

**From:** JC VF

**Sent:** Saturday, August 2, 2025 2:26 PM

**Subject:** Request for Immediate Review and Suspension of East Wing Ballroom Construction at the White House

Dear Preservation and Planning Officials,

I write as deeply concerned citizen requesting the immediate suspension of construction preparations for the proposed East Wing Ballroom project at the White House. While I understand the symbolic importance of presidential legacy projects, this undertaking appears to violate the spirit and procedural requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), specifically its Section 106 provisions.

Despite media reports and architectural renderings suggesting irreversible alterations—including displacement of the Rose Garden and demolition of existing federal offices—no detailed plans or environmental impact assessments have been disclosed. These omissions raise urgent questions about transparency, accountability, and compliance with historic preservation law.

I respectfully request:

- Immediate initiation of a Section 106 review to assess the project's impact on a nationally protected historic property.
- Disclosure of all site plans, architectural drawings, and funding documentation.
- Formal engagement with relevant local entities, including the DC State Historic Preservation Office, to ensure public input and expert oversight.

The White House is not only the residence of a sitting president but a civic monument belonging to all Americans. Any substantial alteration warrants not secrecy, but scrutiny.

I look forward to your response and to a process that honors both heritage and law.

Sincerely,

JC Vos-Ferneau  
Butte MT

**From:** Brian Adams

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 5, 2025 2:19 PM

**Subject:** Request for Immediate Review and Suspension of East Wing Ballroom Construction at the White House

Dear Preservation and Planning Officials,

I write as a deeply concerned citizen requesting the immediate suspension of construction preparations for the proposed East Wing Ballroom project at the White House. While I understand the symbolic importance of presidential legacy projects, this undertaking appears to violate the spirit and procedural requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), specifically its Section 106 provisions.

Despite media reports and architectural renderings suggesting irreversible alterations—including displacement of the Rose Garden and demolition of existing federal offices—no detailed plans or environmental impact assessments have been disclosed. These omissions raise urgent questions about transparency, accountability, and compliance with historic preservation law.

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The White House is not only the residence of a sitting president but a civic monument belonging to all Americans. Any substantial alteration warrants not secrecy, but scrutiny.

I look forward to your response and to a process that honors both heritage and law.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian Adams

Champaign, Illinois

Sent: Sunday, August 10, 2025 11:34 AM

Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Antoinette Pozios

Dear Commission Members,

The very idea that Donald Trump wants to tear down a wing of the White House, the People's House is an appalling idea.

He is a tenant, not an owner.

Therefore, he has no right to make such an egregious change to the White House.

Worse yet, he will be spending taxpayer dollars, MY dollars. I do not want a ballroom in place of a wing of the White House.

If you care to read this email at a public meeting then please do so.

I stand firmly opposed to a ballroom addition to the White House.

**Sent:** Monday, August 11, 2025 10:25 AM

**Subject:** Website comment from Brenda Hopper

Please ensure review of the Ball Room attached to the White House that President Trump wants to build. I'm concerned about the safety, appropriateness, and historical appropriateness. I would like to see it rejected. I'm am also dubious of its funding. He says it will be funded by him and donors, but he has lied about such things and people doing business with him have had to write off things in the past.

**Sent:** Monday, August 11, 2025 8:07 PM

**Subject:** Website comment from Debra Day

PLEASE don't let Donald Trump build that ugly ballroom and further destroy the White House! That's THE PEOPLE'S house and we don't want it despoiled. It's terrible that he paved the Rose Garden. We don't want his tackiness to ruin things!!!!

**Sent:** Monday, August 11, 2025 9:54 PM

**Subject:** Website comment from Karen Centers

Please do whatever is within your power to stop and permanently prevent trump from ruining our White House any further with the hideous ballroom. Also, could those gaudy gold things be removed from the oval office and where ever else he's used them throughout the building? Please protect this precious historical house from its current temporary occupant. Thank you!

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 12, 2025 7:58 AM

**Subject:** Website comment from Donna Cook

DO NOT ALLOW DONALD J TRUMP OR ANY OTHER FOOL REMODEL,CHANGE,DESTROY  
REARRANGE, WHATEVER VERBAGE THERE IS TO DESTROY THE "PEOPLES HOUSE" IT IS NOT HIS!  
THIS SHOULDN'T EVEN BE A TOPIC,OR DISCUSSION BUT THE CRAZY FOOL IS AT THE WHEEL.  
THIS IS HISTORY! LEAVE IT ALONE!! THANK YOU!

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 12, 2025 10:45 AM

**Subject:** Website comment from Kathleen Mazalewski

Why are you not stopping Donald Trump and his ballroom? Don't you have to approve it?

**From:** Sharon Hertz

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 12, 2025 12:41 PM

**Subject:** White House Ballroom

Hello!

I am a concerned citizen writing to you about this ridiculous idea for a \$200 million ballroom at the White House. I am vehemently opposed to this. It is an eye sore next to the White House. It will take away the beauty of the White House. And most importantly, if the money is actually donated, now is not the time donated money or not, to be spending this kind of money just to satisfy the presidents idea that we need a ballroom at the White House. It is the People's House! Let the people speak, let them vote on this, let us be heard.

Thank you for your time,

Sharon Hertz  
Denver, CO

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 12, 2025 5:39 PM

**To:** Acosta, Marcel

**Subject:** NCPC Website Email

From: David Chadwick

Mr Acosta:

As you know, the President announced on July 31 his intention to build a 90,000 square foot addition to the White House.

I have searched the NCPC records and I can find no evidence that this project has been reviewed by the Commission or received approval.

Therefore, I am asking your assistance in providing me with (1) the record of the Commission's review or (2) if review is not required, the applicable section of law or regulation.

Thank you for your commitment to the National Capital region.

**From:** Richard Orton  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 13, 2025 5:54 AM  
**Subject:** Stop the White House ballroom

Stop this awful ballroom!

It is too big, almost twice the square footage of the White House itself. This monstrosity will ruin the symmetry of 200 years of the White House. If a ballroom is needed, build it somewhere else.

I don't care if it is privately funded, but I sure don't want anything secretly funded as seems to be the case here. Too many contributions to Trump are really only "tributes", nothing more than bribes. Don't allow that here.

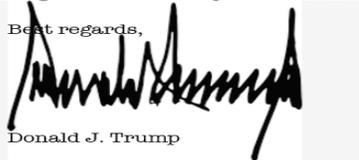
Don't permit this addition to destroy this historic national treasure. I took the liberty of showing how the stationery would need to be revised.



Dear Richard,

So glad to hear that you like our new White House stationery.

Best regards,



Donald J. Trump

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Richard Oton  
Santa Monica

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 13, 2025 12:05 PM

**Subject:** Website comment from Tresa Poyhonen

I am hoping you will somehow modulate the request for a huge, vulgar “ballroom” addition to the WH. The paving of the Rose Garden & the flags are bad enough.

I am sorry you have to face pressure and threats. Be smart & use flattery to bend his requests.

No response needed.

**From:** Linda Gillam

**Sent:** Saturday, August 16, 2025 8:42 AM

**Subject:** White House Ballroom

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as a concerned citizen about the reported plans to build a massive addition to the White House without the required review by the NCPC as required by law. This is a landmark we all treasure, which was intended by our first President to be a humble symbol of our republic.

How will the law be enforced and is there an effective or public avenue for citizens to comment?

Thank you for your time,

Linda Gillam

Windsor, Colorado

**From:** Mitch

**Sent:** Friday, August 22, 2025 1:11 PM

**Subject:** Ballroom Zoning

Hello,

I would like to put in an official objection to the proposed 'Ballroom' on the grounds of historical alteration to the White House. The new project will dwarf the White House footprint, Ballroom = 90,000SF to White House = 55,000SF. This will grossly change forever the scale of the White House. I realize that federal projects don't have to go through the local approval process, but this project would not be approved in the majority of zoning departments across the nation.

Please reevaluate this project and email me with the results.

Thanks, Mitch Waufle

From: joanna diblasio  
Sent: Sunday, August 24, 2025 6:54 PM  
Subject: TRUMPS PROPOSED BALLROOM

Sent from my iPad

Every voice matters

I do NOT support the \$200 million Trump-era ballroom at the White House- I am not alone. This vanity project serves no public need and reshapes the People's House to suit one man's legacy. -While Congress can hold hearings or push back on approvals, the real power lies with three key bodies: the National Capital Planning Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

As 1 of these bodies, I ask that you review, delay, or challenge the project directly.

Signed by a concerned citizen  
Joanna DiBlasio  
North Babylon, NY

Contact Information:  
National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) – Email\*\*  
[info@ncpc.gov]  
NCPC – Phone  
202-482-7200

U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) – Email  
[cfastaff@cfa.gov]  
CFA – Phone  
202-504-2200

National Trust for Historic Preservation – Email  
[info@savingplaces.org]  
National Trust – Phone  
202-588-6000 or 800-944-6847

**From:** Susan Dolibois  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 27, 2025 9:04 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] White House Ballroom

August 27, 2025

National Capital Planning Commission  
401 9th St. NW Suite 500 N  
Washington, DC 20004  
Submitted via email: [info@ncpc.gov](mailto:info@ncpc.gov)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to ask you to please review very carefully the proposed plan for a White House Ballroom. This 90,000 square foot building is almost double the size of the entire White House and will dwarf that iconic symbol of America. In the architect's rendering displayed by the White House Press Secretary it is impossible to even find the current White House structure.

