07:53 pm

This project is a complete waste of money and a single testament to one man's overwhelming ego and disturbing sense of self.
THIS SHOULD NOT HAPPEN! NO TO THE MONUMENTAL ARCH!

Name: Barbara MacKinnon
Date: June 24, 2026 1:35:47 pm

Gentlemen:

I've lived in Washington DC – on Capitol Hill. I hate how Trump is desecrating my neighborhood and what was once a beautiful city designed for the people. I do not want my tax dollars – or the national park entrance fees – used for building a Trump arch that destroys the Arlington Cemetery view.

Is it coincidence that Trump's arch frames the mansion owned by the Confederate General Robert E. Lee and obscures the Lincoln Memorial? Regardless, it is an atrocity that does not belong in our nation's capital.

Do not allow Trump to build this monument to himself the destroys and distorts historical views.

Regards,

Barb MacKinnon

Name: Laura Georgi

Date: June 24, 2026 1:07:50 pm

For the nth time, No to Trump's Arch (NCPC File Number: 8778). This is a stupid waste of taxpayers' money and would detract from the existing monuments. As a former undergraduate Classics major it is my firmly held belief that the arch is totally the wrong aesthetic for a democratic republic. Anyhow, what triumph does it celebrate? Losing to Iran? Destroying the very things that make us great, like our Constitution, the rule of law, our universities and scientific research enterprise, our diversity? Construction would mean years of monumental disruption for monument that 99% of commenters do not want. The obvious way to "minimize visual intrusion" and "minimize ... construction effects," as required, is simply not to construct this monstrosity.

As an atheist, I object strongly to the prominent "UNDER GOD" on the proposed monument, as a violation of the First Amendment's establishment clause.

Name: Nancy Atkinson

Date: June 24, 2026 12:29:55 pm

We simply don't need this arch. The current monuments in place along with Arlington Cemetery are enough and their locations allow you to see each of them as you tour the area. This is a huge waste of public funds that are better used to help Americans in need.

We don't need this oversized arch in Washington DC.

Name: Karen Olson

Date: June 24, 2026 12:27:11 pm

I am vehemently opposed to the construction of this monstrous arch which would commemorate nothing that hasn't already been commemorated. Rather it seems to imitate and compete with arches built in other countries, a truly ridiculous and meaningless endeavor. Our Nation's Capitol is a beautiful city. It is imperative that any greenways, open vistas, parklands and trees be preserved and even expanded. Hardscaping of all types is turning our cities into islands of heat. I have seen no valid reason to build this arch. What does it even commemorate?

Name: Barbara Kerr

Date: June 24, 2026 12:19:56 pm

I strongly object to an arch monument outside Arlington National Cemetery. My great-grandfather is buried in Arlington. It is a sacred space. This area was specifically design to provide a majestic entrance to very sacred ground. I also object to what will be millions, if not billions of taxpayer dollars being spent when so many people in this country are struggling to have a roof over their heads, food in their larders, utility bills, and lack of or very expensive health insurance. (My daughter is a single woman who pays \$1,200/month for health insurance.)

I also object to yet another piece of our Nation's Capital being demolished and some tacky, gold plated structure put in its place.

PLEASE, for the love of all that's holy, please do not allow this project to continue. Please put an end to his destruction of our nation's capital.

Thank you.

Name: Carol Mehler
Date: June 24, 2026 11:57:46 am

One of America's most sacred landscapes, the vista from the Lincoln Memorial, across Arlington Memorial Bridge, to Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington House communicates the magnitude of the Civil War, the obligation its unimaginable cost imposes on all Americans, and the aspiration of a post-Civil War reconciliation in a new birth of freedom. It is because this viewshed carries so much meaning to the country that the National Trust has raised concerns about the proposed Monumental Arch, whose scale, location, and design will disrupt this important visual and symbolic vista. In addition, the Arch will dwarf the Lincoln Memorial and disrupt the long, open, and uninterrupted viewsheds, overwhelming the entry to Arlington National Cemetery—the hallowed resting place of 400,000 veterans and their families and a powerful reminder of American military sacrifice, selfless service, and national unity, all within sight of the monumental core of the Nation's Capital.

Name: Jonathan W Bayless
Date: June 24, 2026 11:57:35 am

There are more than enough monuments and expressions of greatness in our nation. We need to preserve what we already have. Building something new is a waste of money and will spoil the view of already existing monuments.

Name: Carol Rock
Date: June 24, 2026 11:47:20 am

Please STOP all efforts to build this monstrosity.

- 1) It destroys the vista created to commemorate the sacrifices our nation experienced. Views of Arlington National Cemetery and other landmarks familiar to the public will be eliminated by this gaudy, irreverent structure.
- 2) There is no money for this in the treasury.
- 3) We don't need it.
- 4) It violates every tenet of historical recognition.
- 5) It disrupts the footprint so carefully created by DC designers.
- 6) It is meaningless, except to the dictator who craves self-gratification.
- 7) It serves no purpose
- 8) Given the track record of the "builder" it will be a disaster if construction starts that will cost the taxpayers more in the long run.
- 9) It is hideously ugly.
- 10) Washington does not need beautification. It has a sense of place and solemnity that Americans can feel when they visit. This arch would completely destroy that.

I am a preservationist who works every day to save historic buildings and artifacts. STOP THIS DESTRUCTIVE PROJECT IMMEDIATELY.

Name: Melissa Warhurst
Date: June 24, 2026 10:10:00 am

I am writing to express my genuine concern and opposition to the planned Memorial Arch in Washington DC. After reviewing the plans it appears to block the view of Arlington National Cemetery, and disturbs the hallowed respectfulness this site commands.

The Arch is unimaginative, having been done in cities all over the world repeatedly. Bigger is not always better. It is a monstrosity that could possibly impede with air traffic patterns in that area which are already dangerously congested. It is one man's monument to himself. As this man's popularity now stands at under 30%, there is a large probability that this vanity project will be torn down as soon as he leaves office.

Please don't let one man's folly ruin our nation's capital. He has destroyed the East wing, the Elipse, the Reflecting Pool and slapped his name up on the Kennedy Center. He is symbolically and physically tearing down our most revered institutions. He needs oversight, regulations, and accountability.

Thank you for your consideration,
Melissa Warhurst

Name: Ann Meseika
Date: June 24, 2026 9:28:36 am

Please stop the “monuments” that Trump wants to build as monuments intended for himself. The desecration of our Capital and White House has gone too far.

Name: Nancy Hayes Kirk
Date: June 24, 2026 9:14:41 am

Absolutely not. This is merely another vanity project for a man determined to redo our beautiful Capitol to glorify himself. The East Wing of the White House is gone. We can never get that back. The South Lawn has been destroyed. The facade of the Kennedy Center has been desecrated. A huge, completely out-of-proportion arch will not add more beauty to D.C. It would be a vulgarity. Arlington and everything leading to it was thoughtfully and carefully laid out and designed. It is beautiful. Popping a huge arch in the middle of that is just unconscionable. Do not allow this to happen. Vote no.

Name: Jeri Minford
Date: June 24, 2026 9:01:33 am

Our national debt is unsustainable, we need to be tightening our belts on expenditures rather than building lavish monuments that do not enhance the solemnity of the site.

Name: Concerned Citizen
Date: June 24, 2026 8:47:55 am

This will ruin our National Mall, waste huge amounts of taxpayer money, and be a memorial to nothing other than the laughingstock our country has become. It is a great shame it is even being considered.

Name: Anne Crotty
Date: June 24, 2026 8:46:58 am

Please vote against building any version of the Arch. It is ugly and a waste of money. Protect our capital!

Name: Cheryl Ward
Date: June 24, 2026 7:22:18 am

Please no ~ just vote no. Beautiful Washington DC does not need this monstrosity overshadowing all of the history that exists. Our country needs tax money spent on helping our citizens recover ~ not another monument to the current administration.

Name: Enrica Crescenzi
Date: June 24, 2026 4:16:34 am

The proposed site of the Monumental Arch is inappropriate. It will obstruct the view of Arlington National Cemetery, the sacred burial ground of America’s honored veterans.

Additionally, it will break the link between this hallowed ground which was initiated for our fallen soldiers during our Civil War and the Lincoln Memorial which honors President Lincoln who presided over that tragic conflict.

If the proposed arch is to be built, it should be done elsewhere.

Name: Pam Maxson
Date: June 24, 2026 2:13:24 am

Please do not change the beautiful view of Arlington cemetery from the Lincoln Memorial. This iconic view will be ruined with the addition of a tacky arch.

Name: Margaret Powers
Date: June 24, 2026 12:06:00 am

[Attachment](#)

Name: Reesa Barton
Date: June 23, 2026 10:54:50 pm

This is an intrusion into a sacred space. The arch is too big and blocks the beautiful view. The other areas mean something to Americans, but this is garish and completely unnecessary. Don't ruin this space for American generations to come.

Name: Barbara Liese
Date: June 23, 2026 10:17:47 pm

Add my voice to the resounding "No to the arch" group. Vanity projects to memorialize living persons are just absurd. It demeans our democracy when a person decides to memorialize himself, bypassing the voice, let alone esteem, of the public.

Secondly, the uninterrupted sense of peace along the drive towards Arlington National must be revered and maintained. My father and three brothers all served during World War II, with one of my uncles buried there. My mother's three brothers also served as well as my own brother. Our family and my siblings and I, as Navy juniors, spent many years living in Washington. I find this proposed arch an affront to the service my family and so very many others offered and hope you'll categorically reject this idea.

No, no, a thousand times no to this hastily conceived and inappropriate monument to a living man's vanity.

Sincerely,
Barbara Blouin Liese, daughter of Captain C.A. Blouin, USN; niece of Vice Admiral Francis Blouin, USNA Class of 1935, niece of Raymond and Robert Blouin, US Coast Guard; niece of William, Max and David Ransom, US Army; sister of Robert Blouin, US Air Force

Name: Katharine Reardon
Date: June 23, 2026 9:58:20 pm

A new monumental arch would ruin the view into Arlington National Cemetery. There are so many other things that our government could spend funds on that would actually help Americans. This is an unnecessary vanity project. Please do not approve it.

Name: Neal Hall
Date: June 23, 2026 9:23:04 pm

This is a terrible idea! The arch will block view from DC across to sacred Arlington National Cemetery. There is no justification for this except to feed Trump's huge ego. It is an abomination !!,

Name: Leila Menzies
Date: June 23, 2026 9:02:14 pm

The proposed Monumental Arch will destroy the vital view from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington Cemetery where so many Civil War dead are buried. This view is sacred to the memory of the sacrifices made during the civil war--linking President Lincoln to the cemetery, The Monumental Arch does not belong in this location and I question the validity of even having it. This is not a project that has been championed by the people or by Congress, which is how monuments in Washington should be created. A monument cannot be the wish of just one person even if they are the President! Indeed the scale of the monument is disturbing--not only violating a sacred view, but also being located in such an inappropriate space!

Name: Sheri Ertl
Date: June 23, 2026 8:42:41 pm

This monument is not a good fit for the area. It will overwhelm the intended views, take away from the Washington Monument, and generally just ruin the historic nature of the site.

The design itself does not complement the area. Neither does the intent of the Arch—it does not seek to honor American principles but rather to give homage to someone who had done nothing but divide and destroy.

This man already has his monuments—an algae-ridden pool, the rubble where the East Wing once was, and the paved-over Rose Garden.

If he want a site for the Arch—how about his own land in Florida.

Name: Sandy Walter
Date: June 23, 2026 8:42:34 pm

Reject this project. The existing vista is historic, iconic and symbolic, and must not be marred with any structure. It would distort this view, tower above existing and beloved structures, and frankly, be ugly in scale, size and design.

America doesn't need it, we don't want it, and it would be demoralizing to have it constructed - against our wishes and with our tax dollars.

DENY!

Name: Jennifer Bauman
Date: June 23, 2026 8:35:58 pm

The view between Arlington House and the Lincoln Memorial is an essential piece of Washington DC architectural iconography. Do not let the power plays of a willfully uninformed tyrant ruin this essentially American nod to our complicated history.

Name: Sharon Garde
Date: June 23, 2026 8:32:30 pm

Do not let him build this arch. It will ruin views, it's way too big and tacky. Will dwarf the real monuments. It is not needed. And the construction will screw up traffic.

Name: Dawn Scaltreto
Date: June 23, 2026 8:18:38 pm

Dear Friends at the National Capital Planning Commission,

It is with significant concern that I submit this letter expressing my dismay regarding the proposed Monumental Arch proposed for Washington D.C. I believe this project does not reflect the historic and stylish architecture that makes the "People's City" a place that Americans visit and come away with the inspiring and heartfelt gravitas that is part of the American Experience. Visitors from the past, present and future deserve to have this space preserved.

This administration has shown time and again that they are not acting on behalf of the American people, and instead are acting of the whims of one single person, a person who has no regard for history, protocol or planning, no regard for the scope and scale of projects, and has instead proceeded to tear down, pave over and destroy historical and beloved elements of our Capital with abandon. Their mis-management of projects already begun without the approval of your commission, or any other sane council for that matter, have been at the least ugly and distasteful, at worst have forever destroyed cherished and beautiful monuments like the East Wing, the Rose Garden, the Reflecting Pool and the White House itself. If these debacles can be repaired at all, some in serious doubt, it will be at considerable expense to the American taxpayer. Please, I beg you, do not allow this disastrous project to proceed. It will permanently destroy the solemn entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, creating an undignified approach to this honorable and sacred ground.

Washington needs the protection of the American people now, and I strongly believe that the Monumental Arch should not have the opportunity to break the sacred ground of our Capital.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Evans Scaltreto
Secretary, Watertown Public Arts and Culture Committee
Watertown, MA

Name: Balinda DeSantis
Date: June 23, 2026 7:42:59 pm

I am vehemently opposed to the arch that Donald Trump has proposed. My primary concerns are:

- 1) Cost - The US is trillions of dollars in debt and this project is not only not needed, it will no doubt be given to a no-bid political donor and supporter of DJT, no matter how unqualified they might be.
- 2) Strategy - what is the purpose of this arch? Why would we build a European inspired arch? If it is determined that an arch would benefit Washington DC, why not approach it the same way as the Vietnam Memorial? Hold a contest and build something unique to the United States instead of a same old, same old, copy cat arch.
- 3) Scale - from what I understand, the arch that DJT is proposing is completely out of scale and in a poor place to enhance the beauty of our gorgeous Capitol city.

Name: Mary Cox
Date: June 23, 2026 7:42:26 pm

I am not in favor of the Arch monument project especially at the proposed location. The dignity of the current structures should be maintained, and this Arch would ruin the experience. This is another huge bill we neither need or can afford. Thank you.

Name: Luise Craige-Sherman
Date: June 23, 2026 6:56:28 pm

Please do NOT approve any building of the arch being proposed by the President and current administration in the White House. DC is and always has been a very specifically planned city with intentional views between monuments, historic sites and natural Vista.

There are enough monuments of national significance for people to recognize our 250 years of struggle, celebration and democracy. We do not need to spend money and time to build something that those funds could be far better spent going into preserving and doing maintenance and boosting back up the staffing of our existing National Parks that have essentially been robbed of needed funds at their own parks, historic battlefields and monuments. Please do NOT allow this new arch to be built and obscure the views from Arlington to the Lincoln Memorial. That view is sacred as are those remembered there.

If you want, put this project to a national referendum vote and let us, each American taxpayer decide! That is the fair way.

Name: Jenna Andresen
Date: June 23, 2026 5:49:27 pm

I respectfully urge the Commission of Fine Arts to deny approval of the proposed New Monumental Arch.

The proposed arch is out of scale with its setting and is inconsistent with the principles that have historically guided the design of monumental landscapes in Washington, D.C. Rather than complementing the existing civic landscape, the structure would dominate it, drawing attention to itself instead of the surrounding memorials, public spaces, and historic views.

Washington's monumental core is successful because its monuments are thoughtfully integrated into a cohesive landscape. Introducing an oversized, highly expressive architectural feature risks diminishing that balance and setting a precedent for monuments that prioritize spectacle over contextual design.

The proposal also does not appear to demonstrate a compelling public need that justifies such a significant alteration to the historic civic landscape. Any new monument should be evaluated on its contribution to the nation's shared heritage, compatibility with existing cultural resources, and long-term stewardship—not simply its ability to create a dramatic visual statement.

I encourage the Commission to uphold its longstanding commitment to thoughtful, context-sensitive design and deny this proposal unless it can be substantially redesigned to better respect the character, scale, and integrity of the National Mall and surrounding monumental landscape.

I am also concerned that the proposed arch conveys an appearance of political self-aggrandizement rather than serving as a timeless civic or commemorative work. The nation's monumental landscape should reflect enduring public values and broad historical significance, not the image or legacy of any individual political leader.

Name: Dianne Cripe
Date: June 23, 2026 4:42:42 pm

I urge you to reconsider the building of the monumental arch. The style and the scale are not in keeping with the surroundings and do not reflect the character of our country. This country has far better needs than this arch.

Name: Victoria Wall
Date: June 23, 2026 4:26:52 pm

Please do not approve Trump's arch. It is self-serving, ugly, and a huge unnecessary expense to taxpayers. Trump says he will use private funds but that has proved to be a lie in his other projects. The sightline from Arlington House at Arlington National Cemetery, across the bridge to the Lincoln Memorial was carefully thought out and is a beautiful part of the Washington DC area. This huge arch would be unsightly and add absolutely nothing to the view except a huge blockage of the sightline. Also, trump's plans to have construction commence for 20 hours a day for 2-3 years is extremely disrespectful to Arlington National Cemetery. My father and mother are interred there and I can't imagine the stress and heartache we would have experienced had we had to hear construction noise during my father's ceremony....he was a veteran of World War II. I feel so much for the families of loved ones to be buried there in the future. Please, Please, Please do not approve this horrible project.

Victoria Wall
Mayodan, NC

Name: Vanessa Cieslak
Date: June 23, 2026 2:03:25 pm

I am opposed to the proposal to build a Triumphal Arch between Memorial Bridge and Arlington Cemetery. The United States does not erect victory statues, arches, or other sculptures to commemorate such historical events. This is why we have the Memorial Bridge and Arlington cemetery as well as other sculptures throughout the District of Columbia.
This is a only a vanity project for the current occupant of the White House.
Please do not approve the construction of the Arch.

Name: Mary Eads
Date: June 22, 2026 7:44:29 pm

We need to preserve the historic monuments and edifices in Washington D.C. These are our heritage and must be available to successive generations. We do NOT need any kind of new creation, especially a "Monumental Arch". Stop the madness.

Thank you.

Mary Eads

Name: Jennifer Chester
Date: June 22, 2026 4:29:46 pm

The United States of America does NOT NEED "the Arch". With all that's going on and wrong in the US, this is a ridiculous plan once again from Trump. He has made a MESS OF AMERICA. Period.No arch.

Name: Mary Stermer
Date: June 22, 2026 5:22:23 am

I am heartsick after hearing about this proposed monument, so much so that I have gone to the trouble to tell this committee.

Name: Eleanor Hall
Date: June 21, 2026 2:01:33 pm

Please do not approve the proposed Monumental Arch. It is too tall and would not be consistent with DC's height policies. Also, it would not be appropriate for it to block the view between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. Last, it would be very expensive. Given the size of the national debt, we should not be spending money on an arch that has so much against it. So please do not approve the building of the Monumental Arch.

Name: Robert Sullivan
Date: June 21, 2026 1:30:12 pm

Trump has left enough of a STAIN on our country. Building a vanity monument only makes things worse. Trump is not my President, he openly admits that every time he insults me. Trump represents hate, fear bigotry, and division. I hope my country survives his wrath. Currently, this is NOT the country my father fought for in the Second World War. The sooner Trump leaves office and disappears from the national spotlight the better.

Name: Clifford Nancarrow
Date: June 21, 2026 1:27:48 pm

This may be a duplicate but I have converted to PDF as a matter of record. I am grateful for the opportunity to comment and trust that you will consider each with respect.

Thank you

[Attachment](#)

Name: Steven Yedlin

Date: June 20, 2026 12:11:01 pm

I am sad to say the design of this monument seems to have only one purpose, to be big. It is deliberately obstructive of the sight line to the Arlington National Cemetery, the most hallowed ground in our nation. It has no inherent artistic value. It could be only envisioned as a model for a generic Lego monument kit, taken from the original drawn with a Sharpie on a MacDonald's napkin. Clearly there was no call for proposals for this monument to competent, experienced designers. There is virtually no public support for it in the current form, or for that matter, any form.