President Trump claims this ballroom is necessary for entertaining larger numbers of guests, forgetting that it would necessitate additional kitchen facilities as well as sets of china and silver. Additional staff would also need to be employed.

As a former member of Mrs. Nixon's staff who worked in the East Wing assisting the Social Secretary, I was intimately involved in planning state dinners and other social occasions which took place in the White House. Elegant state dinners were held in the State Dining Room which seats approximately 140 people. An additional 50 guests were often invited to come after dinner for entertainment and dancing in the East Room. These dinners were intimate affairs and part of their magic was the experience of being inside the White House. No one wants to be in an adjunct building in a large crowd with lengthened security protocols. The White House is owned by the American people, and the President is only a temporary occupant who should never be permitted to change it single-handedly.

Last but not least, the very fact of and the optics of constructing a 200-million-dollar building, when many Americans are losing health care, paying higher prices for goods and services and thousands of people are starving throughout the world are in opposition to the values of the culture of the America that we all cherish.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Dolibois

**From:** Penny Adams  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 4, 2025 12:27 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Re: White House Ballroom (page 1 of 2)

Dear Commissioners, I am writing to ask you to please review very carefully the proposed plan for a White House ballroom. This 90,000 square foot building is almost double the size of the entire White House and will dwarf that iconic symbol of America and make it unrecognizable! In the architect's rendering displayed by the White House Press Secretary it is impossible to even find the current White House structure. Trump claims this monstrous ballroom is necessary for entertaining larger numbers of guests, forgetting that it would necessitate additional kitchen facilities as well as sets of china and silver. Additional staff would also need to be employed. (Note: second page to follow)

**Subject:** [External] Re: White House Ballroom (page 2)

As Mrs. Pat Nixon's Radio and Television Coordinator and then Deputy Press Secretary, I also had the added responsibility of being the "in house" producer of entertainment for state dinners and luncheons, "Evenings at the White House," Christmas parties and more from the end of 1969 until the end of 1973. My office was located in the East Wing of the White House. Elegant state dinners were held in the State Dining Room which seats approximately 140 people. An additional 50 guests were often invited to come after dinner for entertainment and dancing in the East Room. These dinners were intimate affairs and part of their magic was the experience of being inside the White House. No one wants to be in an adjunct building in a huge crowd with lengthened security protocols. The White House is owned by the American people and the President is only a temporary occupant who should never be permitted to change it single-handedly. Trump is proposing a monument to himself, his "legacy" he admits! Last but not least, the very fact of the optics of constructing a 200 million dollar building, decorated in gold like European and Middle Eastern castles and palaces, when many Americans are losing health care, paying higher prices for goods and services and millions of people are starving throughout the world are obscene and destructive of the America that we all love and cherish. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration in making this letter part of the argument against building this ballroom. It really is quite an awful idea, and it will cost taxpayers even more money for years and years to come.

Penelope Ann Adams, Ocean City, Maryland 21842.

(Note: 2 of 2 pages and thank you to Deborah Sloan for writing her letter first from which I borrowed most of my letter)

**From:** NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 12, 2025 11:55 AM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** Written Comments

John Barron Comments

Name: John Barron

Project Name: Fallen Journalists Memorial

Project Number: 8449

<https://apnews.com/article/trump-ballroom-national-planning-commission-approval-f537fa373705d560a9842b6250aee9ef>

I want to comment on the White House renovations. How can demolition in anticipation of construction not be part of the construction project? What is being demolished will shape what has to be rebuilt. The National Capital Planning Commission is acting arbitrarily and capriciously. All work should be subject to NCPC approval. I cannot wait for all of this criminal President's unlawful acts to be undone. Make sure your pardons are well written. You are violating NEPA and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

**From:** NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 15, 2025 8:26 AM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** Website comment from Leesa Shemtov

Shame! Shame! You stand by while Trump destroys our historic White House grounds and builds an unpermitted and unapproved structure where beautiful trees once stood. What kind of guardian of our nation's structures are you? Look at your mission statement: you have betrayed it!

+++++++

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 2:23 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] RE: Website comment from Leesa Shemtov

Who does have jurisdiction over site preparation and demolition? The National Park Service? It seems to me that alterations to WH grounds should be under the same purview as the structure --

-

**From:** James [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 12, 2025 11:59 AM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** White House Demolition

How do I comment on the ongoing violations of the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 at the White House? Demolition of a historic property must be aggregated with construction. The demolition will shape alternatives available under 36 CFR 800.1(c). You have issued a license to destroy a historic property and denied me my right to comment. The NCPC is behaving in an arbitrary and capricious manner.

<https://apnews.com/article/trump-ballroom-national-planning-commission-approval-f537fa373705d560a9842b6250aee9ef>

**From:** Diane Bacon

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 3:50 PM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] White House ballroom

Hi - Can you please explain to me why the monstrosity that Trump has started building for a ballroom at the White House was not reviewed and approved (or, better yet, REJECTED) by you?

It is a disgrace what he has already done to the Oval Office, but at least all that gaudy gold ornamentation can be removed once he is out of office. We will be stuck with ballroom.

Also, should he have received permission from you before adding the 2 giant flagpoles on the north and south lawns? There already was a flag on the White House roof.

Thank you in advance for your reply.

Diane Bacon

**From:** Joe DeGroff

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 4:45 PM

**To:** NCPG General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] Proposed White House Ballroom project

Dear Chairman Scharf and Executive Director Acosta,

I am writing as a concerned citizen regarding reports of a proposed ballroom on the White House grounds. The White House is more than the president's residence — it is the people's house and a national historic landmark. Any major addition or alterations risk changing its historic character and symbolism potentially forever.

I am concerned that this project seems to be moving forward without clear public information about approvals, oversight, or funding sources. Transparency is essential to protect the integrity of this historic site and maintain public trust. I noted the reference to the Chairman's comments about future NCPG review of the ballroom project in the minutes of your September meeting. However, there is no mention of the ballroom project in the draft agenda for your October meeting.

I respectfully urge the National Capital Planning Commission to ensure that any such proposal undergoes thorough review, with opportunities for public input well before to any construction commences on White House grounds.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Joe DeGroff

Sent from my iPad. Please excuse errors.

Joe DeGroff

**From:** NCPC System <[info@ncpc.gov](mailto:info@ncpc.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 19, 2025 6:14 PM  
**To:** Acosta, Marcel  
**Subject:** NCPC Website Email

From: Patricia Colonnese

How far along are you going to allow our president to construct a 90,000 square foot ballroom for 200 million dollars? In my opinion President Trump will bypass all rules and regulations required with your organization to review and construct a federal building in Washington, D.C.

**From:** Jill Lopez

**Sent:** Sunday, September 21, 2025 7:23 AM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** Request for Transparency and Oversight on White House Ballroom Project

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the ongoing construction of the White House ballroom on the South Lawn. While I understand that demolition and site preparation may not require prior approval, I urge the Commission to ensure that all necessary reviews and approvals are conducted promptly to uphold the integrity of our nation's historic landmarks.

Specifically, I request information on:

- The timeline for the Commission's review of the project's design and construction plans.
- Measures being taken to ensure compliance with federal regulations and preservation standards.
- Transparency regarding the project's funding sources and donor involvement.

I appreciate the Commission's role in safeguarding the architectural heritage of Washington, D.C., and I trust that you will take the necessary steps to ensure that this project aligns with established guidelines and maintains the dignity of the White House.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

--Jill Lopez

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 21, 2025 9:25 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
**Importance:** High

WHAT IS GOING ON AT **THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE**?!?!

He's pursuing HIS tacky idea of what's appropriate regardless of historic precedent.

He's paved over Jackie Kennedy's rose garden.

He's planning to add to the mansion's footprint—to a degree that will dwarf it.

He's cutting down historic trees.

He's ignoring the local permitting process.

He's making a joke of your processes and standards.

I DON'T CARE WHO HE IS... HE'S NOT ABOVE THE LAW!

I DON'T CARE WHO'S PAYING FOR THESE MONSTROSITIES!

**THAT'S OUR HOUSE, NOT HIS!**

**STOP THIS MADNESS!!**

**NOW!!** 🚫

**From:** NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 22, 2025 4:20 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** Website comment from Kathy Lytle

President Trump bypassed your agency in order to prepare a site at the White House to build a ballroom . The White House belongs to the US citizens. Any changes to the White House would need to go through congress according to my research. I am not in favor of this addition. President Trump is only a temporary resident. I would like your agency to stop this project. What do we need to do to stop this project from going forward?

Many irreplaceable trees, hundreds of years old, have already been destroyed. The facade and looks of the White House will be completely destroyed by this addition.

**From:** Rebekah Freedom  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 24, 2025 11:52 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Formal Objection to White House Ballroom Construction and Historic Tree Removal

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed construction of the White House ballroom and the associated removal of 200-year-old trees on the White House grounds. As a concerned citizen, I urge the NCPC to carefully reconsider the project in light of its historic, environmental, and ethical implications.

The White House grounds are a National Historic Landmark, and the trees in question represent centuries of living history, predating much of our nation's modern governance. Their removal constitutes an irreversible loss of heritage and is in direct conflict with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), which mandates preservation of historically significant sites and landscapes.

Beyond historic considerations, these ancient trees provide substantial ecological and environmental value, including carbon sequestration, biodiversity support, and the integrity of the historic landscape. The destruction of such irreplaceable natural assets cannot be justified solely for the addition of a private ballroom, even if funded by private donations.