Name: Patty McGuire

Date: June 20, 2026 7:32:48 am

I am against the building of the arch. It would be a traffic nightmare for those of us who use that route every day. Please do not invest any time or money into building this unnecessary shrine.

Name: Jon S Peterson

Date: June 20, 2026 1:13:17 am

I strongly oppose the arch. Washington, DC should maintain its height restrictions. No tall structures should be allowed.

Name: Lemuel Marlow

Date: June 19, 2026 6:28:48 pm

The Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle should not / not be built and all development and planning efforts be ceased immediately. The Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle is not needed and a luxury that taxpayers cannot afford and an increasing significant number currently and have never desired. Funding should be prioritized to fix bathroom and other facilities at existing National Parks. Increased park entrance and use fees are not. / are not currently being applied to fix / repair and maintain existing National Parks. National Parks are being reported to have personnel shortages, bathrooms and other facilities closed due to a state of non-repair. If a Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle is a priority, demonstrate by holding a Federal election with a Yes or No question if the Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle should be developed and constructed. Include a second ballot item summarizing required budget and source of funds for voters to approve. The Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle should not be developed or constructed as long as President continues to state Federal government has no funding for child care, hunger, and medical care indicating all should be deferred to states to address. While FFA indicates it is not a hazard to current air traffic patterns, it will limit future adjustments and routing to Reagan National Airport and tighten airspace shared by a number of adjacent airports as they too may need to adjust air traffic patterns. Obviously the Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle is a luxury and should not be prioritized above Federal government support to child care, health care and resolving hunger in the United States. Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle is wrong priority and no taxpayer funding should be provided. All building codes, laws, should be adhere to and size should not infer with current views, current or future flight paths. Stop the effort for Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle, taxpayers can not afford and it is not needed.

Name: Ralph Warren Short

Date: June 19, 2026 12:52:30 pm

Please note that the proposed Monumental Arch violates the Height Act; its mass obstructs important views up and down the Potomac and blocks the visual connection between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington Cemetery/Arlington House. The

height creates a flight hazard for aircraft approaching National Airport.

Others have made cogent arguments to support the above points. Listen to them.

Name: Cynthia Dalton

Date: June 19, 2026 12:26:25 pm

This new archway is not appropriate for area in which it is being proposed. Not only does it mar the already beautiful vista from Arlington Cemetery to the Lincoln Memorial, it adds a major safety hazard to driving lines of sight when trying to find breaks in the traffic to pull into the traffic circle. This is a totally lunatic idea and it should be stopped. It really mars the current beauty of the area. Please do all you can to stop this idiotic idea.

Name: Meg Cowan

Date: June 19, 2026 8:42:35 am

I strongly oppose approval of NCPC File No. 8778, the New Monumental Arch.

NCPC should not approve preliminary or final site and building plans for this project. At the June meeting, the Commission identified serious unresolved issues involving traffic, pedestrian safety, parking and loading, height justification, FAA coordination, materials, lighting, security, Section 106, and NEPA. These are not minor details to clean up after approval; they are threshold issues.

I have worked in tourism for more than forty years, including as a tour guide in the White Mountain National Forest, and I know what happens when a site becomes a required stop: buses arrive, crowds gather, traffic backs up, trash appears, and the place starts serving the attraction instead of the other way around.

That is entirely wrong near Arlington National Cemetery. A 250-foot occupied arch with elevators, ticketing, restrooms, programming space, and an observation deck would create a spectacle in a solemn national landscape. This project would be a desecration. NCPC should reject it, defer it, or require its withdrawal.

Name: Deborah Dowd

Date: June 19, 2026 6:39:06 am

I have never been to Washington DC in my lifetime but appreciate all I have learned about the original architecture intentions and unobstructed viewscape of the area being considered for the new monumental arch.

Please do not allow this arch to be placed at the intended location for aesthetic reasons, hoping to maintain the intended solemn approach to the cemetery.

Thank you for all consideration.

Name: Karen Oehler

Date: June 19, 2026 2:47:07 am

Hello,

I wholeheartedly object to any plans to build the Monumental Arch. It would obscure the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. It is totally not needed, will cost too much of our taxpayers dollars. This is an attempt by the president to have something in Washington made for him and his vanity.

We do not need this arch. There must be no arch!

Name: Jenny Szawlewicz

Date: June 19, 2026 1:54:36 am

I STRONGLY oppose this abomination. The person in the White House has already illegally taken over the Kennedy Center, added his name to it, and torn down the East Wing of the White House. He is ruining the beautiful city of Washington D.C. I was a licensed tour guide in D.C. and took many groups to the memorials and Arlington National Cemetery. This horrible arch will RUIN the historic view from Arlington House to the Lincoln Memorial.

Name: Daisy D.

Date: June 19, 2026 12:23:29 am

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed 250-foot triumphal arch planned for the Arlington, Virginia, gateway to Washington, D.C., and I urge the Commission to reject or substantially scale back this project.

Height and visual impact: At 250 feet, the arch would be more than twice the height of the Lincoln Memorial (99 feet) and would dominate the carefully preserved sightline between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. This corridor was deliberately designed to remain open and unobstructed as a space for national reflection. A structure of this scale would permanently and irreversibly alter that view for purely ornamental purposes. I support NCPC staff's request that the applicant provide a full justification for the proposed height under the Height of Buildings Act, and I do not believe any justification offered can outweigh the permanent loss of this historic vista.

Impact on Arlington National Cemetery: The arch's proximity to Arlington National Cemetery, including sightlines involving the Memorial Amphitheater and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, has not been adequately studied. The Commission should require a comprehensive analysis of how this structure would affect the cemetery's visual and ceremonial integrity before any approval moves forward.

Cost and priorities: The project carries an estimated price tag of roughly \$100 million. This comes at the same time the administration is spending tens of millions of taxpayer dollars on a new White House ballroom. I do not believe large-scale, taxpayer-funded monument projects should be a federal spending priority right now, when many Americans are struggling with the cost of living. I would ask the Commission to weigh whether this is a responsible use of federal resources and oversight at this time.

Process concerns: I'm also concerned that the project appears to be moving forward despite the Commission's own staff identifying significant unresolved issues — including height justification, lighting, stormwater management, and traffic/parking impacts near a major bridge and traffic circle. I urge the Commission not to grant final approval until each of these outstanding items has been fully and transparently addressed, with adequate opportunity for public comment on the answers.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the Commission to reject the current proposal because of its impact on the Lincoln Memorial–Arlington sightline and for all of the reasons listed above.

Daisy D.
Arlington, VA

Name: Geoffrey Fisher

Date: June 18, 2026 11:31:56 pm

Do not vote to approve the Arch. It would be a monstrosity and an insult.

Name: Elizabeth Luffy

Date: June 18, 2026 11:28:08 pm

This proposal for a gaudy, out of place, white and gold arch near the Lincoln Memorial is ridiculous. Donald Trump just wants to boast about his belief that rules, guidelines and protocols regarding all property in Our Nations Capital do not apply to him and his supporters. Please stop this nonsense.

Destroying the East Wing of the White House is the first example of his pompous attempt to destroy our city and democracy. None of this property belongs to him - it belongs to the citizens of The United States of America.

Thank you in advance for shutting down this Trump Arch proposal.

Name: Stephanie Abbott

Date: June 18, 2026 11:25:16 pm

Dear Sirs:

At a time when people are struggling to afford to live in DC and the DMV, I feel that the expense involved in building a gigantic arch is totally inappropriate. Aesthetically the arch is too large and distracts from Arlington Memorial Cemetery. What an eyesore. Besides what is the victory it is celebrating?

I strongly urge you to vote “No” on this unattractive, disruptive, unnecessary “monument.”

Sincerely,
Stephanie Abbott

Name: J Powell
Date: June 18, 2026 11:20:50 pm

I oppose the 250 monumental arch due to the size and cost. The area in DC is a beautiful site without this arch. Also, families are struggling financially in this Country and instead of building monuments find ways to assist the economy by reducing prices on food, fuel and mortgage rates.

The US already has an issue with homelessness and not making things more affordable just increases homelessness.

Name: Susan Phillip
Date: June 18, 2026 11:20:21 pm

I am vehemently against the proposed Triumphant Arch. It is an abomination.

A Democracy does not build monuments to sitting Presidents. Especially a monument as ugly as this one.

We don't need to be spending millions (or will it be billions) on this arch when Americans are struggling to feed our families and put a roof over our heads.

Name: Lisa Chesnick
Date: June 18, 2026 11:15:16 pm

Not necessary, please vote no. We should not be spending \$ that does not benefit the community. Do the right thing and just say no.

Name: Frances Burmeister
Date: June 18, 2026 10:20:15 pm

The proposed arch is a singular exercise in satisfying the ego of one man. In addition it is completely out of place on the National Mall. It will dwarf existing monuments in size and obstruct the view of those monuments and of Arlington National Cemetery. Vote No.

Name: Shady Migally
Date: June 18, 2026 8:22:36 pm

Memorial Circle Triumphal Arch Project – Section 106

My name is Shady Migally. I am an American architect, Founder and CEO of ME Innovations LLC, and a citizen who strongly supports the National Capital Planning Commission's efforts to create a landmark worthy of the United States' 250th Anniversary.

I respectfully submit this comment and alternative design proposal for consideration as part of the ongoing evaluation of the

Memorial Circle Monumental Arch project.

America's Semiquincentennial represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity. The monument selected for this site will likely remain part of the nation's ceremonial landscape for centuries. As such, the project should aspire not only to monumentality, but also to exceptional symbolic meaning, architectural distinction, visitor experience, educational value, and long-term civic relevance.

The current proposal successfully reintroduces the concept of a triumphal arch to Memorial Circle. However, its architectural expression remains closely tied to traditional European precedents, particularly the Arc de Triomphe model. While monumental in scale, much of its visual prominence is achieved through the addition of a large sculptural element rather than through the architectural form itself.

I respectfully believe this historic site offers an opportunity to create something more distinctly American, an architectural landmark that reflects the history, ideals, innovation, and aspirations of the United States while establishing a new national symbol for future generations.

To explore that possibility, I developed an alternative concept entitled (Attached): "The Independence Arch" A Civic Threshold for America's 250th Anniversary.

This proposal was developed specifically to address several key considerations that have emerged throughout the public review process, including:

- Preservation of historic views and visual relationships.
- Protection of the ceremonial relationship between the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington House, Memorial Avenue, and Arlington National Cemetery.
- Improved visitor circulation, accessibility, and public safety.
- Preservation of existing traffic operations while reducing pedestrian-vehicle conflicts.
- Greater symbolic clarity rooted in American history and national identity.
- Long-term relevance extending well beyond the 250th Anniversary celebration.

Unlike traditional triumphal arch precedents, the Independence Arch establishes a uniquely American civic form. The monument itself reaches a symbolic height of 250 feet, directly representing the nation's 250th Anniversary and creating a memorable architectural identity rooted in American ideals rather than borrowed historical models.

The proposal also honors the more than 14,000 Civil War veterans buried at Arlington National Cemetery and pays tribute to generations of American service members whose sacrifice preserved the Union and defended the freedoms established by the nation's founding principles. Through integrated sculptures, inscriptions, and artistic reliefs, the monument tells a distinctly American story of liberty, unity, sacrifice, and democratic self-government.

One of the most significant advantages of the alternative proposal is its commitment to preserving and strengthening the site's historic visual relationships.

By minimizing the visual mass at ground level and introducing greater architectural openness, the design frames surrounding landmarks rather than competing with them. This approach preserves important views between the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington House, Memorial Avenue, and Arlington National Cemetery while maintaining the dignity and openness of Memorial Circle.

The proposal seeks to complement the historic landscape rather than dominate it.

In addition, the Independence Arch significantly expands the public experience through:

- A museum-quality exhibition space at the Arch attic dedicated to American history, democracy, and civic education, accommodating more than 250 visitors.
- Panoramic rooftop observation terraces approximately 230 feet above grade, offering unparalleled views of Washington, D.C., Arlington National Cemetery, and the National Mall.
- Dedicated visitor drop-off areas and enhanced accessibility accommodations.
- Shorter underground pedestrian connections, escalators, and improved circulation pathways.
- Better separation between pedestrian and vehicular movement.
- Enhanced visitor comfort, safety, and operational efficiency.

Most importantly, the proposal creates a living civic experience rather than a static commemorative object.

At the heart of the design is a precisely calibrated annual solar alignment. Each year on July 4th, at solar noon, a beam of

sunlight passes through a carefully designed oculus in the monument roof and illuminates a circular stone datum embedded in the ground below, inscribed with words from the Declaration of Independence. For approximately twenty minutes, architecture, astronomy, history, and national memory converge in a single ceremonial moment.

This event transforms the monument into an active participant in America's civic life. Rather than simply commemorating the nation's founding, it creates a recurring annual tradition that renews the principles of liberty, equality, and self-government for future generations.

The symbolism is particularly meaningful at Memorial Circle. Each Independence Day, sunlight would illuminate the nation's founding words while surrounded by one of America's most significant military landscapes, creating a powerful connection between the ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the generations of Americans who have defended those ideals.

The proposal further incorporates symbolic references to the original thirteen colonies, the fifty states, the Declaration of Independence, and the continuing American story through its architectural composition, inscriptions, public spaces, and artistic elements.

Since publicly sharing this alternative concept, the proposal has generated substantial public interest and engagement on Facebook. Within a single day, the project presentation received more than 2,700 positive reactions and numerous supportive comments from citizens who believe America's 250th Anniversary deserves a monument that is unmistakably American in character, symbolism, and architectural expression.

Link to the Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid0pjw5oVMW69XpCM43Tr2DqPQFU53gS27jyov8rLjCa6eBzXXufdoc64noLs5wJ813l&id=61590412273202

While public support alone should not determine design decisions, this response demonstrates a strong public interest in exploring a design solution that fully embraces the uniqueness of America's history and identity.

The National Capital Planning Commission has long served as the steward of our nation's most treasured historic places and cultural landscapes. As part of that stewardship, I respectfully encourage the agency to consider whether this extraordinary moment presents an opportunity to create a landmark that not only commemorates the past, but also establishes a new national tradition, enhances visitor engagement, preserves historic views, and contributes meaningfully to the civic life of future generations.

America's 250th Anniversary will occur only once.

The monument selected for Memorial Circle may endure for centuries.

For that reason, I respectfully believe this historic site deserves a design that is not merely monumental, but uniquely American; a design that honors our past, enriches the visitor experience, preserves the integrity of this nationally significant setting, inspires future generations, and stands as a lasting symbol of the vision, creativity, innovation, and leadership of the United States.

Below is a link to the alternative design proposal for review (also attached)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1W7nll1ZOV2zmm60WH_bdSPUc33yOtd2J/view?usp=drive_link

Link to videos:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1N7pA6J_EJ89dEq2JkBqhbEWbBgn2bXzI?usp=sharing

Respectfully submitted,

Shady Migally
Founder & CEO
ME Innovations LLC
www.meinnovations.us

[Attachment](#)

From: David Preece

Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 2:25 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] RE: Opposition to the Proposed Independence Arch at Memorial Circle

June 3, 2026

National Capital Planning Commission

401 9th Street NW, Suite 500

Washington, DC 20004

RE: Opposition to the Proposed Independence Arch at Memorial Circle

Dear Chair and Members of the Commission:

I write in strong opposition to the proposed Independence Arch at Memorial Circle.

I do so not only as a citizen but also as an urban planner with more than 44 years of professional experience, including work in Washington, D.C., and as a current member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives. Throughout my career, I have been guided by a simple principle: public spaces of historic and national significance must be protected from projects that diminish their integrity, distort their meaning, or place political ambition above the public interest.

The proposed arch fails that test.

Memorial Circle occupies one of the most important symbolic locations in the United States. It serves as the gateway between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. This is not merely a transportation corridor. It is a sacred civic landscape where Americans reflect upon sacrifice, service, loss, reconciliation, and the unfinished promise of democracy.

For generations, planners, landscape architects, historians, and preservationists have carefully protected the visual and symbolic relationship between these two national landmarks. The open space between them is itself part of the memorial experience. The unobstructed views, the gradual progression across Arlington Memorial Bridge, and the connection between Lincoln's words and the resting place of those who died in service to the nation create a powerful and irreplaceable civic narrative.

The proposed 250-foot arch would fundamentally alter that relationship.

Its immense scale would overwhelm the surrounding landscape and compete directly with the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and Arlington House. Rather than complementing these historic resources, it would dominate them. The result would be the insertion of a massive architectural object into a setting whose power derives precisely from restraint, dignity, and openness.

Equally troubling is the symbolism of the structure itself. Triumphal arches have historically been associated with military conquest, imperial power, and personal glorification. They celebrate victory. Arlington National Cemetery commemorates sacrifice. The Lincoln Memorial

commemorates leadership, humility, national unity, and the preservation of democracy at enormous human cost.

These are fundamentally different messages.

The space between Lincoln and Arlington speaks not of triumph but of duty, service, and loss. It reminds us that freedom is preserved not through displays of power but through the sacrifices of ordinary Americans. To place a triumphal arch in this setting is to impose a message that is historically and emotionally incompatible with the landscape it seeks to occupy.

The proposal also establishes a dangerous precedent. The monumental core of Washington was never intended to become a gallery of oversized commemorative structures tied to contemporary political figures or administrations. Once this precedent is established, future generations will face pressure for additional monuments and grandiose projects that further erode the integrity of the nation's capital.

The National Capital Planning Commission has long served as a guardian of the L'Enfant and McMillan Plans and of the planning principles that have shaped Washington into one of the world's great capital cities. Those plans emphasize balanced composition, meaningful open space, carefully framed vistas, and respect for the symbolic importance of place. The proposed arch is inconsistent with those principles.

As planners, we often ask whether a project contributes to a place or merely occupies it. This proposal does not contribute to Memorial Circle. It appropriates it. It transforms a landscape dedicated to remembrance into a stage for spectacle.

The National Mall, the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge, and Arlington National Cemetery belong to all Americans. They are not blank canvases for political statements. They are enduring national treasures entrusted to our stewardship.

I respectfully urge the Commission to reject the proposed Independence Arch and preserve the historic, visual, and symbolic integrity of this extraordinary civic landscape for future generations. Once these views are lost, once this setting is altered, and once this precedent is established, the damage cannot be undone.

Respectfully submitted,

David John Preece

State Representative, Hillsborough District 17

Manchester, New Hampshire

Former Executive Director, Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission

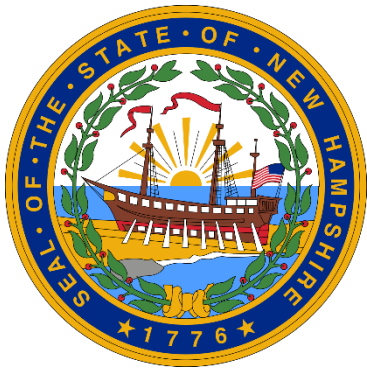
Urban Planner with 44 Years of Professional Experience

David J. Preece

Finance Committee

New Hampshire House of Representatives

District 17, Hillsborough County



From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 7:17 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Elka Deede

Please listen to the citizens of America and block the building of the proposed 250 foot high arch between the Washington monument and Arlington Cemetery . The arch will interfere with air traffic at National airport and military traffic. It will block the aesthetic view purposely left open between the former Lee mansion on the hilltop in Arlington and the Lincoln Memorial. Washington does not need another monument , especially to a sitting president who has divided the country more than almost any other person in our history. Taxpayer money should not be spent on a vanity project by a government official. Respect the people of America, the architects who are almost unanimously against this ugly arch.,

From: Mary O'Neill

Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 5:20 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Cc: info@savingplaces.org; staff@cfa.gov; advocacy@aia.org; dept@depreservation.org

Subject: [External] URGENT: Public Comment Triumphal Arch-June4th Review. Concerned American Citizen Requests Deferral

Mary O'Neill

Marine City, Haeundae, Busan. South Korea

Mr. William Scharf, Chair, National Capital Planning Commission

401 Ninth Street NW, Suite 500N, Washington, D.C 20004

cc: Commission of Fine Arts, National Trust for Historic Preservation, American Institute of Architects, DC Preservation League

Re: Public Comment — Proposed Triumphal Arch / Request to Defer Approval — June 4, 2026 Review- Mary O'Neill

Dear Mr. Scharf and Members of the Commission,

My name is Mary O'Neill. I am an American citizen and PhD candidate in the Department of International Relations and Korea Studies at Silla University, Busan, researching urban identity and civic culture. I also have deep personal roots in Washington, D.C. — my great-aunt Elsie Yost Lockhart grew up at 1002 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, built in 1893 by her father, William H. Yost, and his brother Amos. The family lived there for 85 years before Elsie sold it to the Capitol Hill Restoration Society in 1979. As a child, I spent many summers in Washington, D.C., and as an adult, I visited this beautiful city. I have lived abroad for thirty years, and Washington, D.C. is such a beautiful and special city that holds our national heritage, government, culture, my family ties, and memories.

The Arch design is borrowed, not American. The proposed arch is closely modeled on the Arc de Triomphe — a monument Napoleon built to celebrate his own military conquests. France itself has since moved beyond that idea; La Grande Arche was designed to celebrate humanity, and its architect was chosen through an open international competition. A copy of Napoleon's arch beside Arlington National Cemetery borrows the symbolism of empire for a republic founded in rejection of it.

The symbolism is wrong. The eagle sculptures hunch heavily over the structure, **not like eagles in flight but like vultures keeping watch.** There is a female figure at the top —let her be **Columbia**, holding an **olive branch**—not a gilded imitation of a French gift, the Statue of Liberty. These are not small details. Symbolism in public monuments endures for centuries.

The scale overwhelms the landscape. Pierre Charles L'Enfant designed Washington, D.C. with great care — a city of sight lines, axes, and ceremonial space. This arch, at more than double the height of the Lincoln Memorial, cuts across that vision. Most importantly, the men and women

buried at Arlington National Cemetery deserve a horizon of quiet dignity. They should not rest in the shadow of a triumphal arch.

There are better sites. A triumphal arch is meant to mark an entrance — a threshold you pass through. The approach from Virginia over the Potomac, the western end of the Mall, or the ceremonial sweep of Pennsylvania Avenue toward the Capitol would all allow an arch to function as a true gateway, framing arrival rather than obstructing sacred ground.

The process has failed the public. America has architects of extraordinary skill in historical and classical design. Handing this project to a single firm without competition is a disservice to them and to the taxpayers funding it. The Gateway Arch in St. Louis — one of the great American monuments of the last century — came from an open competition. This project deserves the same attention.

President Trump's determination has brought a long-dormant idea back to life, and that is to his credit. He has provided the beginning spark. I respectfully ask **the NCPC to defer approval on June 4 pending an open national design competition and full public consultation. A decision that will last centuries deserves more than a single review meeting.**

Thank you for considering my request.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary O'Neill

Addendum: A Proposal

As part of America's 250th birthday, I believe there should be a national design competition open to American architects, with entries on public display both online and in Washington, DC. Parallel competitions for schoolchildren, high school students, and university students would engage the next generation and showcase their work in libraries and civic spaces across the country. The winning design would carry something no appointed design ever can — it would belong to the people. What better birthday gift could a republic give itself?

This letter is being shared with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the American Institute of Architects, and other civic organizations committed to the stewardship of Washington DC.

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 11:37 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Ron Moses

Trump's proposed "Triumphal Arch" is a cheap copy of Paris' "Arc de Triomphe". Trump's arch is a garish, disgusting, embarrassing attempt at self-aggrandizement by Trump. Please DON'T EVER build it!

From: Todd Miller
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 11:59 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's Arch

I am writing to oppose the plan for Trump's Arch. This is truly a waste of tax payers money that could be used for more pressing issues in our country.
Thanks for your consideration.

From: pat.jayson

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 12:58 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Cc: Pat

Subject: [External] Trump's ARCH - ugly, distraction from Arlington & Lincoln Memorial. Please STOP

Mr. & Mrs James Jayson, Phoenix, AZ are writing to advise the committee that we think the proposed ARCH in the traffic circle near Arlington National Cemetery and across the river from the Lincoln Memorial is plain ugly. It is way over scale compared to the surrounds and will stand out like a sore thumb is our opinion. Plus, the items on the top are truly stupid looking.

From: Karen Wiese
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 1:30 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Opposition to the Proposed Triumphal Arch Project

Dear Chairman McPherson and Members of the Commission:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed construction of a triumphal arch in the National Capital Region. As a former resident of and worker in the DC area, a frequent visitor, and a proud citizen of this country I value highly the preservation and design of our historic federal city and I urge the Commission to reject this proposal during its review process.

A monumental structure such as that proposed is entirely incompatible with the existing architecture, design and historical context of Washington, D.C. for these reasons:

- **Disrupts the L'Enfant and McMillan Plans:** The open vistas and intentional axis lines of the capital's historic layout are highly protected. Introducing a massive, archaic structure like a triumphal arch would permanently disrupt these grand vistas and alter the carefully balanced proportions of our public spaces. My parents are buried at Arlington National Cemetery. The view from the cemetery to the Lincoln Memorial is symbolic and historic and should not be destroyed (desecrated) by the proposed arch.
- **Incongruous Visual and Aesthetic Impact:** While monumental architecture defines the capital, a triumphal arch feels out of place next to the established neoclassical and modern civic designs of the city. It introduces an outdated symbol of military conquest that does not align with contemporary American democratic ideals or the existing commemorative fabric of the region.
- **Strain on Public Resources:** As a tax-payer, I strongly believe the funds and labor required to build such a structure are a waste of federal funds and resources at a time of budget cutting for essential services and programs that address the strained ability of everyday Americans to care for their families (programs addressing food insecurity, access to affordable healthcare, quality education, high cost of housing, and inflation to name a few). Furthermore, dedicating public land and long-term maintenance resources to a monument of this scale is an inefficient use of regional infrastructure funds.

The National Capital Planning Commission has a long, proud history of safeguarding the unique character of Washington, D.C. While commemoration is vital to our national identity, it must respect the existing urban fabric and enhance, rather than overwhelm our shared public spaces. The proposed triumphal arch fails to meet this standard. Additionally, building such a structure would represent poor stewardship of tax-payer dollars.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your thoughtful consideration of these comments. I respectfully request that this letter be entered into the official public record for the project review.

Sincerely,
Karen Wiese

From: Linda F. Ramsey
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 1:42 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trumps proposed

Dear Committee Members.

As one of 'We The People' I'm writing to request NOT to allow the building of Trumps Arch Memorial. It is too huge blocking the view of The National Cemetary. Do you suppose that's on purpose? This self indulgence, this emulation, this self admiration is beyond control . There is absolutely NO reason this person, Trump, should build a memorial to himself!! He is afraid he will be remembered as the worst president in our history and wants to glorify and Lie about his importance. Please consider Not allowing this unimportant Arch to be built. Thank you!

Linda Ramsey
Silver City, NM 88061

From: Lee Sriver

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 1:44 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External]

I remember as a kid watching a movie about the Nazi's. A part of the movie showed arch with a symbol on to being blown up.

I saw the arch and when I did, the first thing I thought was that movie and that symbol being blown up. And of France arch, an arch in Washington just doesn't seem correct. And it's too big.

How unoriginal and unimaginable too.

Lee Sriver

From: Linda F. Ramsey

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 1:54 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External]

Dear Planning Commission.

I am an American citizen who is part of ' We The People'. As I watch this President try to take over OUR White House and change history by rebuilding and reconstructing it, I cry!! This House, as you know, is not his personal residence. He has the privilege of living in it. But he doesn't own it!!! Reconstructing the East Wing is immoral and incomprehensible!! He has no right to do so. Instead of calling it a Ballroom now he calls it a bunker type structure. I know he must go thru you and Congress to continue his building. I believe he must return that wing to its original form. I'm not alone in these thoughts!!! Please consider requiring him to put OUR HOUSE back together. Thank you!

Linda Ramsey

Silver City, NM 8861

From: Suzanne Urban Ryan
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 2:58 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The Arch

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to express my firm displeasure for an arch to be built in DC. We do not need an arch. Please do not succumb to Trump's folly arch. Nix the plan.

Thank you,
Suzanne U. Ryan
Philadelphia, PA 19103

-----Original Message-----

From: Marvin Eisengart

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 3:37 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Proposed arch at Memorial Bridge

I was in Washington, DC on Saturday May 30th and traveled over Memorial Bridge.

I had been opposed to the arch on stylistic and artistic and moral grounds. That opposition was additionally reinforced by visiting the site in person.

There is no justification for approving this travesty.

Marvin Eisengart

Lauderhill, FL

From: MC KINNEY ROSE

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 4:00 PM

To: NCPG General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Stop the Trump VANITY PROJECTS

I respectfully urge you to support policies that restrict **non-essential or politically motivated construction projects** associated with President Trump's initiatives to pay for ballrooms, pools and arches. These funds were created to maintain, protect, and improve our national parks and public lands—resources that belong to all Americans. **Not for vanity projects. This is a WASTE of taxpayers money.**

-----Original Message-----

From: RaymondCallahan

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 4:17 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] So disappointed but holding to hope

To Commissioner Cash,

Thank you Commission Cash for your recognition to the insight of the public comments. You alone have a strength & honesty not found with your other commissioners. I could tell from the beginning of the panel/hearing today, and I applaud you for hearing the feelings, concerns, and appropriateness of the Arch project.

I fear that your thoughtfulness & vocal honesty may result in your removal from this planning commission. I would be saddened for that to happen.

I reveled in the public distain for this project, as I too believe that this is but a vanity project that does not belong in this beautiful country of ours.

Please remain steadfast to your morals, understanding & empathy while you continue to place your votes with the hearts of those who rightly voice their heart-felt comments that represent the love for country, honesty & rule of law.

With all due respect,

Raymond Callahan
Fresno, CA

From: Leslie Tory
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 4:23 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] arch

Please do not allow the arch to be built. It is an insult to our Vets.
It will spoil the DC mall and the view.
It is disgusting, and it is not us.
This is simply a vanity project the President said is "for me."
Based on the almost unanimous negative feedback you can clearly see it is certainly not for us.
DO NOT ALLOW the arch to be built. Do not cave to Trump's whims.
The arena is also an eyesore.'We cannot prevent the Emperor from watching his "beautiful"
Gladiators beat the hell out of each other (also not us) but his threat to leave it there cannot stand.
It must come down immediately and never should have been erected.
Take Trump's name off the Kennedy Center asap.
Stop the gold gilding of statues if it is not too late.
Trump is ruining DC with his garish, tasteless vanity projects.
STOP THIS INSANITY

From: Ann Venema

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 4:27 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Greetings

I am very sorry I missed the deadline to comment so I will do so here. This ARCH is a disgrace to every single American laid to rest in Arlington. This is an awful eyesore and a WASTE of our tax payers dollars. Trump is a horrid human being whose treachery and wretchedness know NO bounds. America deserves a President who CARES about his people and Trump cares only about himself. It is a DISGRACE.

Sincerely, Ann Venema

From: Marilyn Thuma

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 4:35 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Cc: Mym Tuma

Subject: [External] Daniel Chester French - Mourning Victory from the Melvin Memorial - American - The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Daniel Chester French - Mourning Victory from the Melvin Memorial - American - The Metropolitan Museum of Art

<https://share.google/qDt7kWhb83f5MmHJh>

Mym Tuma MA

From: GENE BULLINGTON

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 4:45 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Trump's Arc and Ballroom in DC

As a US citizen I would like to comment on the Arc Trump is proposing to build to honor himself. I am totally against it, no one should be honoring themselves like he is trying to do. It should be left to the people a president governs to determine if they are worthy of that type of honor. Most people in this nation are struggling to put food on the table and gas in their vehicles yet Trump in his selfish manner wants to spend ridiculous amounts of public funds on a ball room none of us ordinary citizens will ever see let alone get to use and an Arc to show how wonderful he is. At this point in time great care should be given to saving money that hard working Americans pay in taxes so that the economy can recover and the average citizen can afford necessities just to live. I don't believe any President should be able to spend money frivolously on self honoring as he is doing.

Please stop excess spending on things such as this.

Sincerely,

Clara Rodda-Bullington

Aumsville, Oregon 97325

-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Mulligan

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 5:00 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] No to a proposed Memorial Arch!

I'm writing to state my strong opposition to building a memorial arch near the Lincoln Memorial in the District of Columbia. The planned arch is a grotesque vanity project that should be permanently canceled. It's a horrible idea.

Sincerely,

Mark Mulligan
Martinsburg, WV 25401

From: Trujillo (US), Michael A
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 5:15 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

To Whom it may concern,

We don't want or need an arch. Please use the money to reduce the national debt or fund a school lunch program.

Thanks for Listening,
Michael Trujillo

From: Anonymous <noreply@skype.voicemail.microsoft.com>

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 5:17 PM

To: Main Attendant Voice Mail <mainattendantvm@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Shared Voicemail (Main Attendant)

yes this is just another call from an american taxpaying citizen complaining about this administration's abuse using funds that should not be used to be slick about propagating things such as the ark in a way that is beneficial to the administration and not the american public's interest it does not represent what the american public wants in the means of checks and balances and having three branches of government have approval by bypassing 2 branches count me in for the group that opposes thank you

From: Laurel Westall <
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 5:22 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The Arch

To whom it may concern,

I'm adding my opposition to the plan for that offensive, ostentatious arch. It in no way represents the ethics and morals of the United States of America. It represents an ego driven, overblown sense of self importance.

Sincerely,

Laurel A Westall

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 5:34 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The Trump arch

please please! stop this. Garish to the extreme.
I'm not sure it would look good anywhere but given its placement makes it even more tasteless.

Bruce Hodesson
Brunswick maine

From: J.C. Hunter

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 5:37 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Instead of 250-foot Arc d'Trump, reach out to 250 homeless vets and get them on their feet.

Dear National Capital Planning Commission:

Instead of 250-foot Arch de Trump, reach out to 250 homeless vets and get them on their feet.

Instead of an opulent gold-plated ballroom, 250 new homeless shelters.

Instead of \$13 million to paint the Reflecting Pool Lincoln Memorial, feed the homeless in D.C. & give them their meds.

WHAT MESSAGE ARE WE SENDING AS A NATION?

Sincerely,

J.C. Hunter
Martinsburg, WV

-----Original Message-----

From: craig ling

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 5:03 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Trump Arch

Trump's proposed arch in DC is a monument to ego and hubris.
It's a monstrosity.

From: Kelley Hartford

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 5:56 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Trump

Can you guys stop the insanity? All these changes he wants to make are stupid. He's looking to change every building, monument in Washington after himself. Tacky, tasteless, cheap and gaudy like the man himself. I find some comfort in believing that all the damage he does can be reversed when he leaves.

Sincerely,

Kelley Hartford

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 6:07 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: Website comment from good citizen

you people are nothing but trump bootlickers. letting dementia donnie play bob the builder with the nations capital and landmarks. you are all pathetic individuals with no backbone. in the words of the LOSER himself you're all obviously low iq individuals who wanna ride the coat tails of unhinged, poorly self tanned, ego maniac. good job in helping his administration make america even more of an embarrassment on the world stage.

-----Original Message-----

From: Doug Rude

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 6:28 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Please Do Not Build The Arch

Washington DC does not need this crazy arch. The American people do not need this arch. It will be a huge waste of \$\$\$. If Trump wants the arch then he should build it at MarLago. Please no arch in DC.

Doug Rude

-----Original Message-----

From: Malinda Sawyer

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 7:30 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] DC ARCH

Hello,

We are firmly against the planning of this arch and are appalled at its height and gaudy top. Our other monuments inspire awe and silent respect. The arch would not.

Respectfully submitted,

Malinda and Thomas Sawyer, Illinois

-----Original Message-----

From: Ronald Amundson

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 7:46 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Arch

Please do not engage in this ridiculous investment that lacks public inputs (most of it already highly negative) and Congress. It will denigrate the monuments to our great heros both presidential and military.

Sincereley

Ron Amundson

Distinguished Professor

Betty and Isaac Barshad Chair in Soil Science

Think Different

From: James Anderson

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 8:05 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] that arch

The construction of that ridiculous, illegal, incredibly ugly, horrendously out of scale and unnecessary arch must not proceed. How anyone with half a brain and the most basic sense of decency, let alone design, can think that monstrosity is an appropriate structure for anywhere in Wash DC, let alone where it is proposed, is beyond comprehension.

Please stop all plans to build that huge mistake.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.....

James Anderson

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Bachelor

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 8:56 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] No to trump's arch

Planning Commission, asking that you not further pursue trump's arch project. Our country does not need such a monument to show the strength of our country and its history.

I don't want any of my tax dollars being used for something completely unnecessary.

I'll keep it short. No, no, a thousand times no, from a 20 year AF veteran.

Regards,

Bob Bachelor

Valparaiso, FL

-----Original Message-----

From: Patti Webb

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 9:19 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] DC ARCH

The DC Arch is a bad idea because it is not the esthetic of dignity and democracy that is the foundation of our country. We have been a country that built its strength on making peace in the world. We have never before flaunted military victories by building arches. We are unique. America needs to take pride in that rather than try to reflect old and outdated stereotypes.

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 10:41 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from linda kaserman

To Whom it may concern:

please reconsider any forward plans on building the 'Great Triumphal Arch". The designs are an eyesore to the city and so disrespectful to those buried at Arlington Cemetary.

The design is garish and huge - DC has a reputaion for building beautiful monuments to the fallen. Please don't feed Trump's ego by building a huge, ugly arch. He's done nothing honorable. He's been impeached, he's been convicted of 34 felonies for fraud, has been banned from doing business or charity work in New York, he's been accused of sexual assault numerous times, he lies constantly, berates women, and other human beings that deserve respect. He is not a man to whom an arch should be built.

In addition, I've looked at the proposed plans. And the plans even contradict the standards for building in dc.

Please, for the love of this beautiful city, stand up to Trump and deny this project. This testament to not his deeds, ,but to his ego. This is not why DC builds memorials.

linda G Kaserman.

From: Barbara Statas
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 11:08 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Eue de Trump Arch Idea Stinks!

Hello,

Sorry to have missed the official comment period on the approval of Donal Trump's proposed Arch to be built on Memorial Circle, but none the less, I want to register my extreme disappointment that the commission is moving ahead with the project (approved it according to Trump!).

This is such a betrayal of the democratic process when a board appointed entirely by Donald Trump can be the sole decision makers on such a project (until various organizations sue and the judicial branch gets involved). I'm sure you understand that this is why there was heckling at the last meeting – no one sees this as a “fair” process.

We all know that this is not a project that Trump is undertaking to honor the country. It is merely a monument to himself, along with a little one upmanship – we gotta have one that's bigger than France's – but America's values aren't about gloating. He is clearly obsessed with size and it is beyond ridiculous (just look at his silly mock-up comparing the length of the Reflecting Pool to unrelated skyscrapers). It is a vanity project pure and simple.

The Arch as proposed is an oversized monstrosity and will detract from the views of the Nation's Capital, including the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, and the Capitol Building, especially from Arlington National Cemetery and the Iowa Jima Memorial.

As you know, traffic circles can create their own traffic nightmares, especially when tourists who are not familiar with them come into the city. I've already had someone clip our car who was cutting over at the last minute when they realized they were in the wrong lane. We don't need an Arch here to block views of traffic. Add to that the confusion pedestrians will bring when they try to walk down to the circle from Arlington and cut across the road -- this will create more traffic backups in an already congested area.

It's pretty evident how unpopular this president's nonsense is... after all, how much did it cost us to put his name on the Kennedy Center only to have to pay again to take it down? This was something else approved of by a board appointed entirely by Trump -- all involved should be forced to reimburse the taxpayers personally! So, please consider that most of the comments you got were unfavorable and most people who live in the Washington, D.C. Metro area and who routinely drive by Memorial Circle are not in favor of the Arch.

Thank you,
Barbara Statas
Gaithersburg, MD

From: Karen DiPietro

Sent: Friday, June 5, 2026 12:03 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Trump Arch

Dear Commission:

Please do not approve the arch proposal. I visited Washington DC for the first time when I was 60 years old. It was beautiful and classy. The design of the proposed arch does not complement the city nor is it necessary. I would much rather have the funds go towards our national debt.

Karen DiPietro

Oregon Registered Republican

From: Charles Carter

Sent: Friday, June 5, 2026 3:31 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] U.S. Capitol improvements

The president's designs for the ballroom, Arch de Triumph, and gold plating at the Lincoln Memorial are all self enrichment projects that should not move forward.

As a billionaire, he should be made financially responsible for repairs of the West wing for proceeding without Congressional approval.

Our nation has other more serious issues than enriching one man's legacy where established procedures were tossed to the wind to satisfy his huge ego.