I respectfully request the NCPC to:

1. Halt further tree removal immediately until a full historic and environmental review is completed.
2. Ensure that the project undergoes thorough public review, including compliance with the NHPA and all relevant federal regulations.
3. Consider alternative plans that preserve historic trees and minimize disruption to the White House grounds while meeting any legitimate functional needs. (For the love of everything holy, replant the trees if need be!!!)

This project, if allowed to proceed unchecked, sets a troubling precedent for the degradation of national landmarks in favor of private interests. I urge the Commission to uphold its responsibility to preserve the historic and cultural integrity of the Executive Mansion.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I respectfully request acknowledgment of this submission and notice of any hearings or decisions regarding this project.

Sincerely,  
Rebekah Freedom  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** NCPC System

**Date:** Saturday, October 25, 2025 at 4:26 PM

**To:** Acosta, Marcel

**Subject:** NCPC Website Email

From: Mary E Satava

Hello Mr. Acosta,

Please take this note under consideration if any public comments, or the request below fall under your agency's purview.

The historical architecture of the White House must be preserved. I believe that is NCPC's desire as well.

1. Find a way to look at and either approve or put in restrictions to the plans for the obnoxious biog ballroom
2. CUT the square footage
3. Match the size to not overwhelm the historical White House (aka The PEOPLE'S House)

Bless you for all you do.

Thank you,

Mary Ellen

**From:** NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 25, 2025 5:48 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** Website comment from Julia Goetz

Will you please provide evidence that the NCPC has reviewed and approved plans for the so-called ballroom project on the White House grounds.

**Date:** Thursday, October 30, 2025 at 5:41 PM

**To:** Acosta, Marcel

**Subject:** NCPD Website Email

From: Carol C. Baker

October 30, 2025

Poulsbo, WA

National Capital Planning Commission

401 9th Street NW

#500 N

Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Executive Director Acosta:

I am concerned and appalled by what is happening to the “people’s house.” In other words, The White House. It is my understanding that your commission is responsible for any changes to Federal buildings and the White House comes under your jurisdiction. My question to you is when was it made public that parts of the East Wing would be destroyed to make room for a 999-person ballroom? The White House does not belong to the current inhabitant. It belongs to the American People and we should have been advised about the changes and had an opportunity to support or deny those changes. A second query is what funds were used to cover the destruction of part of the East Wing of the White House? This whole dismantling of what was once a beautiful building with so much history is unforgivable.

I endorse the Five Bill Campaign to restore the People’s House to its previous beauty. That Campaign is as follows:

1st Bill (\$1, \$5, \$10, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1000, or more) would be to remove the tacky Trump gilding throughout the White House and return it to what Jacqueline Kennedy did when she restored the interior as a showcase of American history and culture—a living museum, not Mar a Lago II.

2nd Bill would be to replant the Rose Garden since Roses have been the unofficial symbol of the White House since it was rebuilt in the 17th Century. Edith Roosevelt had the Olmsted brothers establish the area as a formal flower garden. Edith Wilson designated it as the Rose Garden. Again, this is not Mar a Lago II!

Bills 3 and 4 would be used to reconstruct a replica of the First Ladies East Wing offices with any materials that can be recovered.

Please note that all of these changes had to do with what women of the White House contributed. It seems there is little respect for our First Ladies and women in general by the current occupant of the White House.

5th Bill would be to tear down or reduce the size of the unnecessary ballroom.

If your Commission did not approve of what is happening to this Federal building, please take immediate action to stop any more dismantling of The White House and support the Five Bill Campaign to restore the People’s House to its proper, historical, and lovely condition.

Sincerely, A patriotic American Citizen

Carol C. Baker

**From:** James  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 2, 2025 7:46 AM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <[info@ncpc.gov](mailto:info@ncpc.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [External] White House Demolition

It does not appear that the normal process is being followed. Please ensure that these renovations will be easily reversed as no one with taste or dignity would approve of this tacky ballroom that dwarfs the size of the historic White House. I understand the President needs it for corrupt fundraisers and personal business interests such as his own crypto coins bought by foreign interests.

Please include my comments in the official records for this corrupt renovation. Thank you

On Tue, Sep 16, 2025, 11:44 AM NCPC General Information <[info@ncpc.gov](mailto:info@ncpc.gov)> wrote:

Thank you for your note. While we have not yet received the project submission, we look forward to reviewing it when it comes before the Commission. As a note, NCPC does not have jurisdiction over site preparation and demolition. When NCPC has more information about the submission and the project review timeline, we will update our website accordingly at [www.ncpc.gov](http://www.ncpc.gov).

NCPC

**From:** James  
**Sent:** Friday, September 12, 2025 11:59 AM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <[info@ncpc.gov](mailto:info@ncpc.gov)>  
**Subject:** [External] White House Demolition

■ How do I comment on the ongoing violations of the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 at the White House? Demolition of a historic property must be aggregated with construction. The demolition will shape alternatives available under 36 CFR 800.1(c). You have issued a license to destroy a historic property and denied me my right to comment. The NCPC is behaving in an arbitrary and capricious manner.

<https://apnews.com/article/trump-ballroom-national-planning-commission-approval-f537fa373705d560a9842b6250aee9ef>

**From:** Diane Bacon  
**Sent:** Monday, October 20, 2025 3:26 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <[info@ncpc.gov](mailto:info@ncpc.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [External] White House ballroom

Hello- I know from your prior response that you have no jurisdiction over demolition, but it is so sad that you could not stop this from beginning today. I hope and pray that you can keep Trump's proposed ballroom from being a monstrosity.

This article just posed at Washington Post:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/10/20/white-house-begins-demolishing-east-wing-facade-build-trumps-ballroom/>

Thank you I. Advance for anything you can do to reign this in.

Diane Bacon

On Wed, Sep 17, 2025 at 2:20 PM NCPC General Information <[info@ncpc.gov](mailto:info@ncpc.gov)> wrote:

Thank you for your note. While we have not yet received the project submission, we look forward to reviewing it when it comes before the Commission. As a note, NCPC does not have jurisdiction over site preparation and demolition. When NCPC has more information about the submission and the project review timeline, we will update our website accordingly at [www.ncpc.gov](http://www.ncpc.gov).

NCPC

**From:** Diane Bacon  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 3:50 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <[info@ncpc.gov](mailto:info@ncpc.gov)>  
**Subject:** [External] White House ballroom

Hi - Can you please explain to me why the monstrosity that Trump has started building for a ballroom at the White House was not reviewed and approved (or, better yet, REJECTED) by you?

It is a disgrace what he has already done to the Oval Office, but at least all that gaudy gold ornamentation can be removed once he is out of office. We will be stuck with ballroom.

Also, should he have received permission from you before adding the 2 giant flagpoles on the north and south lawns? There already was a flag on the White House roof.

Thank you in advance for your reply.

Diane Bacon

**From:** Julie Goetz  
**Sent:** Monday, October 20, 2025 4:48 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <[info@ncpc.gov](mailto:info@ncpc.gov)>  
**Subject:** [External] Re: Website comment from Julia Goetz

What jurisdiction, specifically, does the NCPC have? Does the NCPC have to approve the destruction of any part of the existing structure - the East Wing, for example? Have you received any project submission? If so, where is that submission located that is available to the public, aka the People in the People's House?

Thank you.

On Fri, Sep 26, 2025 at 1:54 PM NCPC General Information <[info@ncpc.gov](mailto:info@ncpc.gov)> wrote:

Thank you for your note. While we have not yet received the project submission, we look forward to reviewing it when it comes before the Commission. As a note, NCPC does not have jurisdiction over site preparation and demolition. When NCPC has more information about the submission and the project review timeline, we will update our website accordingly at [www.ncpc.gov](http://www.ncpc.gov).

NCPC

**From:** NCPC System <[info@ncpc.gov](mailto:info@ncpc.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 25, 2025 5:48 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <[info@ncpc.gov](mailto:info@ncpc.gov)>  
**Subject:** Website comment from Julia Goetz

Will you please provide evidence that the NCPC has reviewed and approved plans for the so-called ballroom project on the White House grounds.

(About NCPC page)

**From:** divide-chested4f  
**Sent:** Monday, October 20, 2025 7:51 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

DO YOU PEOPLE KNOW HOW TO ISSUE A STOP WORK ORDER!?!? 🤔

PLEASE. PLEASE. STOP THE RAPING OF 1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVE. 😡

On Sep 23, 2025, at 4:51 PM, NCPC General Information <[info@ncpc.gov](mailto:info@ncpc.gov)> wrote:

Thank you for your note. While we have not yet received the project submission, we look forward to reviewing it when it comes before the Commission. As a note, NCPC does not have jurisdiction over site preparation and demolition. When NCPC has more information about the submission and the project review timeline, we will update our website accordingly at [www.ncpc.gov](http://www.ncpc.gov).  
NCPC

**From:** divide-chested4f  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 21, 2025 9:25 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <[info@ncpc.gov](mailto:info@ncpc.gov)>  
**Subject:** [External] 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
**Importance:** High

WHAT IS GOING ON AT **THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE**?!?!

He's pursuing HIS tacky idea of what's appropriate regardless of historic precedent.

He's paved over Jackie Kennedy's rose garden.

He's planning to add to the mansion's footprint—to a degree that will dwarf it.

He's cutting down historic trees.

He's ignoring the local permitting process.

He's making a joke of your processes and standards.

I DON'T CARE WHO HE IS... HE'S NOT ABOVE THE LAW!

I DON'T CARE WHO'S PAYING FOR THESE MONSTOSITIES!