Please stop the madness and let him fund his own projects. As a taxpayer, enough is enough.

Charles D. Carter, R.A. (retired Architect)

Akron, NY

-----Original Message-----

From: Laura hunnicutt

Sent: Friday, June 5, 2026 6:37 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] DC

Hi

Can you please stop tearing up DC for this Presidents sad agenda.

It's wasting our taxpayer monies on things we do not want or need.

The pool, arch, and illegal removal of an entire section of The People's House is just absurd.

Sincerely

Laura Hunnicutt.

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>

Sent: Friday, June 5, 2026 8:28 AM

To: Morgan, Steven Flis, Matthew ; Sullivan, Diane; Free, Stephanie

Subject: Project Submitted

From: Bill Gerichten

Please halt the planning of the triumphal arch as it is disrespectful to the service members buried in Arlington Cemetery and blocks the view to the Lincoln Memorial and Mall. The ballroom project supposedly paid for by private donors, the painting of the reflection pool, and military parade last June 14 are a total abuse of struggling taxpayers money. Thank you for being accountable on these.

-----Original Message-----

From: Samantha Malloy

Sent: Friday, June 5, 2026 9:00 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] the "arch"

Dear Sirs/Madams

Please do not authorize this monstrosity and paeon to the unbridled ego of Mr. Trump. This is getting embarrassing. There are so many better uses of my tax dollars within your budget alone.

Thanks you..

Samantha D Malloy

From: Agnes O'Connor-Goun
Sent: Friday, June 5, 2026 9:28 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

To Whom This May Concern:

I am writing to strenuously object to the obscenely garish, unnecessary and disrespectful arch conceived of by Donald Trump as an homage to himself. If approved, it will dwarf the beautiful Washington monuments and manifest disrespect to Arlington National Cemetery, where several members of my own family are interred. Please do not allow this monstrosity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Agnes O'Connor-Goun
Charleston, SC

From: charlene larson

Sent: Friday, June 5, 2026 10:53 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Trump's Arch

PLEASE do not allow this horrible arch to be built. Washington D.C. is a beautiful city and this ugly arch would only spoil the aesthetics. Trump has already destroyed the White House by tearing down the east wing for the purpose of a unnecessary, huge ballroom. He wants to make everything look like Mar a Lago. There's no place for it in D.C.

Thousands of federal employees lost their jobs because of DOGE in an effort to do away with wasteful spending. If all this ego building isn't wasteful, I don't know what is.

Thank you.

Charlene Larson

From: Sharon Park
Sent: Friday, June 5, 2026 11:01 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] letter regarding review of Triumphal Arch, Memorial Circle

Please accept my letter against the Triumphal Arch to be included in the public comments for this project.

Thank you, Sharon Park

--

Sharon C. Park, FAIA FAPT
Historic Preservation Architect

June 5, 2026
To: Commissioners and staff
National Capital Planning Commission
Subject: **Objection to the Triumphal Arch**

I understand that you will be reviewing the proposed Triumphal Arch at your July meeting. As a member of the architectural profession, a product of a military family with family members buried at Arlington National Cemetery, and as a long-time resident of Arlington, VA., I must object to the purpose and design of the proposed 250-foot-tall triumphal arch near Arlington National Cemetery.

The cemetery is sacred ground. Every funeral honors the heroism of our dedicated soldiers, and the proposed monument has no purpose in furthering their significance or the tranquility and beauty of this final resting place. **It is superfluous.**

Triumphal arches, historically, have been to commemorate significant military events or conquests, and this concept and design, proposed with little conformance to established procedures, is an embarrassment to legions of citizens across the country. Why not let the process play out as adopted in your own requirements to hear from the public and trained specialists and to have full designs with enough detail to fully evaluate impacts? Please consider the principles of design outlined in the MacMillan Commission of 1902 *Improvements of the Park System of the District of Columbia*, the *Height of Building Acts 1910*, and require reviews of safety concerns for pedestrian, automobiles and air traffic in and around the area of Memorial Circle. There is no crisis of timing here, so please insist on a thorough review of all issues.

Please give this proposal more time, through a professional review, to respond to serious and valid concern about its purpose, design, height, and impact on the surrounding area.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon C. Park
Sharon C. Park, FAIA, FAPT
Preservation Architect

From: carol banish

Sent: Friday, June 5, 2026 11:28 AM

To: NCPG General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Trump Projects

Please !!!! Stop this insanity of defacing and degrading every aspect of Washington's historic significance. Such care was taken to design and build a historical legacy that now is looking like a tacky, disgusting display of bad taste and hypocrisy that is ruining the entire atmosphere of what Washington DC stands for ! I am so heartbroken and ashamed of what is happening and only you have the power to stop this carnage

Carol Banish

Nonpartisan citizen

From:

Sent: Friday, June 5, 2026 11:36 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] input on ARCH at DC

Dear members,

I wish to submit my strong opposition to the proposed arch that has been requested to be constructed in DC.

The arch is an obnoxious, eye sore proposed for a city filled with history and dignity.

Please do not approve this Arch!

Susan Rightmyer

From: Suzy Brander

Sent: Friday, June 5, 2026 11:39 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] comment on the arch

NCPC

Our capital is beautifully sedate - understated classic. The arch is gaudy, disrespecting the character so currently expressed. My opinion DO NOT build it. It is ugly.

Suzy Brander

-----Original Message-----

From: MICHAEL SMITH

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 10:12 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] trump's latest monstrosity on our beloved capitol, the Arch

Dear Committee, Please stop Trump's destruction of our shared cultural touchstones at our capitol. DC is not Trumps to turn into a cheap mirror of his tawdry brain. Please say no to the stupid arch. We are not France.

Donna Smith

Fayetteville NY13066

From: Ted Agnew

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 1:54 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Proposed Arch in Washington DC

Dear Planning Commission,

I strongly disagree with the proposal to place the arch in Washington DC. It is an ugly edifice, and a poor imitation of the Arc de Triomphe which serves no purpose other than to block the view of other memorials and aggrandize President Trump. It is tremendous waste of taxpayer dollars.

Sincerely,

Ted Agnew

From: Charles Cain

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 1:53 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] ARCH

Hello,

I'm totally opposed to this BS Arch trump wants in front of the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery. It's disgusting, it's specifically for a living current presidents vanity only.

DO NOT APPROVE THIS MONSTROSITY !!!

Charles

From: kittycatminn
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 3:55 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's arch

Please make this go away.. Probably it won't because Trump loves to dirty up whatever people with good sense love.. he is no Christian and certainly no believer in our republic. Do not do this

Mike Felix

Grand rapids mn

From: mpaporath

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 4:11 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>; cfastaff@cfa.gov

Subject: [External] Trump's triumphal arch

Dear administrators and commissioners,

Please add my voice to the public responses to the plan to build the triumphal arch, which would be an albatross in the city. I strongly oppose the concept, the size and the location. I also oppose using tax payer money for any part of the project. It is an insensitive project, especially as federal resources have been cut from the government budget for programs that help the less fortunate among us.

Thank you,

Mary Porath

Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

From: Hannah Moran

Sent: Friday, June 5, 2026 12:13 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] STOP THE BALLROOM AND PROMENADE

trump has destroyed DC and you are letting him. This country doesn't want a promenade WTF are you thinking have you lost your god damn mind. As for the ball room stop it right now. We the people want our tax payer money used for education, national parks, environment anything but this. I'm so angry that you people allow him to do this. STOP THE MADNESS NOW. No fucking promenade and take his fucking name off everything.

-----Original Message-----

From: Julie Tipton <

Sent: Friday, June 5, 2026 12:48 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Arch

Please, no arch! It is not about The United States and/or the American people-it is another "monument" that will aggrandize Donald Trump.

From: STEPHEN BARHAM
Sent: Friday, June 5, 2026 1:38 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] ARCH

The USA doesn't need another monument to Donald Trump. Stop the insanity and restore the USA to its original glory,

Stephen Barham

From:

Sent: Friday, June 5, 2026 9:40 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] The Arch

I hope it is not true that you gave the go ahead on the Arch in spite of the pleas of Veterans and the thousands of citizens who are against it. If this is true, would you please reconsider. We do not need another costly folly of the president's when people are having trouble affording gas and food. Not one thing has been done to help the average citizen and yet we have to watch as millions of our tax money is wasted on things like this that we don't even want. I cannot even look at pictures of the White House now. Did you allow the tearing down of the East Wing? Cutting down beautiful trees? Digging up the Rose Garden? Digging up the front lawn for his wrestling cage? If you allowed all these things you are out of touch with the American citizen. If you did not approve them then see that they are restored.

Ellen Babas

PS--If you did approve all of these things because you are a minion of Trump's you owe the American people an apology. This a burden you will have to bear. If you didn't approve them, thank you.

From: Small

Sent: Saturday, June 6, 2026 2:21 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] STOP all OF Trumps illegal construction projects

STOP all OF Trumps illegal construction projects. What is the status and progress of Court fillings that request a halt to Trumps madness.

From: Rainer Hentschel
Sent: Saturday, June 6, 2026 7:36 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's Arch

Please do NOT allow Trump's vanity project to move forward. It is not needed in Washington nor should my tax dollars be spent to help Trump idolize himself.

Ann Rubin-Hentschel

From: Kate Shields
Sent: Saturday, June 6, 2026 11:01 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Proposed Independence Arch

Please do not allow this proposed Arch to be built. It is ostentatious and ugly. It is in the siteline of historic memorial places in Washington, D.C. I'm sure the proposed monstrosity is meant to honor the current president and not to enhance our history in any way shape or form (literally).
VOTE NO!!!

-----Original Message-----

From: Annette Redwine

Sent: Saturday, June 6, 2026 12:25 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] The arch

Please do not support this project. It obstructs the beautiful view and adds nothing to the beauty of our capital city.

-----Original Message-----

From: sierrasky4

Sent: Saturday, June 6, 2026 4:14 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Arch

I vehemently oppose building an Arch on our land. This is purely a vanity project and personal desire of Trump's that is obscene and an affront to the citizens of the United States.

Vivian Kane

From: Marianne Deurloo
Sent: Saturday, June 6, 2026 5:07 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Triumphal Arch

Dear Members of this Commission,,

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed construction of the triumphal arch in Washington, D.C., due to its potential impact on the city's historical landscape and community integrity.

In spite of the very real concerns of many citizens in this country, for example, the arch would be twice the height of what is now allowed in DC, which would not only destroy the sight lines to Arlington national Cemetery, but pose an aviation risk, plus the phenomenal cost during a time when Citizens are under increased financial duress due to the policies of this president, The Trump administration wants to pursue this project regardless, which smacks of total disregard for the situation that American citizens are now faced with.

And it smacks of yet another in a long line of vanity projects this President has revealed he needs to indulge himself with.

Please consider these concerns during the decision-making process. Additionally, please provide information regarding any upcoming public hearings or forums where I may provide further input.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Marianne Deurloo

From: Richard Woods
Sent: Saturday, June 6, 2026 5:20 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch Comment

I oppose the construction of any type of "monumental arch". This design is ugly, it is grandiose, it is unoriginal, and it just gets in the way.

The survival of our republic for 250 years is enough of a monument for me. Let's hope we can keep it...

Richard Root Woods

From: +noreply@skype.voicemail.microsoft.com>

Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2026 9:10 AM

To: Main Attendant Voice Mail <mainattendantvm@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Shared Voicemail (Main Attendant)

i would like to weigh in on the art that trump is planning to build as far as i know that is just for his vanity it does nothing for the american people it does nothing to further beautify the capital for the 250th celebration and there are plenty more things that that tax money go to

From: NANCY MILLER

Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2026 9:33 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Triumphal Arch

Not needed. Not wanted

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

A very concerned citizen.

From: Daniel & Rhonda Sundberg
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2026 11:38 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Fw: Arch Comments

Dear review committee, As a registered landscape architect with 40 years of experience. This arch is an abomination to the design of our nation's capital.

Please do not let this ugly monstrosity be built for the sake of our nation. One man's ego should not be allowed to destroy our existing sites and monuments.

Sincerely, Dan Sundberg RLA, LEED AP
Siler City, NC

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeffrey Hinman

Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2026 12:41 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] The proposed 250' arch with golden monument toppers

The proposed Trump arch is an abomination that is completely inappropriate for our nation's capital. It is a monument to one man's ego without any relevance to our nation's history. Another probable reason for Trump wanting it constructed is to say to French in reference to the Arc de Triomphe, "Mine is bigger."

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Hinman

Lebanon, NH. 03766

From: Teri Wing
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2026 1:12 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Triumphal Arch

Regarding the proposed Triumphal Arch, WE DO NOT WANT this addition to the sacred grounds at the Capitol. It is meaningless, except for being an attempt at a Trump memorial, which he does not deserve. The public has not asked for this. We do not want to pay for this. It will be a monstrosity blocking the view of the sacred Arlington cemetery, an insult to our fallen soldiers.

Teri Wing

Missoula, MT 59801

From:

Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2026 1:44 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Long-time resident of DMV, rejects grandiose, garish and architecturally incompatible presidential arch

TO WHOM IT MAY concern :

I was born @ Georgetown hospital in '47 when my WWII veteran father + MD was working for the Public Health Service on dangers of anthrax, mustard gas, among other issues, along with the scourge of mosquito-born malaria, and research into DDT to lessen its impact in Central American, and the US.

For some decades, we lived elsewhere, but I returned and have resided here with my OWN family and grandchildren for some 48 years. For years, I covered the Maryland National Capital Park & Planning and the MO.. CO Planning Board , + regional developments and zoning debates all over the DMV as a journalist.

Our original federal city planners, who along with L'Enfant, helped conceive of dignified classic lines, and lovely Spoke and Wheel concept for the downtown area of the Capital CITY -- **must be rolling in their graves** with the current plan for this gargantuan, tasteless, obstructive and dangerous arch. It threatens the safety of our busy skies, which the NTSB + air traffic controllers remains prone to close calls + fatal accidents, like the one that took 67 lives in early 2025.

As many architectural critics and planners have pointed out, the sheer size and scale of this proposed Arch would obstruct long visual sweep from downtown towards Arlington, where our WWII, Vietnam veterans, and SLAIN presidents and presidential candidates all lie. Having spent much time in Eastern Europe the proposed design reminds me of obscene, dictatorial monuments set up all over the Balkans, In fact, with it ridiculous giant GOLD Lady Liberty and grotesque, war-like American eagles.. the ARCH resembles tasteless public structures straight out of Italy' s Fascist dictator Mussolini's playbook. To attempt to aggrandize oneself while still in office with GOLD credit Cards, GOLD COINS, and now this ARCH is un-befitting of our democracy, and an insult to classic good taste and offensive on its FACE.

Transport Engineers at the WORLD BANK, say, the structure will obliterate the traffic functionality of the current MEMORIAL DRIVE CIRCLE, and create another dangerous, accident- prone intersection, while obstructing the LONG linear view to Arlington from every angle, and even from the AIR.

THE president and his planners to date, have refused to follow both LAW & Precedent-- as it pertains to public monuments-- foregoing both TRADITIONAL architectural and site reviews, refusing input, or outside CONSULTATIONS from independent architectural and structural experts.; the presidential team, also is avoiding PLANNING and OPEN bidding and contracting

laws for the US, and the NATIONAL Capital City. The entire project LACKS transparency . PLEASE change this.

I urge your esteemed committee VOTE against this project for its lack of vetting, the unsafe ground transport and AIR situation it exacerbates exponentially, and the total lack of ANY core Aesthetics that are even remotely compatible with the rest of the area.

NO WONDER Veterans are outraged and seek legal redress. They speak for me and 5 family members, all voting citizens.

PLEASE, show some **SPINE** and reject this project, entirely or at a bare minimum **PAUSE** it as currently conceived. The President is NOT above the law, even construction, contract and aesthetic laws of the **US**. And **STOP the pre-construction** work on the CIRCLE.

Thank you for listening.

Joan McQueeney, Maryland

From:

Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2026 6:30 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Opposition to the Proposed United States Triumphal Arch Project

Dear Planning and Review Officials,

I am writing to express my strong disagreement with the proposed 250-foot triumphal arch planned for Memorial Circle near Arlington National Cemetery.

Erecting a colossal monument of this scale at the gateway to the nation's most solemn ceremonial landscapes is deeply disrespectful to our fallen veterans and their families.

Furthermore, placing this massive structure in this location will permanently disrupt and block the historically significant sightlines between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington House.

This proposed vanity project bypasses necessary congressional oversight and abuses taxpayer resources on a monument to personal legacy. Our nation's capital should be preserved rather than transformed to satisfy presidential ego.

I respectfully urge you to halt the approval and construction of this unauthorized monument.

Sincerely,

Kathie Gilmore

Montana

7 sites

-

-

- 'Sickening': Donald Trump plans for 'Arc de Trump' blasted online

Apr 13, 2026 — "It will block historically significant reciprocal views between those two memorials that were consciously designed and that have ...

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>

Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2026 8:05 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: Website comment from Carol Tielking

I DO NOT want that Arch that Trump wants for we do NOT for his Vanity in our Capitol City. Do not let him distory what our Founding Father's fought for, including my Great..Uncle President Madison!

From: +<noreply@skype.voicemail.microsoft.com>

Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2026 9:40 PM

To: Main Attendant Voice Mail <mainattendantvm@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Shared Voicemail (Main Attendant)

trump is not to have his arch when are you people going to understand this crazy man

From: T C

Sent: Monday, June 8, 2026 1:38 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] I oppose the construction of the arch

As an American citizen who has been proud of the beauty of DC when I have visited, I am, along with an overwhelming majority of Americans, opposed to the building of a triumph arch in Washington.

I've been to Paris too - the arch is their thing; why would we copy that?

Sincerely

Sheryl Goethe

of Beltrami County, MI

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2026 1:41 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Nancy Allan

Do not approve the construction of the proposed Triumphal Arch. It is an abomination. Please save the sanctity of Arlington National Cemetery and save we the taxpayers from having to help pay for the totally ridiculous and unnecessary projects the irresponsible president proposes. There are so many other critical needs of our citizens-how can you consider such a horrible waste of our hard-earned dollars? Please listen to the public's massive disapproval of this arch and deny it's construction.

-----Original Message-----

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>

Sent: Monday, June 8, 2026 3:08 PM

To: Miller, Elizabeth

Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Donald B. Stewart, MD

Dear Ms. Miller:

There is nothing triumphal about the proposed arch, slated to dominate to the George Washington Memorial Parkway in the nation's capital. The monument proposal is already an embarrassment to the nation, honoring a man who has done nothing constructive for our country, and who, by virtue of still being alive at the time of this writing, has not yet earned a place among the great Memorials of our capital city.

The arch continues a tradition not of honoring national heroes, but of despots throughout history. Such an erection would defile the hallowed ground it hopes to occupy, and dishonors the memory of those whose monuments grace our capital.

The arch is not needed. It is not wanted. It is the very essence of government waste, fraud, and abuse that those currently in power say they oppose.

Please put an end to this nonsensical project.

Thank you.

From: Erin Fort

Sent: Monday, June 8, 2026 9:56 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Opposition and Issues with Arch Monument

I would like to respectfully request your consideration to abandon the proposed plan to build this Arch. I have several reasons for this:

1. Arlington Cemetery - It will obstruct views of the national cemetery meant to honor our fallen heroes. It would be incredibly disrespectful to overshadow such an important resting place for the people that gave their lives for our country. No one should get more respect than the people inturred there.
2. Cost - The cost for this project is not something our country should be taking on at this time. The money for a vanity project at a time when our country needs so many other projects funded seems thoughtless and wasteful.
3. This would eclipse the Lincoln Memorial. Absolutely not. Completely disrespectful.
4. We don't need another thing to fuel the fire that is the divide in this country.

Thank you for allowing public comment.

I hope you will hear us and listen.

From: Joyce Harvis-Gruzas
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2026 10:28 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Comment on proposed Washington DC arch

Sent from my iPad. Hello. I feel this arch is:

A waste of taxpayer money
A vanity project of this president
The arch is too big
The arch takes away from Arlington National Cemetery

We have too many problems in this country such as high prices on everything. The president has said he does not care about these issues.

This focus on wasting taxpayers monies on all these projects shows a lack of empathy, lack of focus on issues that affect Americans, and it simply shows what Trump is concerned about: himself and how much he can grift from this country.