**THAT'S OUR HOUSE, NOT HIS!**

**STOP THIS MADNESS!!**

**NOW!!** 🤔

From: Dawn

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 7:52 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>; achp@achp.gov; fraudnet@gsaig.gov

Subject: [External] Urgent Complaint: Possible Unauthorized Alteration of the White House

To:

[info@ncpc.gov](mailto:info@ncpc.gov)

[achp@achp.gov](mailto:achp@achp.gov)

[fraudnet@gsaig.gov](mailto:fraudnet@gsaig.gov)

Dear Commissioners and Inspectors General,

I am writing as a concerned U.S. citizen to request an immediate review and halt of any unauthorized construction, demolition, or alteration work being conducted at the White House or its surrounding grounds.

If any work is occurring without full approval and public review, this may violate the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which require federal consultation and transparency before any project affecting historic federal property proceeds.

I respectfully ask your offices to:

1. Verify whether any unapproved work is taking place.
2. Issue or recommend a stop-work order pending proper review.
3. Release all relevant project and contract information to the public.
4. Notify Congress if procedural or legal violations are found.

The White House is a protected national landmark belonging to the American people. All actions regarding its preservation must follow the law and be fully transparent.

Thank you for your attention and prompt response to this urgent matter.

Respectfully,

Dawn Green

Greentown, PA

**From:** Lambchop Atkinson  
**Sent:** Monday, October 20, 2025 9:05 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Fw: White House Travesty

How is this even possibly happening?

Live updates: Trump demolishes part of White House for ballroom build | AP News  
<https://share.google/6rLjiGVqkbdcdGavu>

I lived in DC for twenty years, and I owned a sign & graphics business that was contracted to do a major renovation project on the Old Executive Office Building circa 2010-2012. There are so many committees and organizations that oversee the White House and related, that it was difficult to even get on the premises or get the work done, and I can't imagine how this was allowed to happen.

I can't imagine the current occupant of the it's almost historic and symbolic significance was allowed to just take a wrecking ball to the White House he's had apparently any oversight or public input.

Do something. Can't you get an emergency restraining order? Did you try?

I'm devastated on behalf of myself and all Americans who value historic preservation.

Absolutely shameful.

Paula Atkinson  
Pleasant Hill, CA

-----Original Message-----

From: Pam Brewer

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:03 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] White House

What the flying f—k are you all doing? Trump is demolishing the White House!!!!!! Why are you not stopping him????? Who do you work for, the people or tRump???? I am so angry. He lied again and no one is stopping it. Do you jobs and stop him!!!!

**From:** Nola Hansen

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 21, 2025 11:59 AM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] In opposition to the demolition of the White House East Wing

When Trump announced his \$250 million abomination of a "ballroom," my hope was that your commission would be able to halt his plans. I should have known that he wouldn't wait for a study or permission, but now that the destruction has already begun, can the National Capital Planning Commission halt the work, seek an injunction, or anything to stop this plan from moving forward? He is literally dismantling our democracy and our institutions and what he's doing to the People's House is heartbreaking.

**--Nola Hansen**

Basking Ridge, NJ

**From:** Katrina Damkoehler  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 21, 2025 5:56 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] White House demolition

Why in God's name is the entire east wing of the White House being demolished?! Did you give permission for this? This is unacceptable!

Signed, a deeply concerned and dismayed American

**From:** Kathryn McCluskey

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:10 PM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] To the Chairman: Subject: Concern Regarding White House East Wing Ballroom Project

Dear Chairperson Goodmann,

I am writing as a concerned citizen to express my deep disappointment regarding the ongoing demolition and proposed construction of a new ballroom within the White House East Wing. As you know, the White House is a designated National Historic Landmark — a symbol not just of government, but of American heritage.

I am troubled that this project appears to have advanced **without full public review or formal approval** through the Commission's established planning and preservation processes. I respectfully request that the NCPC ensure that any construction or alteration on the White House grounds undergoes proper scrutiny under the National Historic Preservation Act and related federal statutes.

The American people deserve transparency and accountability in how our most historic public buildings are modified. Please ensure that this project is paused pending a complete and public review.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to protecting the architectural and historic integrity of our nation's capital.

Sincerely,

**Kathryn McCluskey**

Mint Hill, North Carolina

**From:** Kathy Knowles

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 21, 2025 11:02 PM

**To:** [REDACTED] NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] Demolition of the East Wing of the White House

October 21, 2025

National Capital Planning Commission

401 9th Street NW #500N

Washington, D.C. 20004

Clark Construction Group

7500 Old Georgetown Road, Suite 200

Bethesda, MD 20814

AECOM

13355 Noel Road #400

Dallas, TX 75240

McCrery Architects

Washington, D.C.

By email and website contact portals

Dear NCPC, Clark Construction Group, AECOM, and McCrery Architects:

I am writing to **demand an immediate pause on all demolition and construction** currently underway at the White House until all proper, traditional, and customary review, procedures and approvals have been completed, obtained, and shared with the public.

My understanding is this process includes (1) approval by the Office of the Curator and the White House Facilities Management Division, (2) historical review and approval by the National Park Service of all alterations for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, (3) consultation by NPS with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the D.C. State Historic Preservation Office, (4) NPS evaluation and approval of design, planning and environmental impacts under the National Environmental Policy Act, including time and opportunity for public comment and review, (5) evaluation and approval by the Commission of Fine Arts, and (6) final authorization, funding and scheduling by the OMB.

My understanding is that every administration since the 1960s has followed this review structure. It is a long-standing framework that has protected the White House from what we are seeing this week – unilateral, unaccountable, undemocratic major alterations to the people's historic home.

By bypassing every step of oversight, President Trump's demolition of the East Wing and construction of an outrageously expensive grand ballroom is sacrilege to our country's history and an affront to its people. From renderings I have seen, a proper and thorough design review would likely determine that the ballroom is inconsistent with the White House's architecture and overpowers the White House in height and volume – and thus, stature.

Symbolism matters. Historic preservation matters. What a disgrace.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Knowles  
Mill Valley, CA

Cc: Congressman Jared Huffman  
Senator Alex Padilla  
Senator Adam Schiff

**From:** Jennifer Graham

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 21, 2025 11:07 PM

**To:** info@jasmineforum.com

**Cc:** press@ocasiocortez.com; preservation@nthp.org; info@nps.gov; info@achp.gov; NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>; washingtonpost@washpost.com; uswashington@reuters.com; washington@nytimes.com

**Subject:** [External] URGENT — Stop demolition of White House East Wing NOW!!!

I am writing because demolition of the White House East Wing is already underway during a federal shutdown, without required public review or oversight. This is the People's House — federal property and a national historic landmark — and no president has the right to treat it like private real estate. Reports show demolition began before appropriate commission reviews, and preservation groups are calling for an immediate pause.

I ask your office to immediately:

1. Demand an emergency injunction and submit a request for immediate judicial review to halt all demolition and construction activities.
2. Open or request an immediate congressional investigation (oversight hearing) into whether laws and preservation protections are being bypassed.
3. Coordinate with the National Park Service, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, NCPC and the National Trust to enforce preservation law and transparency.

This is a national emergency for our national heritage. Please respond with what you will do in the next 24 hours.

Alexander D Graham

Limited Energy Technician

Summit Sound and Visuals LLC

**From:** Linda Gillam  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 22, 2025 4:12 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <[info@ncpc.gov](mailto:info@ncpc.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: White House Ballroom

Good Afternoon NCPC:

Have you reviewed the project before the Commission? I see that the East Wing has been demolished and several historical associations are expressing alarm about the design of this massive building. I cannot get any information from your website since the government is closed.

When you are back open, I look forward to seeing the justification for removing a wing of the White House.

Thank you,  
Linda Gillam

**From:** Linda Gillam [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 16, 2025 8:42 AM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <[info@ncpc.gov](mailto:info@ncpc.gov)>  
**Subject:** [External] White House Ballroom

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as a concerned citizen about the reported plans to build a massive addition to the White House without the required review by the NCPC as required by law. This is a landmark we all treasure, which was intended by our first President to be a humble symbol of our republic.

How will the law be enforced and is there an effective or public avenue for citizens to comment?

Thank you for your time,  
Linda Gillam  
Windsor, Colorado

**From:** Vanessa Chapin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 22, 2025 4:52 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Stop the destruction of the White House!

Thank you!

**From:** Joe Flood

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 22, 2025 5:40 PM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] illegal construction at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

I'm a DC resident and want to know what you're doing to keep us safe from the asbestos and lead that is potentially being released airborne by the destruction of the East Wing. It was built in 1942 so is full of the stuff.

Did anyone check for these dangerous substances? What kind of remediation, if any, was done? How will you prevent lead and asbestos from blowing into DC neighborhoods?

Joe

**Joe Flood**

**From:** idris.tellemier

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 22, 2025 6:35 PM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] The destruction being visited on our White House is abhorrent

How many of the workers do you think will contract asbestosis after the illegal, NON-PERMITTED destruction being allowed upon potentially the most important historic landmark in the United States?

I would very much like to think that the companies complicit in this horrible operation will pay whatever price is due. There must be legal punishment for this irreversible atrocity, and the work should be ceased immediately.

-----Original Message-----

From: Denise Munoz

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 7:23 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Destruction of the White House

The White House is a historical building and would be protected under your Historical association. The desecration that is currently occurring is most certainly illegal and certainly did not go through the proper channels in obtaining permits to destroy this building. Action must be taken immediately to stop this horrific atrocity to the peoples house.

Denise Munoz

Sent from my iPad

**From:** Jenny Goode  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 22, 2025 8:28 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] White House Demolition/Construction

Evening,

Please review and halt further East Wing demolition until a full planning and environmental review occurs.

Please. I can't bare to see what is happening to our White House.

Cordially,  
Jenny Goode

-----Original Message-----

From: Samantha Russell

Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 12:48 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>; publiccomments@ncpc.gov

Cc: planning@ncpc.gov

Subject: [External] Formal Notice of Objection to White House East Wing Demolition Without NCPC Approval

Importance: High

To the Chair and Commissioners:

I write to formally object to the reported demolition of the White House East Wing, now underway to facilitate the construction of a new ballroom, absent clear and completed NCPC approval.

Your Commission is legally charged under 40 U.S.C. § 8722 with the review and approval of all federal construction within the National Capital region. That mandate extends to the White House grounds. Proceeding with demolition prior to NCPC review of the full project violates both the spirit and letter of your statutory obligations.

I therefore demand that the NCPC immediately assert jurisdiction, issue a public statement of non-approval, and direct the cessation of all demolition and site alteration until the Commission's formal review and public hearing process are complete.

Failure to intervene now would set a dangerous precedent enabling executive circumvention of federal planning oversight.

Sincerely,  
Samantha Russell  
Palm Springs, CA

**From:** Mike Coutts

**Sent:** Thursday, October 23, 2025 3:17 PM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Cc:** publicaffairs@ncpc.gov

**Subject:** [External] Public Inquiry: Compliance and Oversight Concerning White House East Wing Alteration

Dear National Capital Planning Commission,

I am writing as a concerned citizen to request confirmation and clarification regarding reports that demolition work is occurring on the East Wing of the White House.

As you know, the White House grounds fall within the National Capital Region and are therefore typically subject to the Commission's planning and design oversight under 40 U.S.C. § 8722. The White House is also managed by the National Park Service under the Presidential Residence Act and protected by Executive Order 11593, which requires consultation with the Secretary of the Interior before altering historically significant federal properties.

Given the historic and national significance of the White House, I would appreciate confirmation of the following:

1. Whether the NCPC has received or reviewed any project submission related to demolition or alteration of the White House East Wing;
2. Whether environmental or design reviews have been initiated pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) or related planning statutes; and
3. Whether the Commission intends to issue a public statement or schedule a review session concerning this project.

I recognize that Section 107 of the National Historic Preservation Act provides certain exemptions for the Executive Office of the President; however, past administrations have consistently followed established preservation and review procedures through your Commission and the U.S.

Commission of Fine Arts.

I submit this request in the spirit of transparency and public stewardship. Please confirm whether any such review has occurred or is planned, and if not, whether NCPC has jurisdictional authority or advisory standing in this matter.

Thank you for your time and your ongoing work to protect the integrity of our nation's most significant landmarks.

Respectfully,  
Michael Coutts  
Fort Mill, SC

**From:** Ken Klein

**Sent:** Thursday, October 23, 2025 5:05 PM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] This statute applicable.

## **CRIMINAL RESOURCE MANUAL**

### **CRM 1500-1999**

#### **1666. Destruction Of Government Property -- 18 U.S.C. § 1361**

Section 1361 protects "any property" of the United States or an agency or department thereof, or any property being manufactured or constructed for the United States or an agency or department thereof, from willful depredation or attempted depredation. "Depredation" has been characterized as the act of plundering, robbing, pillaging or laying waste. *United States v. Jenkins*, 554 F.2d 783, 786 (6th Cir. 1977); *cf. Deal v. United States*, 274 U.S. 277, 283 (1927) ("depredation" defined in context of postal statute). This section prohibits actual physical damage or destruction of both real and personal property, but mere adverse possession of that property without physical harm is insufficient to violate the law. *United States v. Jenkins, supra*, 554 F.2d at 785. Section 1361 is a specific intent crime, *see United States v. Jones*, 607 F.2d 269, 273-74 (9th Cir. 1979), *cert. denied*, 444 U.S. 1085 (1980), and the government must prove that the defendant acted willfully; that is intentionally, with knowledge that he/she is violating a law. *United States v. Simpson*, 460 F.2d 515, 518 (9th Cir. 1972); *United States v. Moylan*, 417 F.2d 1002, 1004 (4th Cir. 1969), *cert. denied*, 397 U.S. 910 (1970). The government is not required to prove that defendant knew the property belonged to the government, because government ownership is "merely a 'jurisdictional fact'." *United States v. LaPorta*, 46 F.3d 152, 158 (2d Cir. 1994), *quoting United States v. Feola*, 420 U.S. 671 (1975). In fact, title or possession by the United States is not a necessary element of this offense, if the property in question was being made for the United States. The government must present evidence establishing value of damage. *United States v. Seaman*, 18 F.3d 649, 651 (9th Cir. 1994). The penalties for violations of this section are tied to the extent of the property damage. As amended on September 13, 1994, if the damage exceeds \$100, the defendant is subject to a fine of up to \$250,000, ten years imprisonment, or both. *See Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994*, Pub. L. 103-322, § 330016, 108 Stat. 1796, 2146-47 (1994). When property damage does not exceed \$100, the offense is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$100,000, one year imprisonment, or both. *See 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559(a), 3571.*

[cited in [JM 9-66.500](#)]

He could have carefully preserved sections of the East Wing. An injunction. Should be sought to prevent further "work" until plans approved by relevant boards such as hour. I realize your work suspended during the shutdown. The British acted more responsibly in 1814.

**From:** Tim Malloy <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 24, 2025 1:12 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Formal Complaint and Request for Review – White House Ballroom Project

Dear Mr. Acosta –

Attached is a letter concerning the demolition of the White House East Wing and the proposed ballroom construction. I urge the Commission to initiate a full review of planning, design, and preservation compliance for any future construction on this site and to ensure the public’s voice is represented in this process.

Thank you for considering this urgent matter affecting the integrity of our nation’s most visible landmark.

Respectfully,  
Tim Malloy



**Tim Malloy, Principal**  
Glenwood Springs, CO

**From:** R Freeman-Ricketts  
**Sent:** Friday, October 24, 2025 3:36 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] White House East Wing Demolition

To whom it may concern,

It is my understanding that no prior approval by the NCPC for the demolition of the East Wing of the White House was provided. This is a tragedy for the United States!

President Trump is not a permanent resident. He is not the “sole owner”. All Americans are supposed to have a say through the agencies we pay taxes for to direct what can and cannot be done to our building. Please do something! Make Trump pay!

Sincerely  
Regina Freeman-Ricketts

**From:** Burt Simpson  
**Sent:** Friday, October 24, 2025 7:50 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] East Wing Replacement

This is not the most significant of Trump's innumerable abuses of power, but it's the one closest to my area of knowledge.

Moot now, but does anyone know if there were any architectural elements in the just demolished existing east wing that may have been worth saying? Given that I believe they were work spaces as opposed to reception spaces I suspect not, but it would have been nice to have had the opportunity to do a complete survey to be sure. Even the doors and hardware that could have been easily taken off of their hinges may have been of interest to some. If nothing else, they could have been sold or given as souvenirs to his cronies.

Would like to see a site plan of the whole 18 acre property with the proposed one overlaid on the one that was just demolished for comparison purposes. He wants it to accommodate 1000 attendees, and there'll be servers and other staff above that.

Guessing 1000 people would arrive in 750 cars. Many will have plus ones, but some may not. Yes, most or all may have drivers, but where are all of these cars going to go while their passengers are at the event? Could parking be put under it, although concerns with bombs would likely preclude this.

Concern regarding its scale is founded. The footprint is what it is, but the height could be lessened if it were to be lowered into the ground a bit.

Is anyone going to have the opportunity to check that it meets D.C. or other applicable building codes. It needs a suitable kitchen because, presumably, there may be state dinners, as well as as sufficient restrooms, coat room, storage for tables and chairs, etc.

Is there going to be any opportunity to perform foundation, electrical, plumbing and other such construction inspections? This is automatic for buildings everywhere.

Trump is like an ostrich with his head in the sand with respect to sustainability. This will be a large flat roofed structure. To not prep it for the possibility of solar would be reprehensible. That means making sure the roof can support the weight of collectors, suitable wiring is run up to the roof where it'll be accessible, etc.

That's most of what I can think of, but, despite my best efforts, I may not have caught everything. I would appreciate a response, although I expect I'll have to wait until the government reopens. But what happens if it's an exceedingly long closure and this project has significantly proceeded before it reopens? Waiting until then to respond to me is one thing, but waiting until then to act on this in any manner, shape or form would be dereliction of duty. I don't care what pressures you're under, and I'm sure they're significant.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Burt Ray Simpson

**From:** NCPC System

**Sent:** Saturday, October 25, 2025 7:36 PM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** Website comment from Megan Weld

I am sickened by the assault on the White House that has CLEARLY been done without the prior authorizations. Please - I beg of you - somebody stop him before he destroys everything.

**From:** Mark Longren

**Sent:** Sunday, October 26, 2025 2:38 AM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] White House East Wing

SHAME SHAME SHAME

**From:**

**Sent:** Sunday, October 26, 2025 3:39 PM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] Concern Regarding White House East Wing Demolition and Potential Unmarked Burial Sites

For: National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing as a concerned citizen regarding the ongoing demolition of the White House East Wing. Given the long and complex history of the White House grounds and surrounding area, I am deeply concerned about the possibility that unmarked burial sites — including those of enslaved or free African Americans who labored in or around early Washington, D.C. — may exist within or near the current construction footprint.