Please if any of you on the board still have a moral compass, do not pass this ugly arch.

thank you, Joyce Harvis

From: Peggie Campbell

Sent: Monday, June 8, 2026 2:35 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Trump' s Arch

To whom it may concern:

The National Mall doesn't need another monument. The administration spent many times the original budget on the reflecting pool and it looks wonderful. Spending millions on a testament to the president's ego is just ridiculous. We're stuck in expensive wars and the new ballroom on the White House has changed the face of the Capital.

Enough is enough. The change in the face of the mall is simply not justified!

Thank you for your consideration.

Margaret Campbell

From: Ken Carlson
Sent: Friday, June 5, 2026 10:37 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] the arch

Hello,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed arch to be built in DC. It's my understanding, despite overwhelming public opposition to the project, you continue to move it forward. Why? It's a waste of my tax dollars. If we want to celebrate 250 years, I suggest we use my tax dollars to meaningfully support and improve our national parks. I suggest we use those dollars to provide affordable healthcare for people who need it. I suggest we use those dollars to invest in education to ensure our young people are prepared to lead this country into the next 250 years. Building this arch to please the president is a very poor choice and that seems to be your primary reason to move the plan forward. Please tell me how this arch will improve the lives of Americans aside from those who are employed to build it. Ken Carlson, Viroqua, WI

From: Philip Carville

Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2026 2:39 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] The Trump arch is a travesty. 86 it!

This is not a national monument...it is a capitulation to the personal ego of a very vain man.

DO NOT APPROVE THIS HORIBLE PROPOSAL.

Philip Carville

Lt. USMC Ret.

From: joanne smythe
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2026 2:57 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Proposed arch

Greetings,

I have never written an email to your organization before. However, I have to comment on the proposed arch by trump.

I am a veteran and strongly feel this arch disrespects all those buried in the Arlington. Cemetery.

If you feel an arch is necessary, then it should be proportionate and should not lock out the cemetery.

Sincerely,

JoAnne M Smythe

From: Claire Hammond
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2026 3:23 PM
To: NCPG General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

PLEASE do not allow this gaudy, misplaced monstrosity to go forward. The iconic views and solemnity of the area would be destroyed.

Additionally, what is the reason and justification for gilding the horse statues in gold? Also, modifying and/or destroying public properties without proper authorization? Not publishing the actual costs and funding sources for these projects?

We the American people deserve and demand better controls and enforcement of these projects.

Thank you.
Claire Hammond

From: Eric Judge

Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2026 4:44 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Public Comment: Written Testimony regarding the United States Triumphal Arch Project

Date: Jun 9, 2026

To: The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) / The National Park Service (NPS) **Re:** Official Public Comment opposing the proposed "United States Triumphal Arch" at Memorial Circle

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally submit my objections to the proposed construction of the 250-foot "United States Triumphal Arch" at Memorial Circle. As an American citizen invested in the preservation of our shared civic spaces, I urge the reviewing commissions to reject this proposal based on its profound disruption of our national landscape - both physically and symbolically.

My opposition is rooted in three objective historical and geographic facts:

1. **The Disruption of a Historical Axis Designed for Reconciliation:** The specific sightline connecting the Lincoln Memorial, the Arlington Memorial Bridge, and Arlington House (the Robert E. Lee estate) was intentionally engineered and completed in 1932 to serve as a permanent symbol of national healing. It was designed to physically and visually bridge the historic divide between the North and South following the Civil War.
2. **The Physical Obstruction of the Viewshed:** At a proposed height of 250 feet, this structure will violently dwarf the 99-foot Lincoln Memorial and physically block the low-profile, open panorama between the National Mall and Arlington National Cemetery, severing a visual corridor that has been carefully protected for nearly a century.
3. **The Stated Purpose of the Monument:** On October 15, 2025, when explicitly asked by members of the press who this proposed monument was built for, President Donald Trump responded on the record, "Me. It's going to be beautiful."

When these three facts are viewed together, the proposed arch ceases to be an innocent piece of architecture; instead, it represents a profound and dangerous metaphorical shift in the American landscape.

The National Mall and its surrounding axes belong to the public. They are traditionally designed to honor collective democratic ideals or the leaders who sacrificed to preserve them. To erect a 250-foot monument - which the sitting president has openly claimed as a monument to himself - directly on top of an axis designed for national healing introduces a devastating metaphor.

An axis that was built to be a *bridge* between a once-divided people is being replaced by a *barrier*. By physically cutting off the view between the living Republic and the hallowed resting place of the soldiers who died preserving it, this monument does not unite us - it stands as a metaphorical boundary dividing the American public. It shifts the focus of our civic core from shared

constitutional values to individual authority, splitting the public into those who support a singular political figure and those who do not.

A monument dedicated to self-aggrandizement has no place blocking the literal pathway of American reconciliation. I strongly urge the Commission to uphold the integrity of Washington D.C.'s historic layout, respect the solemnity of Arlington National Cemetery, and deny the approvals required for this project.

Thank you for your time and for considering my testimony in the public record.

Sincerely,

Eric S. Judge - Minneapolis, MN

From: Ann Heselbach
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2026 6:40 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trumps proposed Arch

This should be prohibited. Memorials are only built after a president dies. This is garicious and disturbs the intent of the bridge unifying the north and south. He has done enough damage to Whitehouse, the reflection pool. We tax payers are tired of his paying the cost for his narcissistic whims.

Ann Heselbach
Ligonier, PA

From: Barbara Degnan
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2026 2:23 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump arch

Please, do not allow Trump to build a tribute to himself, The Arch.
We don't build memorials to living presidents, let's not start with this one.
Can we please say no to this ego maniac?

Thank you,
Barbara Degnan

From: Joanne Dudley
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2026 5:38 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's proposed triumph arch

Dear Members of the National Capital Project Commission,
As a taxpayer and as one who admires our historic buildings and statues in our nation's capital, I am horrified at the damage President Trump is doing there. I am against his plans to spend millions of dollars to build a "Triumph Arch" to honor himself.

Please deny him the permission to proceed with this plan.

Most sincerely,

Joanne Dudley

Visalia, California

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2026 10:16 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: LESLIE FITZGERALD

I am Leslie Fitzgerald, and I am protesting the arch that is being planned in front of Arlington cemetery since. My parents are buried there and my father was Lt Colonel Ernest T. Fitzgerald. He went to the Vietnam war 4 times. I highly object to that horrible arch to be placed anywhere near my family. Thank you Leslie Fitzgerald

From: Lu Takeuchi

Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2026 12:03 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Proposed changes to our Washington DC Capital parks, grounds, historical monuments, and new self-promoting Arc and Structures by Trump

Dear Commission,

As a concerned citizen, please stop the demolition and ruin of our Washington DC capital grounds and monuments. One individual, a temporary resident of the White House, the people's house, should not have the power to order demolition of the East Wing or erect monuments, statues, promenades for himself. Cementing the rose garden, plastering his name on buildings, destroying the white house for a Ballroom is heartbreaking. Please stop these actions and preserve our history and democracy and rightful tributes to all those who tirelessly framed our nation, and those in our cemeteries and on our memorial monuments who died for our democracy, constitution and freedoms.

Lucille Takeuchi

From: Hollis Wenzel

Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2026 3:44 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Public Comment on Proposed Arch: submitted 6/10/26

To the National Capital Planning Commission:

I respectfully urge you to reject the proposed Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle.

As an American who values history, public lands, and places of national remembrance, I am concerned that the proposed arch would fundamentally alter one of the most meaningful landscapes in our country. The visual relationship between the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Arlington National Cemetery, and Arlington House was intentionally designed and carries deep historical and symbolic significance.

My concern is not simply about the design of the arch itself, but about the scale and location. At 250 feet tall, it would dominate a landscape that has long been characterized by dignity, balance, and reflection. Arlington National Cemetery is a place of sacrifice and remembrance. New construction in this setting should enhance that character, not compete with it.

I encourage the Commission to prioritize preservation of the existing viewsheds, complete all historic and environmental reviews, and ensure that any changes to this nationally significant landscape are guided by broad public input and careful stewardship.

Thank you for your consideration.

Hollis MacLean Wenzel

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Hollis MacLean Wenzel, MS, LMFT

From: Linda B
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2026 7:38 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] NO TRUMP EGO ARCH!!

Please, PLEASE do not let this happen!!

This man has done everything to not only NOT make America great, but is hell-bent on as quickly and illegally as possible pissing all over our country, our former (now) great reputation as a world leader and made us a laughing stick all over the world.

WHY would any of you agree that this monumental arch to an even more monumental ego be a good and "big, beautiful" ...totally tacky thing for the eons following as a resplendent memorial to a totally tacky, demented, crazed, vindictive, amoral ruin if a "president", and I use that term loosely.

From Theodore Roosevelt...

throughout the history of the world the nations who have done best in self-government are those who have demanded from their public men only the promise of what can actually be done for righteousness and honesty, and who have sternly insisted that such promise must be kept in letter and spirit.

Please...NO ARCH!!

Sincerely, Linda Berlin
Sacramento CA 95820

Linda Berlin

From: Candy Olson

Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2026 8:37 AM

To: ncr_planning@nps.gov; NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] NO Arch

I, Candace Olson, oppose the proposed monumental arch in Washington DC. I feel like our tax dollars could be spent in a better way. He should realize, that he doesn't need an arch for people to remember him. Sincerely, C. Olson

From: Suzanne O'Donoghue

Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2026 11:44 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>; cfastaff@cfa.gov;
seth.magaziner@mail.house.gov; amooffice@mail.house.gov; info@nps.gov;
scheduling@whitehouse.senate.gov

Subject: [External] Trump Arch

I just wanted to send my vote of disapproval for the plan for this monument (the Trump Arch). I understand that it's not exactly up for discussion but can't stand by and hope for the best anymore. I live in Rhode Island but I grew up in Arlington, VA.

After almost 30 years of service, my father retired from the U.S. Marine Corps when I was eight years old and we settled in Arlington, VA. I was the youngest and had the luxury of living in one place for most of my life. When I got my driver's license, I enjoyed the freedom of driving down Constitution Avenue and around the monuments at nighttime. One of my favorite museums is the National Building Museum which had an excellent exhibit on how Washington, D.C. came to be. The city, centered between the North and South, had meandering trails and swamps that were cleared to symbolize clarity among the branches of government; as were broad streets designed for clear communication for all; and parks and memorials were designed for people to appreciate and reflect upon. The design of the White House was open to bids, and overscale castle-like structures were knocked out of the running early because they did not represent what this country wanted to evolve to become.

I couldn't find the information on that exhibit that I visited so many years ago but then found the NCPC website and found all of the information! You understand, more than most, how D.C. developed and how it continues to grow today. Washington, D.C. is a reflection of the entire country.

Monuments continue to be added to the landscape of D.C. and surprisingly, the WWII Monument is relatively new but appropriate, obviously. Its design is stately and appropriately placed for the historical significance and appropriately scaled in size between the Lincoln and Washington memorials. It represents the **people** of this country that fought and sacrificed their lives for our country, as well as others on this planet.

I know that a lot of people like Trump and he will be remembered in the history of this country, but for many, he symbolizes the division of our country to the same degree as we were in the 19th century. Politics aside, he has completely disrespected the country, and any and all agencies like NCPC or CFA who work to preserve the integrity of Washington, D.C., by tearing down the East Wing of the White House! He walked the hallowed grounds of Arlington Cemetery and told General John Kelly, whose son is buried there, "**I don't get it. What was in it for them?**" Trump also disagrees that John McCain is a war hero. This President has lied, cheated and disrespected an overwhelming percentage of people in this country and has only served himself. To put a memorial up for him anywhere in the city is wrong and to put it between Arlington Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial is an absolute atrocity.

I googled it and new national memorials in Washington, D.C. are authorized by an Act of Congress and must be approved by two federal commissions: NCPC and CFA. I'm adding NPS to this email too because Memorial Circle is their jurisdiction.

Thank you for your time.

Suzanne O'Donoghue
Cranston, RI 02920

From: NCPC System

Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2026 12:58 PM

Subject: Re: Pre-submission briefing

From: Christine Johnston

I am writing to express deep opposition to the creation and erection of the proposed, so-called, Triumphal Arch. This vanity project of Mr. Trump is a hideous display of his self-grandiosity that has not received Congressional approval or other agencies. Its construction would disturb the sightline between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington House. Its size and the fixation on gold is not appropriate. An alleged approval from 100 years ago does not cover this new project. It must not be built. Thank you.

From: Ms. Joni Murray-Petersen
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2026 2:36 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: Trump Arch opposition

To whom it may concern.

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed "Monumental Trump Arch".

This is a country for the PEOPLE and this monument does nothing to represent the history of the US! It has NO historical relevance, will be tacky, out of scale, obstruct views of Arlington cemetery, obstruct vision for drivers, interfere with the air space for planes, thereby creating a safety hazard, and is a TOTALLY unnecessary addition to the Washington DC landscape. It does NOT BELONG.

It is a huge waste of our money and is likely illegal, as it has not gone through the proper channels. I assume there is criteria that has to be met for creating a new monument, and if so, this surely cannot have met that criteria. People in this country are hurting with prices: gas, groceries, losing health insurance (all that Trump himself caused by tariffs, executive orders, and starting illegal WARS.) OUR money should go to helping OUR PEOPLE, not to build a monument to stroke Trump's huge ego.

The preservation of the White House as the People's House must outweigh any president's pursuit of grandeur or self-aggrandizement. The dignity of this nation should not be compromised by a tasteless monument that honors no one but its current occupant.

Please do not approve this monument.

Joni

From: Debra MacLean
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2026 4:44 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] NO on Trump's proposed arch!!

To the National Capital Planning Commission:

I respectfully urge you to reject the proposed Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle. As an American who values history, public lands, and places of national remembrance, I am concerned that the proposed arch would fundamentally alter one of the most meaningful landscapes in our country. The visual relationship between the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Arlington National Cemetery, and Arlington House was intentionally designed and carries deep historical and symbolic significance.

My concern is not simply about the design of the arch itself, but about the scale and location. At 250 feet tall, it would dominate a landscape that has long been characterized by dignity, balance, and reflection. Arlington National Cemetery is a place of sacrifice and remembrance. New construction in this setting should enhance that character, not compete with it.

I encourage the Commission to prioritize preservation of the existing viewsheds, complete all historic and environmental reviews, and ensure that any changes to this nationally significant landscape are guided by broad public input and careful stewardship.

Thank you for your consideration.
Debra MacLean

From: George Smyser

Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2026 9:56 PM

To: NCPG General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Trump's ridiculous arch

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed "Triumphal Arch" project in Memorial Park.

The proposed structure is inappropriate for such a significant location. Memorial Park is a site that Americans value for its sanctity and existing beauty; adding this arch would be an eyesore that defiles the landscape of Washington D.C. rather than enhancing it. Furthermore, the project appears to be a personal monument rather than a meaningful tribute to America's 250th birthday.

I urge you to reconsider this project and protect the integrity of our national park.

Sincerely,

George Smyser

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2026 1:09 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Barb Madden-Bittle

I wish to comment on Trumps CRAZY SELF IMPORTANT IDEA to NOW HAVE A Triumphal Arch built honoring him in the Memorial Circle.

STOP THIS....NO MORE CHANGING "THE PEOPLE'S PROPERTY"

STOP TRUMP...STOP TRUMP...STOP TRUMP

From: Richard Getting
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2026 3:49 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Triumphal Arch

Dear National Capital Planning Commission:

I strongly oppose the proposed Arc De Trump. This project is an affront to the integrity of the site and to the core principles of our republic. A living president should not unilaterally dictate the monuments that shape our capital, and weaponizing this space for a vanity project undermines the sanctity and historical gravity of the landscape.

The placement of such an arch would disrupt the architectural harmony of the grounds and desecrate the memory of those who sacrificed for our freedoms. It is a direct, insulting affront to soldiers and citizens alike—an attempt to coronate a political figure rather than honor the common good.

The Commission must reject this proposal. Instead, commit to a public, nonpartisan process that respects national memory, inclusivity, and the enduring dignity of the site. Pursue options that serve the public interest without politicizing a space that belongs to all Americans.

Sincerely,
Richard Getting
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

CC: Senator Rounds and Senator Thune.

From: Jim Gould

Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2026 4:58 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] The Independence Arch

I write as someone who has lived in Springfield, VA, served at the Pentagon, and has a family member interred in Arlington National Cemetery. During my years in the area, I often brought visiting friends and relatives to the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, and the surrounding historic landscape. When my wife and I returned several years ago to pay our respects at Arlington, we were once again struck by the solemn beauty of the sightline from the Lincoln Memorial across Memorial Bridge toward Arlington Cemetery. That view remains one of the most meaningful and dignified vistas in our nation's capital. Introducing a massive gilded arch — effectively a billboard — into that axis would materially alter the character of this space, replacing quiet civic dignity with an aesthetic more reminiscent of a gilded commercial spectacle, something one might expect in Las Vegas rather than in our nation's capital. I respectfully urge the Commission to protect this historic view.

Respectfully,

James F. Gould, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Heath, TX

From: Khristi Levack

Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2026 3:10 AM

To: nic@harrisonsdesign.com; washingtondc@harrisonsdesign.com; boardofdirectors@aia.org; takeaction@npca.org; NPCA@npca.org; info@tclf.org; zach@dcpreservation.org; info@dcpreservation.org; historic.preservation@dc.gov; planning@dc.gov; stephanie.williams@dhr.virginia.gov; joanna.mcknight@dhr.virginia.gov; michael.pulice@dhr.virginia.gov; achp@achp.gov; jharjo@astribe.com; oversight.committee@catawba.com; info@chickahominytribe.org; dbutler@delawarenation-nsn.org; NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>; bpinto@dccouncil.gov; membership@kennedy-center.org; info@savingplaces.org; info@committeeof100.net; Khristi Levack <khristil3@gmail.com>; Khristi Levack <lctsuccess3@gmail.com>; Mayor@portlandoregon.gov; Governor.Kotek@oregon.gov

Subject: [External] Action Requested: My opposition to the "Arc De Trump."

Dear All,

I have attached my letter of opposition regarding the controversial "Arc De Trump." I have dedicated considerable time to thoroughly examine every appendix, city plan, initial budget, financial resources, construction deadlines, and design elements. I kindly ask that you extend the courtesy of taking a few moments to review my rebuttal (written in emotion and truth).

I welcome any questions or feedback, along with justifications for your support in promoting this monument, which I believe undermines its genuine purpose. Please note that I have also submitted this electronically through the parkplanning.nps site.

Respectfully,

Khristi Levack

+++++

Park: George Washington Memorial Parkway

Project: Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle

Document: Triumphal Arch - Section 106 Assessment of Effect and Draft

Name: Khristi A Levack

City: Portland

State: OR

Postal Code: 97227-1186

Comments: I OPPOSE!!!! DO NOT MOVE FORWARD WITH THIS PROJECT!!! HERE IS WHY:

1. This project should have been organized, voted on by the public, properly prepared, and budgeted 10 years ago, before trying to force this through on DJT's behalf. The importance of this

project has been completely diminished and the purpose tarnished by Trump, the Trump Regime, and his obsequious sycophants.

2. Appendix A provides the project deadline(s) breakdown. The written projection reads 2.5 years from start to completion. We know that never happens. I graciously gave it 4 years. Then I read the PA, and Doug Burgum, the billionaire Trump sycophant, in charge of NPS, actually has a full decade from start to finish. False advertising is poor marketing and inevitably will create exasperation.

3. We are in the process of removing Trump's name from Cultural Centers, Monuments, etc. yet calling this Military Memorial honoring all those who have sacrificed for this country, "Arc De Trump," is blasphemy.

4. The Department of Defense, Pete Hegseth is a racist, bigot, misogynist, and will purposefully & gladly omit any military hero, decorated officials that are black, brown, trans women, trans men, women, all who have sacrificed their lives for our freedom. Or what we used to call "freedom."

5. The Arch is designed to highlight "One Nation, Under God." We are NOT one nation. With this regime, proudly Anti-DEI, Anti-LGBTQIA+, Anti-women, Anti-human rights, Anti-everyone except white, Christian nationalist males. We are NOT one nation today, and that is not my America. "Under God?" Separation of Church and State. Point. Blank. Period.

6. Doug Burgum. A billionaire, Trump sycophant was appointed as the Secretary of Interior. This man is trying to drill for oil in Alaska, knowing it'll annihilate the land/water/wildlife. He's trying to sell protected, Indigenous, Tribal lands to the highest bidder. He doesn't care about our planet or our animals. He's ok with selling off our National Wilderness Forests. He's siphoning money allocated to national parks and recreation, for rangers, for maintenance. The mandatory maintenance to control wildfires. The very wildfires that Trump and his regime refuse to allocate FEMA money to assist with natural disasters. Doug Burgum must Go! I fire him immediately.

7. I read the section "Proposal & Need." I understand the proposal. I do not see the "need." Not today. You're not ready. "Arc de Trump" is for all the wrong reasons. Mark my words...you will be detested rather than appreciated.

8. \$100M tax payer dollars is a farce. First, we don't have the money. Not when Trump illegally demolished the East Wing of the WH. Not when Trump wanted to play tough guy with a very militant, established country ready to die in a war, called IRAN. An illegal war costing taxpayers \$1B+ per day, not to mention lives.. We don't have the money when Trump paints everything cheap-ass gold and used \$60M for a UFC fight on the WH lawn that nobody can afford/attend. Honestly, only white trash would want to attend anyway. No couth. You know who has the money? TRUMP! Trump is a 6x Billionaire, slithering and grifting every one of you, along the way. Every day, in front of your face. Trump has the money to fix the East Wing. Trump and his corrupt, billionaire family have the money to foot the bill for the "Arc de Trump." TRUMP can build his own ballroom and bunker.

9. Transparency. WHEN has Trump and his regime ever told the truth or been transparent? Do you honestly think I believe that this corrupt conman is requesting a mere \$100M? Nope. It's going to jump to \$200M. Then \$275M. I'm not exaggerating. Look back at Trump's ballroom that was supposedly going to be financially backed by Big Corp Bribes (I mean private donors), and himself personally? right.

10. Back to the gold-plating fetish. You will NOT use any gold or gold-plating on that poppycock. That material cannot endure the climate for more than a year. I'm sure you'll upset the constituents further when you have to ask for more money to repaint this nonsense.

11. Transferring \$15M from the NEH is unacceptable. This federal department is to support individual scholarships, universities, education and research, preservation of libraries and museums. NEH is NOT giving our tax dollars meant for good to support evil. I do not approve of the budget transfer. Full Stop!

12. I noticed there will be ticket booths, elevators, and other fancy amenities included in this little Trump amusement development. You MUST ensure that Trump or the Trump Family does NOT receive a single penny from licensing fees. No percentages from the ticket booth. Nothing from the pictures taken. Not a glance at a dollar bill from any merchandise sold. I see his game in Florida. Putting its putrid name on the Palm Springs airport allows Trump and the corrupt family to financially swindle from all purchases from that airport, whether there's a Trump logo or not. You want a Palm Beach mug as a souvenir? Trump gets a cut. You want to support a local business that finally got the opportunity to have a storefront and public exposure to sell their goods/services? Trump gets a cut. No shame I tell ya. It's unbelievable and fascinating at the same time, how someone can be so.....(fill in the blank).

13. Here's a friendly suggestion: How about we consider making use of the bonuses that Trump promised his NICE Guys? It was said that each person could receive a bonus of \$50k to \$100k. Since we know he tends to fall short on these payments, why not allocate that money towards those gold-plated statues if they're truly wanted?

I OPPOSE!!!! DO NOT MOVE FORWARD WITH THIS PROJECT!!!

Comment ID: 2693893-151576/78966

From: David Kantrowitz

Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2026 10:39 AM

To: ncr_planning@nps.gov

Cc: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>; info@savingplaces.org;
policy@savingplaces.org; pr@savingplaces.org; preservation@savingplaces.org

Subject: [External] Opposition to Proposed Triumphal Arch Project

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my unequivocal opposition to the proposed construction of the Triumphal Arch within the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

This project must be rejected outright.

The George Washington Memorial Parkway is a nationally significant historic landscape whose value lies in its carefully preserved scenery, historic character, and commemorative purpose. The proposed Arch would permanently damage that landscape by introducing a massive and inappropriate new monument into a setting where it does not belong.

The design is visually intrusive, historically disconnected from its surroundings, and incompatible with the character of the Parkway. Rather than enhancing the site, it would diminish it.

More fundamentally, the project serves no legitimate preservation, commemorative, or public purpose. It is a vanity monument imposed upon a nationally significant historic landscape. Federal resources and protected public land should not be used for such a purpose.

The National Park Service's mission is to preserve and protect historic resources for future generations. Approval of this project would represent the opposite. Once the integrity of a historic landscape is compromised, the damage cannot be undone.

The George Washington Memorial Parkway deserves protection, not alteration. This proposal should be denied in its entirety.

Sincerely,

David Kantrowitz

Appraiser, Auctioneer, Art Advisor

Boston, Massachusetts

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2026 10:26 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Monica Hynes Payack

I object to Trump's plan to build an Arch between Arlington Cemetery and the Washington monument. It is unnecessary and will put our country into more debt which has done already with needless other projects. He will redesign the whole city if he is allowed. He is restless in his position as President and is falling back on something he always loved doing and thinks he is good at, developing property.

-----Original Message-----

From: Georgia Philippe

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 10:22 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Arch

DON'T APPROVE THIS MONSTROSITY.

G PHILIPPE

Protegas Libertatem Meam

From: Barbara Perra

Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2026 4:50 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] 86 the ARCH

Please resist any pressure upon you to approve the garish, gaudy arch to glorify the current U.S. President. Having been born in D.C. and raised in VA, I have so much respect for the beauty and history of our Capital and current National Monuments. Thank you for considering the public's opinions.

Barbara Murdoch Perra, Mill Creek, WA 98012

From: leigh & dickie woodling
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 11:51 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] It's for ME

I am writing today to vehemently oppose Donald Trump's plans to erect an arch on Memorial Circle in Washington, DC. This is an insult to those interred in Arlington National Cemetery, to all of the families of those interred, and to the very history of this site. This is not a structure designed to honor the fallen. Trump himself said, when asked who this arch was for, responded "me". My disgust at the behavior of this president and his complete disregard of history and decorum is unmeasurable. When he states that he wants it simply to honor himself, he clearly states his authoritarian designs on this city and this nation. \$100 million. When families in this nation are struggling to afford health care, homes, child care, groceries. Do none of you know what it is like to live paycheck to paycheck? The complete ignorance of the situation in which most Americans find themselves these days is appalling. But of course, he has stated that he does not care about that. Where is Congress? Where is the people's representation? Do not allow this person to destroy a memorial to those who truly, who actually, did make this country great.

Leigh A. Woodling

From: Russell Stewart

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 7:00 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Trump's Arch

I want to add my name to the list of Americans opposed to Trump's Triumphal Arch. Enough is enough with Trump rebranding Washington, D. C. in his own honor. We have seen him destroy a portion of the White House, rename and takeover the Kennedy Center, host a UFC on White House grounds, and propose an enormous ballroom addition to the White House. How much more do Americans have to endure? I served our nation in the Department of Defense for 40 years. As a patriotic American I cherish our many monuments and grounds to this nation's greatest Americans. This oversized arch would detract from Arlington Cemetery, hallowed ground for those that sacrificed their very lives for this country. I recently buried my uncle at Arlington. The cemetery is one of our greatest tributes to veterans. I look to those who will decide on approving or denying this proposed arch to demonstrate courage and vote no to its construction.

Respectfully,

Russell W. Stewart

New Oxford, Pennsylvania

From: Alice Stokes

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 9:59 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Triumphal Monumental Arch

To the Chairman and Members of the National Capital Planning Committee:

I decry both the size and location of the Triumphal Arch.

Although Washington DC within its capital walls is a seething snakepit of well dressed humanity, outside is a peacefully proud design that heralds the gift of one great President who nobly fought for the establishment of a more perfect union and ultimately died for it, as did the 400,000 soldiers laid to rest at Arlington Cemetery which is in the viewshed of the Lincoln Memorial.

Is our history no longer important? Does scale not matter? Who said bigger is better? What achievement does the arch commemorate? What is the purpose of this public monument? Is there another monument/memorial in Washington that does not represent a human achievement?

Grandiosity is gross. And tragically, this arch as designed will dramatically diminish the achievement of President Lincoln.

Please carefully think about the ramifications, size, corollaries of such an immense arch as designed and pray for the courage to do the right thing.

Alice Stokes

Southport, CT 06890

From: Marty Molina
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 11:08 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Comments on Triumphal Arch

Please distribute the attached document with my comments about the Triumphal Arch being considered for Washington D.C.

+++++

Name: Martin Molina
Date: June 15, 2026

I'm writing this letter to voice my opposition to the construction of the "Triumphal Arch" proposed to be built in Washington DC. My opposition to this project is based on many fronts.

First and foremost the legality of the project. I believe the proper method to approve a project of this manner requires congressional discussion and approval. Not simply the go-ahead from a commission consisting of members who've all been appointed by the current President for a project the current President has requested. That sounds a lot like a rubber stamp for one group, the Trump administration, of rather than approval for all Americans like it should be. Proponents are trying to justify the project with the simple okay of The Commission of Fine Arts (CFA). The CFA's only meant to oversee aesthetic designs for these types of projects. It hold no authority over funding, land usage, or actual construction which is what the Trump Administration is using as a "full steam ahead" approval. Come on Congress, do your job. Where are the environmental study reports and the public hearings I would think are needed?

Next is the funding. The current administration claims that much of the funding is coming from private donations. Well "much" is not the same as all the moneys needed for this construction. If the estimated cost, if anything like the cost for the recently completed reflecting pool, balloons to what was it, 10Xs the original estimate, will that increase be covered by private donations. I think not. It will fall to the American taxpayers. I don't know how much private money will cover but it's been reported that as much as \$30 million of taxpayer money has already been reserved for this project. This is money not requested for the arch but money that will be moved from several government budgets. These budgets have explicitly been appropriated by Congress for other uses and moving, or should I say, stealing them from their purposes sounds to me like it should be illegal? Also why are we allowing private money, otherwise known as private investors to built things on government land? These areas are designated federal land. I believe building on federal land within the capital region requires explicit authorization from Congress. The administration argues it doesn't need congressional permission. They base this on a century-old legislative authorization from 1924-1925. Really?

Finally, a Triumphal Arch by definition is built specifically to commemorate a major military victory and/or commissioned to honor those soldiers who fought and died for their country. Most of these arches were built in ancient times for victories lead by one man. Yes, built to commemorate great military leaders and some in today's society might argue that Donald Trump is that leader, but by Trump's own words, he has not been in a "War". He's called the attack on Venezuela a "US military operation" and the actions in Iran... well as I don't know what he's calling it today but I know it can't be a "war" because he has no Declaration of War requested nor given by the US Congress.

I'm calling in you to use all the power your office affords to halt, no cancel, this arch project from moving forward. Ask and you'll find out the majority of the American public does not want our tax money spent to built completely non-essential monstrosity. If we have that kind of money to spend, spend it on things that benefit the American people. Spend it on lowering prices, on helping Americans who need help, on infrastructure and the such. Come on, use your power to represent everyday Americans or know this, we will vote to put people in place who will.

Martin Molina
Southern California

From: Bill

Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 8:28 AM

To: NCR_Public_Affairs@nps.gov; NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>;
feedback@ios.doi.gov

Subject: [External] Subject: Strong Opposition to the Proposed Triumphal Arch

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed 250-foot Triumphal Arch to be constructed near Arlington and the National Mall.

This proposal is inappropriate, unnecessary, and fundamentally inconsistent with the character and purpose of our nation's most important civic and commemorative landscapes. The National Mall and surrounding memorial areas exist to honor the shared history, sacrifices, and ideals of the American people—not to celebrate or elevate any single contemporary political figure.

The proposed structure would permanently alter historic vistas, compete visually with existing memorials, and diminish the dignity of nearby sites dedicated to veterans, presidents, and pivotal moments in American history. The monumental scale of the project appears designed to dominate the landscape rather than respectfully contribute to it.

At a time when existing national parks, memorials, and historic sites face maintenance backlogs and funding challenges, dedicating public resources, staff time, and administrative effort to this project is difficult to justify. The proposal raises serious concerns regarding fiscal responsibility, historic preservation, and the proper stewardship of public lands held in trust for all Americans.

Furthermore, honoring a living political figure with a monument of this scale departs from a longstanding American tradition of civic restraint. Historically, the United States has been cautious about creating grand monuments dedicated to living leaders, recognizing that public judgment is best informed by the passage of time rather than contemporary political passions. That tradition has helped preserve the credibility, dignity, and unifying purpose of our national memorials.

Regardless of one's political views, public spaces of national significance should not be transformed into venues for personal glorification. Our monuments should reflect enduring national achievements and values that unite Americans across generations, not contemporary political personalities.

I respectfully urge all reviewing agencies and officials to reject this proposal and preserve the integrity, historic character, and nonpartisan nature of the National Mall and its surrounding memorial landscapes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

William E. Cox

Hummelstown, Pennsylvania

From: Jane Harper

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 2:12 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Construction of massive arch between the entrances to the Memorial Bridge and Arlington National Cemetery

It would be a travesty to build the proposed arch at the entrances to Memorial Bridge and Arlington National Cemetery. When crossing over the Bridge from Washington into Virginia, one can see the Custis Lee Mansion and just below it the flickering Eternal Flame adorning the grave of the slain president, John F Kennedy. Surrounding both sites are the uniform white graves stones of our fallen soldiers. Shortly before President Kennedy was assassinated, he visited Arlington to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. He is said to have remarked when leaving the ceremony and descending the hill below the mansion he could spend eternity looking at the vista of Washington that he saw, the view of the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument and Capitol, all visible from this site.

There is also the symbolism involved that demands that this site should not be obstructed by this massive arch. Arlington Cemetery, the Bridge connecting North and South and the monument to the Great Emancipator represent not a great victory but and healing and reunion of a country torn apart by and bloody Civil War.

Please do NOT allow the arch to be built.

Jane and Eamon Haper
Alexandria, VA

From: Jean Wertz

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 6:54 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Comments on the proposed Washington arch

I have not been able to access the page to submit comments regarding Trump's proposed arch after several tries over a couple weeks. Time is running out. While I have objections to the size, site and very idea of the arch, and fully support the objections made by veterans, the tax dollar expenditure is top priority. While funds are cut for public support agencies and national park maintenance & personnel and research, this administration proposes to spend funds on another memorial and to what purpose? The US is not an empire. No campaign promised or garnered votes to build monuments or to gild Washington D.C.

-----Original Message-----

From: Vincent Hawkins

Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 4:11 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] What is your function?

Greetings

I'm a DC resident and DC/Federal government retiree from the Office Of Planning (OP) where I work from 1976 until 2001 as a servant of the citizens of Washington DC. The Office of Planning was very hand-in-hand with NCPC building the city wide mapping GIS system. I was the lead programmer of MAGIS in the OP.

We were subjected to the different regulations and purpose for the organization function. Proposals took time, to make sure, to cross all the t's and dot all the i's (as planners you get the drift).

My question is what happened?

How is it that this administration can do all of this construction in the city and not adhere to the many regulatory procedures from NCPC.

I get it! He took over the commission and loaded it up with yes people.

I realize the office is part of this administration and unfortunately his system has it so that to keep your job you had better go along, if you buck the winds you get fired.

I'm retired publish my statement cause the reason government worker were shielded in their position was because as career workers we work through all administrations, democrat and republican we were meant to do THE jobs and not worry about which administration was in power. All the previous administrations in my work experience from 1976 to 2001 always abide by the rules..

I'm a fifth generation Washingtonian and man ...I am so pissed.

My father who passed last year at 95 and also a DC/Federal retiree was appalled.

I just want go on record with my complaint...procedures need to be followed by everyone. All the prior administrations used to.

We do not have a KING!

SAVE THE CITY PLEASE!

Vincent S Hawkins Jr

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 8:12 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Brenda Digiacomo

I appreciate the opportunity to contact the National Capital Planning Commission.

I want to know if any studies have been done to indicate appropriate size and scope of the proposed white house ballroom.

I also want to know why the proposed arch will have gold metalwork on them. This looks like it will not match other monuments in DC. I do not think gold emblazoned monuments will be what the American people expect. It looks more like Russia than America.

I also want to know if appropriate bidding processes have been followed for the projects.

Please do not allow only a few people in power to dictate what is appropriate in our nations capital.

Respectfully,
Brenda Digiacomo

From: vickie ficklin Ficklin
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 9:06 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Donald Trump's "monumental Arch"

As a Tax payer, I am extremely horrified to have another self-serving monument **ERECTED. If Trump insists, let him spend the money he has be grabbing** "While Americans struggle to buy groceries and pay rent, Donald Trump is making his family richer through digital gift schemes—collecting profits through digital wallets and granting pardons to the highest bidders.

While Trump and his family are using the White House to make billions, we are tracking every cent. As of January 2026, our Committee's analysis shows that these schemes have contributed to an estimated **\$2.25 billion in realized profits for Trump** from foreign payments, corrupt oligarchs, and others.

This total **rises to as much as \$9.7 billion when the value of Trump's digital assets is factored in**, with as much as **\$600 million coming from foreign interests**. President Trump should be serving the American people—not his own pockets."

-----Original Message-----

From: Alfred C. Jurison

Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2026 7:23 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] No arch!

The arch is too high and looks terrible. The location is bad and obstructs the view and entrance to arlington cemetery. Further there has been no thought given to parking and it will obstruct traffic. It seems there was little though given to this project!

From: Julie Kay

Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2026 5:13 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Re: Tentative Agenda - NCPC July 9, 2026 Meeting

Hell no! This s.o.b. has destroyed enough of our country. We don't need an arch to commemorate it!

From: Carole Mccann

Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2026 5:17 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Re: Tentative Agenda - NCPC July 9, 2026 Meeting

NO ARCH !!!!

NO BALLROOM !!!!

IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO DENY VANITY PROJECTS !!!!! INCLUDING GILDING STATUES!!!!!!

PLEASE STAND YOUR GROUND AND DENY INAPPROPRIATE, ILLEGAL ACTIONS!

THANK YOU

A CONCERNED VOTER and

WASHINGTON DC NATIVE

-----Original Message-----

From: Debra Liverpool

Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2026 11:43 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Opposition to Trump's Arc

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed triumphal arch in Washington, D.C.

First, I believe it is inappropriate to construct a monument that is widely perceived as honoring a living, sitting President. Our nation's tradition has generally been to reserve major memorials for individuals after history has had the opportunity to assess their full legacy and contributions.

Creating such a monument while a President is still in office sets a troubling precedent.

Second, the proposed arch would create an unnecessary visual obstruction within an already complex transportation corridor. The area serves thousands of motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, and visitors daily. Introducing a massive structure into the traffic circle and surrounding roadway network risks creating distractions, impairing sightlines, and further complicating traffic flow in a highly congested area.

Finally, the design itself appears oversized, ostentatious, and out of character with the architectural and cultural character of the Washington metropolitan region. The National Capital's monuments and memorials have traditionally reflected dignity, restraint, and thoughtful integration with the landscape. This proposal does not reflect those values and would detract from the beauty of the surrounding area.

I respectfully urge the National Capital Planning Commission to reject this proposal and preserve the integrity, accessibility, and visual character of our nation's capital.

Thank you for your consideration of public input on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Debra Liverpool

Native born Washingtonian

Montgomery County, Maryland

Debra

-----Original Message-----

From: super-muscles8n

Sent: Monday, June 22, 2026 6:59 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Trump Arch

I like a Golden Arches (Ala McDonald's) theme! Let's Honor our Idol/Lord and Savior- Orange Jesus!??

Who needs Approval from Congress when GOD Himself has Intervened!?! 🙏

Can't wait for the next Republican President. We can Finally build a railway along the center of our National Mall to haul Tourists from the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial!

Lon Live the White Man!!

From: Liz Rosenberg

Sent: Monday, June 22, 2026 1:00 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] the proposed arch in DC

Hello,

I am writing to join the thousands who have written with explicit resistance to Trump's proposed Arch in DC. It is an utter assault to those who are not millionaires to continue flashing wealth in our nation's government center. We do not NEED this monument ... we NEED good healthcare, better housing, improved roads, etc. I instead propose that until there is an incredible economic turn-around, such that American families are not feeling stretched to the gills to simply pay the required bills to stay fed, housed, and healthy, that there be a moratorium on construction of any new monuments.

With solemn intensity,

Liz Rosenberg
Hadley, MA

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2026 5:39 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Sidney McLaughlin

I have read that you will be the ones to approve or reject the president's triumphal arch. I think it would be terrible to ruin that beautiful bridge area, especially with something so large and gaudy. We don't need a monument to one of the worst presidents in US history just because his vanity wants it. He has already spent two fortunes on stupid ideas and destroyed the White House. You need to stop him.