As you know, unmarked burial grounds of enslaved individuals are not uncommon across the District and the broader region. In recent years, numerous such sites have been rediscovered during development projects. I respectfully ask whether the responsible agencies have taken steps to ensure that proper archaeological assessments, monitoring, and contingency plans (“Unanticipated Discoveries Plans”) are in place for the East Wing project.

Specifically, I would appreciate clarification on:

1. Whether Section 106 review under the National Historic Preservation Act has been initiated or completed for the current project.
2. Whether the project includes archaeological surveying or monitoring requirements, and if so, under which agency’s oversight.
3. What procedures would be followed if human remains or cultural materials are discovered during demolition or subsequent construction.

My concern is rooted in the need for respectful treatment of all human remains and adherence to historic preservation and consultation standards. Transparency on these points would help reassure the public that federal preservation and cultural-resource obligations are being met.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter and for your ongoing work protecting our nation’s cultural heritage. I would appreciate a written response or guidance on where to obtain the relevant review documents or environmental assessments.

Sincerely,

John C. Duckett

Queens, NY

**From:** Mary Murphy

**Sent:** Sunday, October 26, 2025 4:00 PM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] White House demolition

To whom it may concern,

Was the White House East Wing demolition approved by the NCPC?

**From:** C M

**Sent:** Sunday, October 26, 2025 9:39 PM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] Formal Inquiry Regarding NCPC Review and Oversight of the White House East Wing Demolition

Dear Chairperson and Commissioners,

I am writing to you as a Concerned citizen to express profound concern regarding the recent demolition of the White House East Wing.

The White House and its surrounding grounds are arguably the most significant historic and cultural resource in our nation. The East Wing itself, while having undergone modifications, is an integral part of this protected complex, with deep historical associations.

Given the NCPC's clear mandate under the National Capital Planning Act to "protect and enhance the extraordinary historical, cultural, and natural resources of the national capital," I am formally requesting information on the Commission's oversight and actions related to this demolition.

Specifically, I request a formal response to the following questions:

1. **NCPC Review:** Was the project involving the demolition of the East Wing submitted to the NCPC for review, as would be expected for a project of this magnitude affecting the White House campus?
2. **Section 106 Consultation:** What role did the NCPC play in the consultation process under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act?
3. **Commission Action:** What specific recommendations or actions did the Commission take regarding the proposal? Were findings of "adverse effect" or "no adverse effect" presented to the Commission?
4. **Public Documentation:** I request copies of all public records related to this project, including but not limited to:
  - Submission materials from the applicant agency (e.g., U.S. Secret Service, National Park Service, or Executive Office of the President).
  - NCPC staff reports and analyses.
  - Minutes of any public meetings where this project was discussed.
  - All formal correspondence between the NCPC and the applicant agency regarding this matter.

The destruction of any part of the White House complex is a matter of grave public concern. Transparency regarding the federal oversight process is essential to maintaining public trust.

I look forward to your prompt and detailed response.

Sincerely,  
Carlo Morin  
Merced, CA

**From:** NCPC System

**Sent:** Sunday, October 26, 2025 11:17 PM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** Website comment from Sara

Dear National Capital Planning Committee,

What are you planning to do about the destruction of the east wing of the White House - America's House - without prior approval, authorization, or permits? What punishments will you seek for those who destroyed such a major historic building that belongs to the People of this country? How will you seek reparations and fix what this administration has done to the architectural history of Washington D.C. without your approval and while you were "closed" during the shutdown?

In short, how will you acknowledge this travesty, and respond to your fellow Americans and the nation you serve?

Regards,

Sara A. McGuire, PhD

**From:** Sarah Morton-Erasmus  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2025 10:16 AM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Shame on you!

Is there really no oversight to demolish our White House? What's this commission for if not to protect our capital from raving lunatics and egomaniacs whose self serving agenda demolishes not only our landmarks but our democracy too.



Sarah Morton-Erasmus  
Metalsmith | Designer | Proprietor

**From:** Angelina Galinsky

**Sent:** Sunday, October 26, 2025 9:46 PM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>; info@savingplaces.org

**Subject:** [External] Outrage Over East Wing Demolition and Vanity Ballroom Project

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my deep outrage over the **complete demolition of the East Wing of the White House** and the proposed construction of a **90,000-square-foot ballroom** — a project that is historically reckless, architecturally disruptive, and morally indefensible.

This new structure would be nearly **twice the size of the White House itself**, obliterating the natural balance and symbolism of one of our nation's most sacred civic spaces. It is not a public necessity — it is a monument to personal vanity.

President Trump **lied** when he claimed the East Wing would not be demolished. The entire structure has now been razed, and this has been done **without proper review or approval** from the National Capital Planning Commission or the Committee for the Preservation of the White House — protocols that **every other administration has respected** when altering or constructing on White House grounds.

The **lack of transparency** is staggering. Construction workers have been forced to sign **non-disclosure agreements**, and Treasury employees have reportedly been instructed **not to document the demolition**. This is not routine — it is a deliberate attempt to conceal the destruction of a national landmark from the very people who own it.

While the \$300 million construction tab is being covered by private donors, the **state dinners for nearly 1,000 guests** — which this ballroom is designed to host — will be funded by **taxpayers**. Based on historical estimates, such an event could cost **\$2 million to \$5 million per dinner**, depending on security, staffing, and production. That's money coming from the pockets of everyday Americans.

And what timing. This vanity project is unfolding while **millions of Americans face cuts to SNAP benefits**, lose access to affordable healthcare, and struggle under the weight of inflation that was promised to ease. Meanwhile, the **Department of Governmental Efficiency (DOGE)** has quietly slashed essential public services — including **veterans programs, housing assistance, community health initiatives, and transportation subsidies**. Thousands of **government employees have lost their jobs**, and the **dismantling of USAID** has harmed not only the poor it once served abroad, but also **American farmers** who relied on its partnerships and global outreach. These are real consequences for real people. And yet, the average American will **never set foot in this ballroom**. They are being asked to subsidize a gilded playground for wealthy donors and political elites — a place to hobnob like aristocracy while the rest of us endure modern serfdom.

This is not preservation. This is not patriotism. This is a desecration of public trust.

I urge you to:

- Demand an immediate halt to the demolition and construction
- Launch a full investigation into the approval process and transparency violations
- Ensure that future changes to the White House are subject to public review and historical oversight

The White House belongs to the American people. It is not a personal estate. It is not a donor-funded banquet hall. It is a symbol of democracy — and it must be protected.

Sincerely,  
Angelina Galinsky  
Vermilion, Ohio

-----Original Message-----

From: Daniel P. B. Smith

Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 8:54 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Why aren't you yelling and screaming about the East Wing demolition?

You may or may not have the authority to do anything about the demolition, but you have the bully pulpit to SAY something about it. Why aren't you?

Can't you at least do something to verify that the interior contents were cataloged and preserved?

**From:** Bob Gordon  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 12:14 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Planned White House Ballroom

I am writing in regard to my concern over Donald Trump's planned ballroom on the grounds of the White House.

All articles I have read (except one) state that the ballroom will be 90,000 square feet. The July 31 announcement of Donald Trump, through The White House, states that the ballroom will be 90,000 square feet, and he has repeatedly and recently confirmed 90,000 square feet. Being a ballroom, this must be of one floor. Thus, the structure's footprint is 90,000 square feet. (One article suggests that 90,000 square feet may be the total square footage of a three story structure with the ballroom being 25,000 square feet.)

Our Constitution begins, "We the people." In his Gettysburg Address, Abraham Lincoln exhorted that we must be resolved "that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the face of the earth." The White House, initially constructed 1792 - 1800, is a historical and present physical and architectural symbol of the people's Constitution and government and is popularly and rightly known as "The People's House." The White House's preeminence in this regard must be protected, maintained, preserved, and perpetuated.

Prior to the surprise destruction of the East Wing, the people had not had any say, and they still have not had any solicited or formal say, about the planned ballroom structure.

The White House is reported to comprise 55,000 square feet. However, as I understand, this is cumulative of six floors. Another way to view the size of The White House is that it has a footprint of 168 feet by 85.5 feet or 14,364 square feet (without the porticos) and it has a height that varies from 50.33 feet to 70 feet.

The East Room, which has served as the ballroom and for other events, is 80 feet by 37 feet or 2,960 square feet and has an interior height of 22 feet.

The size and extravagance of the ballroom as planned is/would be violative and destructive of the preeminence of the symbolic meaning of The White House, as well as the architectural character of The White House Complex, together with its grounds.

I do not question the benefit of a larger ballroom or events space on The White House grounds and connected to The White House by a colonnade, or similar structure, as connected the East Wing to The White House. However, that ballroom or event space structure should not have more than a total 7,182 square feet footprint, one-half the footprint of The White House (and almost 2.5 times the square footage of the East Room), and the overall (exterior) height of the structure should be no more than 45 feet. Further, the structure should architecturally support the preeminence of The White House.

I ask that the NCPC act to protect, maintain, preserve, and perpetuate the preeminent historical, physical, and symbolic character of The White House, as well as the architectural character of The White House Complex, together with its grounds, by limiting the ballroom as stated above.

I appreciate your consideration.

Robert T. Gordon, Jr.  
Jackson, Mississippi

**From:** Robin Spicher

**Sent:** Friday, October 31, 2025 2:56 PM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External]

Concerning the Whitehouse wing teardown and proposed(?) ballroom.

No construction without prior public input and approval. No secret donors; complete transparency on the funding.

We the people need to know who's enabling this outrage.