Thank you,
Sidney

-----Original Message-----

From: JEANINE CALTAGIRONE

Sent: Friday, June 26, 2026 2:20 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] ?Triumphal arch?

Sirs:

We do not need a gigantic monstrosity as this arch. Nor do we need to spend the money to build it. \$14 Million has already been wasted on the swampy reflecting pool and the East Wing no longer exists.

That's enough. Construction of this arch is a foolish vanity plan. Do not let it happen.

Jeanine Caltagirone

From: Caroline Forgason
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2026 4:41 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: Speaker Registration

I will not be available to speak, but would like my message to be delivered.

Thank you

Caroline Forgason

On Jun 26, 2026, at 3:37 PM, NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov> wrote:

Caroline:

You signed up to speak on behalf of the National Trust. I want to make sure this is the case.

From: NCPC Registration <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2026 10:52 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Speaker Registration

The location of this proposed arch and its unknown meaning is totally inappropriate for this location which represents the reunification of our nation after the Civil War. The unification of Arlington House and its grounds represent not only the Robert E Lee Family, but also the family of George Washington. The Lincoln Memorial is unified with both families and the soldiers who gave their lives past and present for our United States of America. The Trump Arch represents nothing to do with this part of our history-he is literally inserting his presence in a place in history in which he played no part. This monument has no place where our veterans who have given their lives for the unity of our country lie in peace.

From: dana

Sent: Monday, June 29, 2026 7:06 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] NO ARCH!!!

I would put this in letter form, with a stamp, but I have no confidence that my plea will be received in time to be noted.

At first I thought the proposed Arch was a joke - literally, but as the President proceeded pell-mell, with zero engagement from government agencies, Congress, or the taxpayers, I became deeply concerned about the clear lack of will on the part of any persons or groups on a federal level to 'Stop The Madness'. It has little to do with who is likely to really be stuck with paying for this ridiculous edifice of EGO, and more with the lack of any input, the placement of it, and the message such a structure delivers. ALL truly not representative of this wonderful country, which has thrived for 250 years without gold gilded public statues, etc. Our public pride is balanced by our humility.

I implore whatever committee, agency who has authority to stop this disgusting project to take a stand.

WE DO NOT WANT THIS OR NEED THIS.

Sincerely,

Dana Dwinell

Yakima, WA98902

From: Fran Bowman

Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2026 1:59 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Re: America Celebrates 250 Years & More News

To the Commission:

Your involvement in the "planning" for the arch is very flawed. Thousands of patriotic Americans (including me) have said categorically that the arch is an insult and an eyesore and they don't want it. Your persistence in "studying" the project only makes more work for your staff, and I am sure they have valuable projects to work on. This is not one of them.

Yours for the 250th,

Fran Bowman

West Sacramento CA 95605

From: rodrigo vilches

Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2026 2:24 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Re: America Celebrates 250 Years & More News

Are you that crazy or just stupid? Look around our country! it is collapsing , bridges way too old, road losing ground and full of holes. Closing hospitals and schools, We stop investing in infrastructure, educacion and health care, that is the function of a government not wasting and expending money we don't have and time and resources in stupid monuments to incompetence and convicted criminals. We are Americans, not stupids.

Rodrigo Vilches Realtor (SFR-PSA)

Lighthouse Point, FL 33064

-----Original Message-----

From: Bernadette Fossa

Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2026 8:21 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Opposition to Triumphal Arch

To whom it may concern,

I am opposed to the construction of a "Triumphal Arch". The proposal is ludicrous and an affront to our veterans who lie in Arlington National Cemetery.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Fossa

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

June 4, 2026

Mr. William Scharf
Chair, National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20004

RE: Comments on the Proposed United States Triumphal Arch, Memorial Circle, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Columbia Island

Dear Chair and Members of the Commission,

Our nation is celebrating its 250th anniversary – a time to honor our shared history, the principles that have guided us for centuries, and the hardworking people who make up this beautiful country. It's not a time to flout the law and bend the knee to a wannabe king and stroke his fragile ego. Unfortunately, the Commission's agenda seems geared towards the latter. I urge you to stop consideration of President Trump's vanity project arch proposal for Memorial Circle unless Congress acts to authorize it. This Commission has an important role to play in the monument process but only after Congress has passed legislation to initiate the development of a specific monument. That is not the case for the proposed monumental arch you're considering today.

Building the proposed arch in Memorial Circle would disrupt the solemn connection between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery, fracturing a view meant to underscore the unity and sacrifice of the American people with a structure usually built by emperors or kings for their own aggrandizement. If President Trump wants to build a monument, he can come to Congress to ask for authorization just like any other American. Washington D.C. is not a personal playground for his pathetic attempts to manufacture undeserved glory for himself. Congress—representing the American people—is the appropriate venue for debating a monument and its location in the District of Columbia, not this Commission. Ignoring the law and steamrolling forward with consideration of this un-American arch proposal is a dishonor to the American people and everything we stand for as a country.

In 1986, Congress enacted the bipartisan Commemorative Works Act (CWA) to make the process for establishing new monuments more rigorous and structured. The CWA ensures that commemorative works are the product of deliberation, consensus, and accountability through the legislative process by establishing statutory authorization requirements, consultation mandates, and siting restrictions. The CWA designed a process that is the opposite of President Trump's unilateral decision to build a monumental arch in Memorial Circle. In addition, the legislative history of the CWA also makes clear that Congress was concerned with preserving certain visual connections, including the one formed by the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. The arch proposal in front of the Commission violates the CWA in many ways that I will not

elaborate on here because it fails the first, and most important one, of having express Congressional statutory authorization of a monument.

The Department of Interior (DOI) does not have a valid authorization for building an arch in Memorial Circle. DOI is moving ahead with the arch project based on vague wording in the 1925 statute authorizing the construction of the Memorial Bridge. This language in no way fulfills the requirements of the CWA or provides a way to sidestep the process established by it. The 1925 law itself precludes the action President Trump and DOI are undertaking since the bridge was completed within the timeline, using virtually all of the funds allocated for it, under that statute.

Furthermore, the proposed arch is the wrong project in the wrong place. A 250-foot arch would cut the connection of the Lincoln Memorial with Arlington National Cemetery. This long-protected view is meant to underscore the unity of America after the Civil War and honor the sacrifice of the Americans interred in Arlington National Cemetery who fought in that war and others. Many countries do indeed have monumental arches, but their construction is usually associated with their autocratic pasts. An arch would be the antithesis of the genius of the America founding and our “government of the people, by the people, for the people.”

Establishing a new monument to mark the 250th anniversary of the founding of America may have merit but that debate should be held in Congress. After the bicentennial, Congress established the Signing of the Declaration of Independence Memorial in 1978. It could do so again. Congress is the appropriate venue for consideration of how and where we should mark 250 years of the United States—not left to a self-absorbed President and his cronies. Congress is best situated to facilitate the debate and ideas for a monument for all Americans and is, importantly, accountable to them, unlike this Commission.

In closing, I once again urge the Commission to set aside further work on this mis-guided and unlawful arch proposal.

Sincerely,



Jared Huffman

Member of Congress

Ranking Member, Committee
on Natural Resources

Public Comment to the National Capital Planning Commission

Re: Proposed Structure at Memorial Circle, Arlington, Virginia

NCPC File No.: 8778 – New Monumental Arch

Submitted by:

Chris Frey

Raleigh, North Carolina

June 27, 2026

Purpose and Scope of This Comment

This comment is submitted for consideration by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) in its review of a proposed structure at Memorial Circle, Arlington, Virginia. It addresses matters squarely within the Commission's statutory planning authority, including the federal interest in the National Capital Region, the protection of ceremonial approaches to Arlington National Cemetery, and the long-term integrity of the national memorial landscape.

The focus of this comment is site suitability, not architectural style or symbolic intent. The central question is whether this location is appropriate for a tall vertical structure at all.

This is a threshold planning determination, based on the functional, spatial, and experiential role of Memorial Circle within the broader federal landscape.

The issues identified in this comment are grounded in the current record, including the analysis presented in recent submissions and supporting materials.

These concerns do not reflect matters of preference; they identify impacts, inconsistencies, and gaps in the evidentiary basis for the proposed action.

Standing and Relationship to the Site

I submit this comment as the son of a Marine interred at Arlington National Cemetery, as a former senior federal official with experience in administrative decision-making, and as a longtime resident of the Washington metropolitan area. My perspective is informed by repeated experiences approaching Arlington National Cemetery by car, foot, and bicycle, as well as participating in a family inurnment.

NCPC's Planning Responsibility at Memorial Circle

Memorial Circle occupies a uniquely sensitive and consequential location. It is simultaneously:

- A major transportation and circulation node;
- A ceremonial gateway to Arlington National Cemetery;
- A spatial hinge linking Memorial Bridge, Memorial Avenue, and the monumental core.

The Commission's responsibility in this setting extends beyond evaluating architectural design. It must determine whether the proposed use of this site is

appropriate in light of its functional, symbolic, and spatial roles within the federal landscape.

This includes assessing compatibility with:

- The spatial organization and design framework of the national monumental landscape;
- The public's ability to orient itself within that landscape and experience its intended sequence;
- The federal interest in preserving ceremonial approaches and transitions;
- The permanence and irreversibility of change at a site of this significance.

This determination is independent of, and not satisfied by, prior advisory recommendations or the completion of related review processes.

Where multiple processes have been conducted on a compressed timeline, or where key issues have been addressed through evolving assumptions or interpretations, the Commission's role is to ensure that the record before it is complete, coherent, and sufficient to support the level of action proposed.

This is a threshold planning determination—not a matter of design refinement—and requires a fully developed and independently evaluated record prior to approval.

Continuity of Meaning and Public Understanding

Arlington National Cemetery is not only a historic site, but a living memorial landscape whose meaning is conveyed and reinforced across generations.

Visitors are introduced to and come to understand this landscape through direct experience: through movement along its paths, participation in ceremonies, observation of its memorial elements, and the guidance of others who interpret its meaning.

This includes experiences shared within families, across generations, and among service members and their families, through which the significance of the site—as a place of service, sacrifice, and national remembrance—is both transmitted and sustained.

The character of Arlington National Cemetery is further defined by its ongoing ceremonial functions, including funerals, memorial observances, and the continuous vigil at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. These activities reflect not only historical significance, but an active and evolving role as a site of national commemoration.

The design and organization of the landscape—its openness, restraint, and distributed memorial elements—serve as a physical expression of these values, and as a setting in which they are continuously reaffirmed.

In this context, the presence of individuals interred within Arlington National Cemetery represents a dimension of the landscape that cannot be directly voiced, but is nonetheless fundamental. The design, management, and preservation of the site function, in part, as a proxy for that voice—reflecting collective expectations about dignity, solemnity, and respect.

Changes to the surrounding environment, including the introduction of new visually dominant or destination-oriented structures, must therefore be evaluated in relation to how they may affect not only the physical setting, but the continuity of meaning and experience that defines the site.

The individuals interred within the cemetery cannot speak, but the design and preservation of the landscape function as a means of expressing collective expectations of dignity and respect.

Interpretive Role of the Arlington Landscape

Arlington National Cemetery also functions as a landscape of interpretation, in which historical events, individuals, and collective experiences are encountered through distributed and often understated physical elements.

Memorial features such as grave markers, unit memorials, and artifacts—including those associated with specific historical events—do not announce themselves as dominant focal points. Instead, they are encountered through movement within the landscape and through the gradual accumulation of understanding.

In some cases, a visitor's prior knowledge of history is deepened through direct encounter with these elements. For example, artifacts associated with events such as the sinking of the USS *Maine* are present within the cemetery in a manner that is not immediately dominant, but becomes meaningful through discovery and context.

These kinds of encounters transform abstract historical knowledge into a more immediate and personal understanding of service and sacrifice.

This interpretive process depends on a landscape that does not compete for attention, but instead allows meaning to emerge through reflection, context, and continuity.

The introduction of a large, visually dominant, and destination-oriented structure in close proximity to this environment would alter this dynamic by:

- Establishing a primary focal point that draws attention away from distributed memorial elements;
- Shifting the visitor experience from discovery within a landscape to engagement with a singular object;
- Reframing the surrounding environment relative to a dominant new feature rather than allowing it to convey meaning on its own terms.

The record does not demonstrate that this shift in interpretive structure has been considered or that it is compatible with the established role of Arlington National Cemetery as a landscape of reflection, understanding, and remembrance.

Compatibility with the Memorial Landscape of Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington National Cemetery is a memorial landscape defined not by a single focal object, but by the cumulative presence of thousands of individual markers, memorial features, and carefully composed spaces of remembrance.

Its spatial and symbolic character is expressed through:

- Repetition and continuity across a large landscape;
- Restraint in built form and vertical expression;
- Emphasis on individual sacrifice within a collective setting;
- A contemplative experience shaped by movement, quiet observation, and gradual revelation.

This character is reinforced by the placement and design of existing memorial elements within and around Arlington National Cemetery, including the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Kennedy gravesite, and numerous unit and conflict memorials, as well as nearby features such as the Netherlands Carillon and the Marine Corps War Memorial.

These elements, while varied in form, share a common characteristic: they contribute to a landscape of reflection rather than competing for attention within it.

The proposed structure differs fundamentally in its form and function.

As a large, vertically dominant, and highly visible object—designed in part to serve as a destination and focal point—it would introduce a contrasting mode of expression into this setting.

Specifically, it would:

- Establish a singular visual focal point within a landscape defined by distributed and cumulative meaning;
- Draw attention toward itself rather than supporting outward orientation toward the cemetery and its existing memorial elements;
- Introduce a new visual presence that may be perceived from multiple locations within and around Arlington National Cemetery, including from pathways, memorial focal points, and areas of active visitation.

This represents a shift from a landscape of shared, contemplative remembrance to one that incorporates a dominant and attention-directing feature.

The record does not demonstrate that this shift has been evaluated in terms of its effect on the experience of visitors within Arlington National Cemetery, including

how the structure may appear in views from key locations or along primary movement paths.

Where a new structure is introduced in close proximity to a landscape of this significance, compatibility must be evaluated not only in physical terms, but in relation to the character, purpose, and experiential qualities of that landscape.

The available information does not demonstrate that the proposed structure is compatible with the established memorial character of Arlington National Cemetery and its surrounding approaches.

Views from Within Arlington National Cemetery

The record does not appear to include analysis of views from within Arlington National Cemetery toward the proposed structure, including from memorial sites, pathways, or areas of visitation.

Given the proximity and height of the proposed structure, it is reasonable to expect that it would be visible from multiple locations within the cemetery, including along walking routes and at points of pause or reflection.

In the absence of such analysis, the Commission cannot fully evaluate how the structure would be experienced from within the landscape it most directly affects.

Memorial Circle as a Functioning Public Space

Memorial Circle currently functions as a point of balance, orientation, and transition, not emphasis. From this location, the public simultaneously perceives the Lincoln Memorial to the east and Arlington House rising beyond the cemetery landscape to the west.

This relationship is especially important because most of Arlington National Cemetery is not otherwise visible from public approaches. The Circle enables visitors to situate themselves spatially and emotionally within the broader memorial landscape.

The space operates not as a destination, but as a point of passage and orientation within a larger spatial sequence.

At pedestrian and cycling speeds, the experience unfolds gradually and legibly. The Circle does not draw attention to itself; it enables the experience of what lies beyond it.

This functional and experiential role depends on openness, legibility, and the absence of a dominant focal element within the circle itself.

Alterations that introduce visual dominance or sustained activity within the circle would necessarily change this role.

Approach to Arlington as a Ceremonial Threshold

The approach via Memorial Avenue and Memorial Circle is a ceremonial threshold, defined by:

- Openness
- Visual continuity
- Restraint in scale

This restraint is intentional. It allows the experience of arrival to be shaped by landscape, alignment, and meaning rather than by a dominant object or focal structure.

The space functions as a transition—guiding movement, orientation, and reflection as visitors move from the monumental core into the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery.

The placement of a tall vertical structure at this location would fundamentally alter that experience.

It would redirect attention inward toward the structure itself, rather than outward along the Lincoln–Arlington axis and toward Arlington National Cemetery.

In doing so, it would transform the site from a space of passage and orientation into a point of focus and visual concentration, altering the intended sequence and character of arrival.

Core Planning Concern: Location and Irreversibility

The central issue is the placement of a tall vertical structure at Memorial Circle.

Any structure of this scale at this location would:

- Interrupt the Lincoln–Arlington axial relationship;
- Alter how the public orients itself within a ceremonial threshold;
- Introduce vertical dominance where balance, openness, and continuity now define the space;
- Change the functional character of the site from a place of passage to a point of focus and occupation.

These effects arise from the placement of a vertical structure at this location, not from specific design features.

The issue is siting, and siting cannot be resolved through design refinement, reductions in scale, or changes in configuration.

Once constructed, this change would be permanent.

The resulting alteration to spatial relationships, visual continuity, and site function would be irreversible, and therefore warrants particular scrutiny at the point of decision.

Irreversible changes of this kind require a fully developed and clearly justified record prior to approval.

Site-Type Mismatch: Form and Function

A triumphal arch is inherently:

- Vertical
- Celebratory
- Dominant

Memorial Circle is:

- Transitional
- Balanced
- Ceremonial in restraint

This mismatch is functional, not aesthetic.

The structure would draw attention inward at a location designed to direct attention outward.

Consistency with Established Federal Planning Principles

The monumental core of Washington, D.C. reflects over a century of coordinated federal planning, including the McMillan Plan and subsequent implementation through multiple federal agencies.

These efforts established durable and consistently applied principles, including:

- Preservation of open, uninterrupted vistas;
- Maintenance of clear axial relationships among major civic and memorial sites;
- Restraint in the introduction of vertical or visually dominant elements within key corridors.

The Lincoln Memorial–Arlington National Cemetery axis represents one of the clearest and most symbolically significant expressions of these principles. It is widely understood as a spatial composition that conveys national reconciliation through continuity, openness, and alignment across the Potomac River.

Under longstanding federal practice, the integrity of this axis has been preserved not only as a matter of design preference, but as a guiding planning principle applied across projects, agencies, and time.

A structure at Memorial Circle would:

- Introduce a competing focal point within a historically open visual field;
- Disrupt the established visual hierarchy linking the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and the broader monumental core;
- Replace a condition of openness and continuity with one of vertical emphasis and visual dominance.

Historical precedent reinforces this conclusion. Earlier design concepts in this corridor consistently emphasized framing and preserving the view, rather than occupying or interrupting it.

The current proposal departs from this longstanding approach by introducing a vertical element directly within a protected viewshed, thereby altering the spatial relationships that define the corridor.

The record does not demonstrate that this departure is supported by a clear planning rationale or by updated principles that would justify a change in long-established federal practice.

Where a proposal represents a departure from consistently applied planning principles, the Commission should articulate the basis for that departure and evaluate its long-term implications for the integrity of the national landscape.

In the absence of such justification, the proposed action is not demonstrated to be consistent with the federal planning framework that has guided development of the monumental core.

Consistency over time is itself a planning value; departures from that consistency require clear justification in the record.

Aviation Safety and Nighttime Character

Because of its height and proximity to Reagan National Airport, the proposed structure would require FAA-mandated obstruction lighting, including elevated red aviation lights.

This requirement is not discretionary. It follows directly from the height and location of the structure within protected airspace and cannot be meaningfully altered through design refinement.

The implications of this requirement extend beyond aviation safety. They fundamentally affect how the structure would be experienced within the broader landscape, particularly under low-light conditions.

The approach to Arlington National Cemetery and Memorial Bridge is often experienced during:

- Dawn
- Dusk
- Civil twilight

These periods are traditionally associated with quiet reflection and subdued visual conditions. Under such conditions:

- Ambient light is reduced;
- Artificial light sources become more prominent;

- The eye is drawn to elevated or blinking points of light against a low-contrast sky.

As a result, the required obstruction lighting would not recede into the background. Instead:

- Blinking or steady red lights would be highly visible;
- Elevated lights would attract visual attention from significant distances;
- Overcast or low-visibility conditions would further amplify their prominence.

Under many conditions, these lights would become the most visually dominant elements associated with the structure.

This effect must also be understood in the context of the broader nighttime landscape.

The monumental core of Washington is characterized by a carefully balanced hierarchy of illuminated elements, including the Washington Monument, the U.S. Capitol, and major memorial structures. Arlington National Cemetery, by contrast, is intentionally unlit in order to preserve a solemn and contemplative character.