"Stop the ballroom"

**From:** Rachel Aronoff

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 4, 2025 1:24 AM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] The People's House !! - Formal Complaint and Safety Concerns for the Ballroom Project

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to lodge a formal complaint regarding the White House Ballroom Project and the blatant lack of transparency surrounding its approval and implementation. This project was rushed through without proper public consultation, environmental or historical review, or sufficient disclosure of its scope and funding sources. Such an opaque process deeply undermines public trust in the integrity of the National Capital Planning Commission's oversight role.

The lack of permissions or oversight means many may have extra health concerns after the rushed destruction of the East Wing, in particular due to asbestos exposure. Appropriate safety measures require forethought and planning, of course; and contamination of the entire area should be mitigated.

I send this note to add to demands that the NCPC immediately halt all further work on the White House Ballroom Project until a comprehensive and transparent review is conducted. The public deserves to understand who actually authorized this project, why it was expedited, and how it aligns with established planning and preservation standards. The absence of open deliberation and accountability is unacceptable.

What specific steps will the Commission take to rectify these procedural failures, enforce transparency, and hold responsible parties accountable? We expect a prompt and detailed response outlining your intended actions to restore integrity to this process.

Sincerely,

Rachel Aronoff  
California voter

**From:** Kathleen Morin  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 5:52 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] STOP GOLDEN EPSTEIN BALLROOM

November 6, 2025

**To:** National Capital Planning Commission  
401 9th Street, NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20004  
[info@ncpc.gov](mailto:info@ncpc.gov)

**Subject:** Formal Opposition to the Trump Golden Ballroom Project

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my deep concern and strong opposition to the proposed construction of the Trump Golden Ballroom on the White House grounds. This project, reportedly costing \$350+ million and spanning 90,000 square feet, has already resulted in the demolition of the historic East Wing—an act carried out without prior approval from Congress or your Commission. Every single one of these donors . . . HAS ISSUES BEFORE OUR COURTS – this is a PAY FOR PLAY trump scam . . . AGAIN.

As of now, this Golden Ballroom is known as the EPSTEIN DANCE HALL PALACE throughout America and I doubt that stigma will ever change and will be referred to as pedophile palace for eternity. An honor for a convicted pedophile, “best friend of trump for 10 years” while they are alleged to have forced minors into unpleasant situations is truly disgusting. These are little girls they abused, not women and the evidence has only started to come out.

Please STOP any and all building plans. Trump does not OWN my White House and for him to destroy my East Wing was criminal. Noticed how he tried for as long as possible to keep it quiet. Never mind Jackie Kennedy’s Rose Garden and the trees for Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt. WE CAN NEVER GET THOSE BACK. Don’t let trump build the golden ballroom and then force us to live with this shame. Our White House is NOT a frat party – it is a place to conduct the Nation’s business.

The National Capital Planning Commission exists to preserve and enhance the historical, cultural, and natural resources of our nation’s capital. The unauthorized destruction of the East Wing—a structure with significant historical and architectural value—represents a blatant disregard for these principles. It also undermines the transparency and accountability that should govern federal construction projects.

While the White House has stated it will “soon” submit plans for the ballroom to your Commission, the fact that demolition has already occurred raises serious questions about the integrity of the review process. The NCPC must not allow itself to be reduced to a ceremonial rubber stamp for projects that violate both procedural norms and public trust.

Furthermore, public sentiment is overwhelmingly opposed to this project. A recent poll found that 76% of Americans disapprove of the demolition and ballroom plans, with 65% strongly opposed.

This is not merely a matter of aesthetics—it is a matter of democratic process and respect for our shared heritage.

I urge the Commission to reject any plans for the Trump Golden Ballroom and to demand a full accounting of the legal and procedural breaches that have already occurred. The NCPD must stand firm in its role as a steward of the capital's integrity and ensure that future projects reflect the values of preservation, transparency, and civic responsibility.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,  
Thomas and Kathleen Morin  
Lemitar, New Mexico

**From:** K. Bushee

**Sent:** Saturday, October 25, 2025 3:52 AM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Cc:** Acosta, Marcel <marcel.acosta@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] Request for NCPC Review and Hold on White House Ballroom Project

Dear Mr. Acosta and Members of the Commission,

I am writing as a concerned citizen to respectfully urge the NCPC to **pause all construction related to the proposed White House ballroom** until full statutory and public review requirements are completed.

The demolition of the East Wing has already raised serious questions about process and oversight. Before any new structure proceeds, the public deserves transparency, proper design evaluation, and assurance that historic-preservation and planning laws have been fully observed.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for safeguarding the integrity of our nation's most historic site.

Sincerely,

Karen Bushee

White Bear Lake, MN

**From:** Catherine M

**Sent:** Saturday, October 25, 2025 12:12 AM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] REPORT OF UNREVIEWED DEMOLITION OF WHITE HOUSE EAST WING - LEAD PAINT AND ASBESTOS EXPOSURE

**Subject: REPORT OF UNREVIEWED DEMOLITION: White House East Wing Proceeding During NCPC Shutdown**

To the National Capital Planning Commission,

This is an urgent notification regarding the unreviewed and ongoing demolition of the White House East Wing structure (a National Historic Landmark within President's Park).

The demolition is proceeding while the NCPC is closed due to the federal government shutdown, allowing the work to be conducted without the Commission's mandatory review and approval, a violation of the established process for major alterations to federal property in the National Capital Region.

1. **Project Location:** White House East Wing, President's Park, Washington D.C.
2. **Activity:** Demolition of interior and exterior elements, including the removal of structural components of the 1902 and 1942 structures.
3. **Procedural Violation:** We request confirmation that the necessary **Concept and Final Review Submissions** for the demolition and subsequent replacement construction were *not* processed and approved by the NCPC prior to the commencement of this work.
4. **Action Requested:** We urge the Commission, upon reopening, to launch an immediate inquiry and demand a **Stop Work Order** pending the required full review of the project's scope, design, and adherence to the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital.

Thank you for documenting this significant procedural failure.

Catherine Markusen, Tallahassee FL

**From:** Brad A

**Sent:** Saturday, October 25, 2025 12:02 PM

**To:** John\_Stanwich@nps.gov; Jaime\_Boyle@nps.gov; NPS\_TPS@nps.gov; NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>; achp@achp.gov; cfastaff@cfa.gov; info@savingplaces.org; pr@savingplaces.org

**Cc:** Brad Abrams [REDACTED]

**Subject:** [External] Formal Demand for Investigation and Accountability for the White House East Wing Demolition During Shutdown

Dear Officials of the National Park Service, National Capital Planning Commission, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Commission of Fine Arts, and National Trust for Historic Preservation,

I am writing as a private citizen of the United States to **formally demand immediate investigation and accountability** for the complete demolition of the White House East Wing, which occurred during the ongoing federal government shutdown.

Like many Americans, I am outraged and heartbroken that such an act could take place at all, especially at a time when the very agencies responsible for protecting this landmark are hindered by the shutdown. The White House is not private property. It is the People's House, a publicly owned national landmark under the stewardship of the National Park Service and subject to federal preservation laws. Its destruction without public notice or lawful oversight is a betrayal of history, heritage, and the public trust.

Credible reporting from PBS and Reuters confirms that the East Wing has already been demolished to make way for a three hundred million dollar ballroom project. PBS noted widespread condemnation from historians and preservationists, while Reuters detailed how quickly and quietly the demolition took place. The timing of this act, during a period when government operations are restricted, appears designed to avoid public accountability and to bypass the review processes that normally safeguard our national heritage.

I want to be clear that my frustration is not directed toward your agencies or the individuals working within them. I understand that many of you likely share this same outrage and sense of loss. My intent is to stand with you and with the American people in demanding answers and ensuring that those responsible for this action are held accountable under federal law.

To that end, I am demanding the following:

1. A coordinated federal investigation into how and by whom the East Wing demolition was authorized and executed during the government shutdown.
2. Immediate public release of all relevant documents, including approvals, permits, contracts, communications, and preservation assessments.
3. A joint public statement from your agencies confirming what oversight processes were bypassed and what steps will be taken to prevent future unauthorized actions.
4. Referral of this matter to the Department of Justice or the appropriate inspector general if violations of law or preservation policy are found.
5. A transparent plan for restoration, accountability, and continued protection of the White House complex with full public visibility.

The White House belongs to every American citizen, and its protection must never depend on who occupies it. Its destruction during a government shutdown is an unacceptable breach of the public trust.

I have already submitted **formal complaints and demands for action** to both of my U.S. Senators and my Congressional Representative. I am now calling on each of your offices to do the same within your areas of responsibility. This cannot be ignored or allowed to pass without full transparency and public accountability.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the preservation of our nation's landmarks, especially in such difficult circumstances. I ask that this message be acknowledged and that I receive a written response outlining what steps your offices intend to take.

Sincerely,  
J. Brad Abrams  
Columbia, South Carolina

 **References:**

- PBS: [The East Wing of the White House Has Been Demolished – Here's a Look at Its History](#)
- Reuters: [White House East Wing Will Be Torn Down Fully to Make Way for Trump Ballroom](#)

**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2025 6:07 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** Website comment from Harrison Goodall

Commission,

According to national news Donald Trump ordered the destruction of a major portion of the White House and has endorsed the construction of a ballroom adjacent to the remaining Whitehouse.

How can this be? How can one of the more significant structures in Washington and for the country be demolished? I have read the mission of your commission and clearly cannot understand how the East Wing has been allowed to be demolished and a total out of context ballroom allowed to be approved for construction. It is a violation of your mission, the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Historic Preservation, and common sense. This ILLEGAL action must be stopped immediately.