The introduction of a tall structure with prominent aviation lighting at Memorial Circle would:

- Insert a new focal point into this landscape;
- Compete visually with existing monuments that define the regional skyline;
- Introduce illumination into a corridor that has historically been characterized by restraint.

Statements in the record suggesting that nighttime visibility—potentially including views from aircraft—would be a positive attribute of the structure underscore that this visual prominence is not incidental, but inherent to the concept.

This represents a fundamental change in the nighttime character of the Memorial Bridge–Arlington corridor—from one defined by continuity and restraint to one that includes a dominant, attention-drawing vertical feature.

This is not a matter of aesthetic preference.

It is a direct and unavoidable consequence of the structure’s height, location, and regulatory requirements, and it cannot be meaningfully mitigated through design.

The resulting condition would not be a subtle addition to the landscape, but the introduction of a new nighttime focal point within a location historically defined by visual continuity and restraint.

The structure would function, particularly at night, as a highly visible vertical marker within airspace and along a major visual corridor, drawing attention in a manner that is inconsistent with the intended character of the site.

Construction Impacts on a Ceremonial Landscape

The effects of the proposed undertaking are not limited to its completed form. They include the impacts associated with construction, which in this case are extensive in scale, duration, and intensity.

Available information indicates that construction would:

- Extend over approximately two to three years;
- Occur on a near-continuous basis, potentially up to 20 hours per day;
- Require large cranes, excavation systems, drilling rigs, and sustained heavy equipment operations;
- Involve major reconfiguration of traffic patterns and restricted access within and around Memorial Circle.

These conditions represent not a short-term disturbance, but a **prolonged period of intensive, industrial-scale activity** within a nationally significant memorial landscape.

Memorial Circle and the approaches to Arlington National Cemetery are actively used ceremonial environments, including daily funeral services and continuous public visitation.

The sustained presence of heavy construction operations, equipment, noise, and restricted access would fundamentally alter the setting and experience of this landscape over an extended period.

This impact is not incidental. It is inherent in constructing a structure of this scale at this location.

In addition:

- Visual intrusion from cranes and staging areas would dominate the skyline and viewshed during construction;
- Noise and vibration would interfere with the solemn and contemplative character of the site;
- Traffic disruptions and access limitations would affect both ceremonial functions and public use;
- The cumulative effect would be continuous disruption rather than isolated or intermittent impacts.

These impacts are incompatible with the continuous ceremonial function of the site and cannot be meaningfully mitigated through standard construction management practices.

The record does not demonstrate that these effects have been fully evaluated in relation to the site's ongoing ceremonial use or that they are acceptable within a landscape of this significance.

Traffic and Circulation Function and Safety

Memorial Circle is a complex traffic rotary whose safe and efficient operation depends on:

- Clear sightlines across the circle and along approach corridors;
- Predictable vehicle movement based on continuous flow and yielding behavior;
- Visual legibility that allows drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians to interpret and respond to conditions in real time.

The current design functions as an **open, flowing system**, rather than a signal-controlled intersection.

The proposed project introduces substantial changes to this condition. Available materials indicate that:

- Traffic circulation within the circle would be reconfigured and controlled through the introduction of traffic signals;
- Multiple new pedestrian crossings and staging areas would be established;
- Construction would involve extended lane closures, rerouting, and restricted access over a multi-year period;
- The interior of the circle would be converted into a destination space with managed pedestrian activity.
- The proposed use would also introduce ongoing operational requirements, including security, staffing, and visitor management, further reinforcing the site's transformation from a transitional landscape to a continuously active destination.

These changes do not represent incremental adjustments.

They transform the circle from a continuous-flow rotary into a controlled, interrupted, and programmatically occupied space.

As a result, the proposed action would:

- Reduce visibility and alter established sightlines;
- Replace intuitive, self-regulating traffic movement with signalized control and stopping points;
- Introduce sustained pedestrian concentrations in a location historically designed for vehicular circulation and transition;
- Increase points of conflict among vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists.

These effects arise from the geometry and functional reprogramming of the site, not from architectural detailing, and therefore cannot be addressed through design refinement.

The record does not demonstrate that this fundamental change in function is compatible with Memorial Circle's role as a high-capacity and legible transportation and ceremonial gateway.

Memorial Circle was designed to function as a transitional movement space within a ceremonial approach, not as a destination requiring controlled access, pedestrian queuing, and internal circulation.

Transportation and Site Function

The materials indicate that transportation impacts have been analyzed and mitigated. However, the proposed changes fundamentally alter the operation of Memorial Circle, introducing traffic controls, pedestrian staging, and altered circulation patterns in a location designed for continuous flow.

These are not incremental adjustments—they represent a transformation of the function of the site.

The record does not demonstrate that these changes are compatible with the existing role of Memorial Circle as a high-capacity and legible gateway space.

Transformation from Through-Space to Destination

The proposed structure is not simply a passive memorial element. Programmatic descriptions indicate that it would function as a visitor destination, including security screening, internal circulation, exhibition space, and an observation deck.

This implies:

- structured visitor flow and queuing
- security infrastructure
- sustained pedestrian concentration
- operational activity throughout the day

Memorial Circle currently functions as a space of movement, transition, and orientation.

Introducing a destination with controlled access, internal programming, and visitor services transforms the fundamental function of the site—from a place of passage to a place of congregation.

The record does not demonstrate that this functional transformation is compatible with the site's existing role within the ceremonial approach to Arlington National Cemetery.

Adequacy of Safety, Legal, and Regulatory Review

The record indicates that several critical safety, legal, and regulatory issues have been addressed through ongoing or recently completed processes, including Section 106 consultation, environmental review, and preliminary aviation analysis.

However, the existence of these processes does not, by itself, establish that the resulting analysis is complete, sufficient, or appropriate to support final approval.

In particular, the record does not clearly demonstrate that the following issues have been fully resolved on the basis of stable, finalized, and comprehensive information:

- Final FAA determinations, including the implications of required aviation obstruction lighting and any associated operational constraints;
- The adequacy and scope of environmental review given the scale, duration, and intensity of construction and long-term site transformation;
- Compliance with applicable statutory frameworks governing memorial works and federal land use, particularly where legal interpretations remain contested;
- The operational and safety implications of introducing a high-volume visitor destination within an active traffic and ceremonial environment.

These are not secondary considerations. They go directly to whether the Commission can reasonably evaluate the impacts of the proposed action.

Where key assumptions, analyses, or legal interpretations remain subject to uncertainty or evolving information, the record cannot be considered complete.

Approval of preliminary and final plans under these circumstances would indicate that the Commission has relied on an evidentiary record that does not fully support the scope and permanence of the decision.

Compressed Review and Combined Approval

The Commission is being asked to approve both preliminary and final site and building plans in a single action. This consolidation of review stages is not merely procedural; it has substantive implications.

Preliminary approval is typically used to identify outstanding issues and obtain additional information, while final approval is based on a completed and fully evaluated record.

Combining these steps suggests that issues identified during preliminary review have not been meaningfully resolved prior to final action.

Proceeding in this manner raises the risk that the Commission is relying on an incomplete or evolving record rather than a fully developed evidentiary basis.

Section 106 Completion Does Not Resolve Planning Issues

Although the Section 106 process is described as complete, this does not resolve the Commission's independent responsibility to evaluate impacts on federal interests.

Section 106 is a procedural requirement that informs decisionmaking; it does not substitute for it.

Where project details, operational characteristics, or associated impacts continue to evolve, the resulting determination may not reflect a fully defined undertaking.

The Commission must therefore independently evaluate whether the record before it is complete and sufficient to support final approval.

Height limit claims

Questions regarding the applicability of federal height limitations are presented as resolved or inapplicable. However, the record indicates that this issue remains subject to differing interpretations, including within the Commission itself.

Where legal applicability remains contested, it is premature to treat compliance as established.

Adequacy of Environmental Review

The environmental review is referenced as supporting the proposed action. However, the available information indicates that the analysis was conducted on a compressed schedule and based on evolving project parameters.

The proposed undertaking includes multi-year construction, continuous heavy equipment operations, and substantial alteration to circulation systems.

The record does not demonstrate that these impacts have been fully analyzed at a level appropriate to the scale and permanence of the action.

Representation of Public Comment

Public comments are summarized in the record in a manner that presents concerns as originating from “some commenters” across a range of topics.

However, available information indicates both a large volume of submissions and substantial convergence around core issues, including site suitability, safety, and impacts to the historic landscape.

The summary format does not clearly convey the degree of alignment across commenters or the extent to which recurring concerns remain unresolved.

Pre-decisional bias / outcome-driven process

The sequencing and timing of approvals suggest that key aspects of the proposal may have been advanced prior to completion of supporting analysis, raising concerns about whether evaluation has followed, rather than informed, decisionmaking.

Cumulative Effects

The impacts described in the record should also be considered cumulatively.

The combined effects of multi-year construction, permanent changes to circulation, introduction of a destination use, and altered visual and nighttime conditions represent a layered and continuous transformation of the site, rather than discrete or isolated impacts.

The record does not demonstrate that these combined effects have been evaluated as a whole, or that their interaction has been fully understood.

Consideration of Alternatives

The record does not demonstrate that alternative locations or configurations have been meaningfully evaluated in relation to their comparative impacts on federally significant landscapes and ceremonial spaces.

Where a proposal would introduce substantial and irreversible impacts at a location of exceptional significance, the evaluation of reasonable alternatives is a necessary component of informed decisionmaking.

The absence of such analysis limits the Commission's ability to determine whether the proposed siting represents the least damaging or most appropriate option.

Precedential Implications

This proposal also raises broader questions regarding precedent within the National Capital Region.

Approval of a large, vertically dominant structure within a highly protected ceremonial corridor may influence how similar proposals are evaluated in the future.

Departures from long-established planning principles at a site of this prominence may have wider implications for the consistency and integrity of federal planning decisions over time.

The Commission should therefore consider not only the immediate effects of this proposal, but its implications for future decisionmaking within similarly sensitive contexts.

Approval should not rely on the expectation of future mitigation or refinement to resolve impacts that are inherent to the proposed siting.

Process Integrity

The Commission's role is particularly important where multiple federal review bodies have considered different aspects of the same proposal within a compressed timeframe.

In such circumstances, **the integrity of the overall decision-making process depends on each body independently evaluating the issues within its jurisdiction**, rather than relying on the conclusions or momentum of prior actions.

The administrative record should therefore clearly demonstrate that the Commission's decision reflects its own analysis and judgment.

Temporal Urgency vs. Permanent Impact

The proposal is tied to a near-term commemorative objective.

However:

A temporary objective does not justify permanent transformation of a nationally significant landscape.

Public Comment as Evidence of Unresolved Issues

Public comments consistently identify concerns related to:

- Sightlines
- Safety
- Legal compliance
- Appropriateness of location

The importance of this record is not numerical.

It reflects convergence across diverse perspectives identifying unresolved issues.

Irreversibility vs temporary purpose

A time-limited commemorative objective does not justify permanent alteration of a nationally significant landscape

Construction impacts

The scale and duration of construction—potentially extending over multiple years with continuous operations—introduce sustained disruption into an actively used ceremonial landscape, including daily funeral services.

Role of NCPC in the Context of Prior Reviews

The Commission of Fine Arts has issued an advisory recommendation, and the Section 106 process under the National Historic Preservation Act is described as complete.

These processes provide important input to the Commission. However, they do not determine the outcome of NCPC's review.

Each of these reviews has a distinct scope:

- The Commission of Fine Arts focuses on design and aesthetics;
- Section 106 addresses effects on historic properties through a consultative process;
- NCPC is responsible for evaluating site suitability, federal interest, and long-term planning implications for the National Capital Region.

The convergence of prior recommendations and procedural milestones does not substitute for independent evaluation of whether the proposed use of this site is appropriate.

Particularly where earlier reviews have proceeded on compressed timelines or evolving project definitions, it is essential that the Commission demonstrate that its decision is based on a complete and independently evaluated record.

NCPC must therefore demonstrate—not merely assert—that it has conducted an independent assessment of site suitability, impacts, and consistency with federal planning principles.

Binary Questions for Commission Consideration

The Commission's decision necessarily implies answers to the following:

- Does the proposal interrupt the Lincoln–Arlington axial relationship?
- Will FAA obstruction lighting be required?
- Have required statutory and procedural reviews been completed?
- Are key impacts fully understood and documented?

These questions are not discretionary. They go directly to whether approval is appropriate.

Request to the Commission

I respectfully request that NCPC:

1. Evaluate site suitability as a threshold determination, independent of architectural design or symbolic intent;
2. Ensure that its decision is based on a complete and fully developed record, including resolution of outstanding issues related to safety, environmental impact, transportation, and operational use;
3. Give full weight to the permanent and irreversible nature of the proposed action, particularly in a nationally significant and carefully designed cultural landscape;
4. Consider whether the introduction of a destination-oriented structure with internal programming, visitor services, and security functions is compatible with the existing role of Memorial Circle as a space of transition and orientation;
5. Demonstrate, through its findings, that its decision reflects independent judgment rather than reliance on prior advisory recommendations or procedural milestones;
6. Decline to approve a proposal that would fundamentally alter established spatial relationships or the functional role of this site within the ceremonial approach to Arlington National Cemetery.

In light of the level of approval requested, the Commission's decision should reflect a complete evaluation of these issues based on the current record, rather than reliance on future clarification or analysis.

Closing

The most powerful places in the National Capital Region derive their meaning from restraint, clarity, and continuity.

Memorial Circle is such a place.

Once altered, its spatial function, symbolic clarity, and ceremonial role cannot be restored.

The Commission's decision should reflect a complete evaluation of these issues, rather than reliance on future resolution.

Appendix A: Key Issues Identified in This Comment

The following summarizes the principal issues identified in this comment for ease of reference:

Site Suitability

- The proposal raises a threshold planning issue regarding whether Memorial Circle is an appropriate location for a tall vertical structure.
- The identified impacts arise from location and cannot be resolved through design refinement.

Impacts on the Arlington Memorial Landscape

- The proposal would introduce a dominant focal element into a landscape defined by distributed meaning, restraint, and continuity.
- The record does not demonstrate compatibility with the memorial character of Arlington National Cemetery.

Visual and Spatial Impacts

- The proposal would disrupt the Lincoln–Arlington axial relationship and established visual hierarchy.
- Required FAA obstruction lighting would introduce a new nighttime focal point inconsistent with the character of the corridor.

Functional and Transportation Impacts

- The proposal would transform Memorial Circle from a continuous-flow rotary into a signalized, destination-oriented space.
- The record does not demonstrate that this transformation is compatible with the site's current function.

Construction Impacts

- Multi-year, high-intensity construction would introduce sustained disruption into an active ceremonial landscape.
- These effects are inherent to the proposed action and not fully evaluated in the record.

Adequacy of Review and Administrative Record

- The record does not demonstrate that safety, environmental, and legal issues have been fully resolved on the basis of stable and complete information.
- The analysis appears to have been conducted on a compressed timeline and based on evolving project assumptions.

Alternatives and Cumulative Effects

- The record does not demonstrate that reasonable alternatives have been meaningfully evaluated.

- The cumulative effects of construction, operational changes, and visual impacts have not been analyzed as a whole.

Process and Decision Integrity

- The Commission is being asked to approve preliminary and final plans in a single action despite unresolved issues.
- The Commission's decision should reflect independent evaluation rather than reliance on prior advisory actions or procedural milestones.

Precedent

- Approval of this proposal may affect future application of federal planning principles within highly sensitive areas.

These issues collectively indicate that the proposal is not demonstrated to be appropriate for this location based on the current record.

Appendix B: Questions for Commission Consideration (Condensed)

- Does the proposal interrupt the Lincoln–Arlington axial relationship?
- Will FAA obstruction lighting create a new dominant nighttime focal point?
- Are key safety, environmental, and legal issues fully resolved?
- Has the functional transformation of Memorial Circle been fully evaluated?

National Capital Planning
Commission
401 9th St NW Ste 500N
Washington, D.C. 20004

Please explain how this
"Arch of Triumph" will
enhance the history of the
United States. The only
shadow the graves in
Arlington National Ceme-
tery should receive is
from the surrounding
graves. Susan Marschall

1200 21st Street NW
Rockford, IL 61101

Do NOT ~~FORWARD~~ GRAND RAPIDS MI 493
the construction of
the "Monumental"
Arch. Over
honored dead in
Arlington Natl
Cemetery should
not lose the
sanctity of their
resting place.



TO

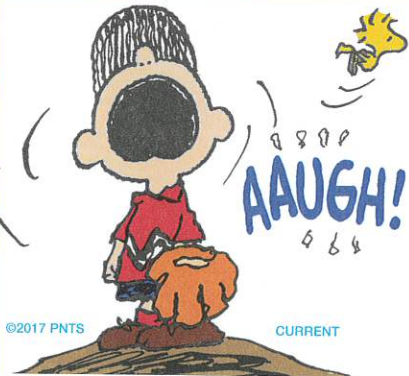
NEPC
401 9th Street NW
Suite 500 N
Washington, DC

20004-214025

Kathy B 48858

20004

RESKID





The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

MARSHA R. PLATT
REPRESENTATIVE
9TH WORCESTER DISTRICT
122 BRIGHAM HILL ROAD
N. GRAFTON, MA 01536
TEL. (508) 839-5024

Committees:
Local Affairs
Public Service
State Administration
ROOM 237, STATE HOUSE
(617) 722-2305
AVRIE SMOLINSKI
LEGISLATIVE AIDE

6/1/26

To: National Capital Planning Comm.

item i Proposed Arch

Monumental Arch
Memorial Circle

I am not in favor of such a
structure

Marsha R Platt

[REDACTED]
Alexandria VA 22301
[REDACTED]

June 10th, 2026

National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW, Suite 500N
Washington DC 20004

Subject: Disapproval of the Triumphal Arch Project

I am writing to express my vehement disapproval of the proposed Triumphal Arch at the West end of the memorial Bridge. With only 21% of the public supporting the proposed project and over 50% disapproving, I am incredulous that your organization has not put a substantial pause on this endeavor, if not adding your voice to the outright growing voices of outright disapproval.

Within your commission to provide overall planning guidance for federal land and buildings in the region by reviewing the design of federal and certain local projects, overseeing long-range planning for future development, I offer the following points of objection:

The placement and size of the monument will dominate the space and substantially block one of the most iconic and reverential views of the Arlington National Cemetery. Currently, from the Lincoln Memorial, the view offers a peaceful, respectful and almost sacred view of the place where so many of our veterans lay in eternal rest. That vista across Memorial Bridge which goes to the dignity of Arlington would be completely obscured and the war dead disrespected.

The Arch is of a garish design, offensive to many, including me. It is oversized for the location and when compared to other similar arches, grotesquely oversized to the purpose. The height will not only dwarf other monuments but will inevitably factor onto the approach and departure routes for planes in and out of DCA and noise issues for adjacent neighborhoods

The proposed location is in the middle of one of the busiest access and egress routes between Virginia and DC. The construction period will be a traffic nightmare. After construction, the proposed access to the arch using crosswalks suggests a substantial lack of understanding of the traffic patterns. When a half dozen buses disgorge volumes of tourists, traffic will come to a halt.

Beyond the basic aesthetics and apparent disregard for the dignity of the DC skyline, the Arch seems to have virtually no supporting constituency other than the President and his close circle. I have a fairly diverse circle of friends and I have yet to one – not even one -- who think this anything but a bad idea. This makes me wonder how one person, President or not, could single-handedly commission such a drastic, controversial and irreversible change to the city's iconic skyline without substantial public support.

This has all the marking of a project which will be met with years of broad enmity and resentment I was disappointed by your support for this project and implore you to reconsider it. Someone on your commission must have the temerity to say, "Not this; Not here; Not now."

Sincerely,


David Halwig

June 13, 2026

Commission of Fine Arts
401 F Street NW, Suite 312
Washington DC 20001-2728

I am writing today to protest the decision to allow a 250 foot arch to be built on the Memorial Circle.

Arches throughout the world represent victorious battles. For it to be constructed between the Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial takes away from those Memorials of sacrifice and remembrance arising from the civil war. The particulars of the proposed arch are also about ego, power, dominance and grandeur, very different from the restrained and solemn landscape along the Arlington Bridge.

Why allow President Trump to remake Washington DC in his own garish, gilded style? This is the man who glorifies Ultimate Fighting Championship but not basic necessities of our country's most vulnerable citizens. We do not need ornaments to monarchy to convey what America is.

Dorothy Reesor
[REDACTED]
Oakland CA 94602

Dorothy Reesor

cc National Capital Planning Commission