If allowed to continue it makes absolute mockery to my 50+ years as a preservation specialist helping owners of historic structures preserve their heritage for the future..... and a mockery of your Commission, all the State Historic Preservation Officers, professionals in Historic Preservation and owners of heritage buildings.

Stop further action and disallow a stupid warehouse for rich people to celebrate their wealth. Clearly, this is not a way to run a hot dog stand.

Note: I'm awaiting replies to previous correspondence .

Dr. Harrison Goodall

From: Harrison Goodall  
Sent: Sunday, November 23, 2025 3:45 PM  
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
Subject: [External] Illegal demolition of the East Wing of the White House

Capitol Commission

The East Wing of the White House was a national heritage treasure and has illegally been demolished. Require that it be reconstructed back to its original appearance and do not allow for the construction of a stupid ballroom to favor the rich.

IT IS UNAMERICAN AND ILLEGAL. You have the authority to uphold our historic building laws.

Harrison  
From iPad

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 26, 2025 8:32 AM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** Written Comments

aurelia phillips Comments  
Name: aurelia phillips

select project? the ballroom was not listed. A basic tenant of architecture is not to build an addition that overshadows the main building. This "project", without prior approval, is - obscene. The White House is the PEOPLE'S house. Not the president's. I implore to exercise judgment. This "president" is out of control in every facet of our government. He does what he wants because No One is stopping him. I only hope some courage to do the right thing will occur in your December 4th meeting.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

**From:** NCPC System

**Sent:** Monday, December 1, 2025 5:25 PM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** Website comment from Donna Smith

I am sick that Trump has torn down the East Wing of the People's House, our house, and plans to build a monstrosity ballroom funded by not " We the People" but by corrupt, out of touch, unaccountable to anyone, billionaires. It is beyond sickening. This is so anti American. We must stop it.

My question, will you stop it? Please?

**Sent:** Thursday, December 4, 2025 2:37 AM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** Website comment from Burt Ray Simpson

May have sent you something already regarding the ballroom replacement for the East Wing of the White House, however something important has recently occurred to me. Has Trump been made to put up a performance bond to insure completion of the project? If not, why not? Let's say there's a blue tsunami in 2026 with him being impeached by the House and convicted by the Senate resulting in him being removed from office. Ignoring the fact that proper planning for it wasn't done and permits weren't sought or provided, what's the likelihood that he would then continue the project or other circumstances may cause him to lose interest in completing it. Believe I heard that the architect may have pulled back from the project which means we may no longer have the benefit of their technical and professional expertise which doesn't bode well for the quality of the resulting structure. His reputation for cutting corners doesn't instill confidence, either.

**Sent:** Thursday, December 4, 2025 2:48 AM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** Website comment from Burt Ray Simpson

Ballroom part 2. He's claimed to have raised large amounts to fund it, although his having done so may be questionable with respect to what he's given them in exchange for it. Regardless, let him put it all where it's accessible to us if we need it to be.

**Sent:** Thursday, December 4, 2025 2:57 AM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** Website comment from Burt Ray Simpson

To my first part on the ballroom after proper planning would like to add and review.

**From:** Brian Wurst  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 4, 2025 6:08 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] NCPC Committee Architects  
To Whom It May Concern.

I see no indication of registered architects on the committee, nor the names of individuals or firms slated to advise said committee regarding architectural projects put forth. Please advise if there are architects or firms – if so who?, and if my suspicions are correct – why aren't there any architects set to advise regarding projects up for review?

Brian T. Wurst, FAIA emeritus  
lead pencil crusher

From: David Peterson  
Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2025 11:53 AM  
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
Subject: [External] White House

I have been following the work on the New Whitehouse Ballroom with great distress.

The size and scope of the 90,000 sq ft structure will dwarf the White House. This needs to be down sized and your commission should speak up now based on preliminary plans. Why wait for the formal plans and not give input now as to an appropriate size to complement the existing White House.

You have an awesome responsibility that will be tested soon. I hope you are up to the challenge.

Dave Peterson .....¿<º))))><  
Brewster MA

From: Lisa Lee  
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2025 9:33 PM  
To: inquiries@sbaranes.com  
Cc: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>; BoardofDirectors@aia.org;  
info@savingplaces.org  
Subject: [External] White House

Dear Shalom Baranes Associates,

The East Wing was torn down at the whim of an immature narcissist in a fit of pique. A tantrum and his endless need for self-aggrandizement led to the destruction of a portion of the people's house, a building that is part of the federal government.

The overweening, monstrously scaled ballroom that the current president craves defies any design principles that should be part of the creation of an addition or alteration to a building as important and symbolic as the home of the leader of the United States — the federal government building that houses the functions of the executive branch as it operates in conjunction with its legislative and judicial partners. As such it is not the property of or under the sole control of any current occupant of White House.

I am beyond confident that the entire leadership team of Shalom Baranes Associates knows this.

I am asking, as an American citizen whose house you have been retained to alter, that you follow all the many and varied required review processes whether they be set by statute or precedent. There are many for a project of this importance. They are ALL important and valid.

Your actions will be noticed, your decisions will be remembered. The eyes of the owners of the house — American citizens both in this moment and in the future — are on this project, this process, and your involvement.

We are all your clients. And we have established the process for the actions and decisions which are appropriate for you to follow.  
I respectfully ask that you do so.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Lee  
Stockton, CA

**From:** Alice Yates

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 17, 2025 2:19 PM

**To:** inquiries@sbaranes.com

**Cc:** cfastaff@cfa.gov; NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>;  
ncr\_whho\_superintendent@nps.gov

**Subject:** [External] Inquiry Regarding White House Ballroom Design and Compliance

Dear Mr. Baranes,

I am an architect with over 40 years of experience in federal, civic, higher-education and correctional facilities, including ten years as a Senior Project Manager for the Texas A&M University System.

I am respectfully requesting clarification on the current design status of the proposed White House ballroom and whether pending reviews or legal actions affect the availability of detailed plans?

Given the limited publicly available documentation, I request clarification and specifically, confirmation regarding the following:

- Code compliance – experience clearly shows Code Compliance begins at the design phase. Will the facility comply with all applicable building codes? Will the local Fire Department review and approve compliance with NFPA 101, specifically for adequate emergency egress?
- Accessibility – will ADA/ABA full compliance be achieved throughout the ballroom? Will the new underground Bunker be accessible as well?
- Public accommodation – specifically occupant load and adequacy of restroom facilities. Will the authority having jurisdiction verify sufficient plumbing calculations for the design occupant load?
- Oversight and review process – will all required reviews be documented, and will any variances or exemptions which are granted be recorded? Most certainly, with your years of experience you know how tedious the review and compliance process can be, but essential for life safety and in this age of litigiousness, imperative for liability protection.

Thank you in advance for your response to my inquiry.

I respectfully request this correspondence be included in the official project administrative record.

Sincerely,  
Alice Yates

**From:** Meg Noah

**Sent:** Thursday, December 18, 2025 3:16 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]info@savingplaces.org; jrocchi@savingplaces.org; pr@savingplaces.org; NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] Re: Ballroom site, symmetry, and security

To preserve Federalist symmetry and Neoclassical design as well as improve security:

- Plan the Ballroom at the First Infantry Division Monument site, moving the access road to 17th Street closer to the Eisenhower Executive Office building to provide a bigger footprint for it. Keep the ballroom compact, single-focused as an event space with kitchen and bathroom services.
- Connect the White House to the Ballroom via an underground tunnel walk.
- Build an East Wing for the upgraded office space, living quarters, and improved technology to have a symmetric scale and footprint to the West Wing.
- Plan an eco-garage at the General William Tecumseh Sherman Monument site, and move his statue to Pershing Park. The eco-garage should have scale to be symmetric (though perhaps smaller footprint) than the Ballroom.

This will solve everyone's problems, and make a safe egress for President and staff to the Ballroom. The Ballroom will be secure from weather and bad actors.

From: Zachary Assael  
Sent: Saturday, December 20, 2025 1:10 PM  
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
Subject: [External] January 8 agenda

To the National Capital Planning Commission, I'm writing to express my concerns on your agenda for January 8, 2026, file number 8733, East Wing Modernization. The Planning Commission should make it clear that the destruction of the East Wing is a crime. A president does not have the right to destroy our White House. The demolition of this building without the consent of Congress is a violation of the Property Clause of the Constitution, which reserves to Congress the right to dispose of and make all rules regarding property belonging to the United States.

Sincerely,  
Zachary Assael  
Selkirk, New York

**From:** Deb Schoenberg  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 20, 2025 1:50 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] white house ballroom

Good Day,

I recently saw a picture of the site for the future Trump Ballroom and noticed a crane is on site. This suggests that construction is underway and to date, there has been no design review of the proposal.

Since the White House is the People's House, not the President's private estate, I have to ask in all sincerity, that a stop construction order be initiated immediately so no further action can proceed without proper review and approval.

I trust your commission will do its proper oversight work and look after the public's interest.

Sincerely,

Deborah Schoenberg

**From:** Robert Miller  
**Sent:** Monday, December 22, 2025 10:59 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Re: Check out our 2025 Year in Review

What an embarrassment and disgrace to the once but NOT now respected NCPC of such a pathetic performance in 2025 in blind obedience to your Tyrant Trump, permitting the desecration of the White House and other national monuments and memorials in the Nation's Capital. SHAME.

**Sent:** Thursday, December 25, 2025 10:36 PM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** Website comment from Gary David

Please stop the president from building this terrible monster ballroom and make him rebuild the East wing. Otherwise, the next president will need to tear the ballroom down to make the Whitehouse look correct again.

**From:** Amber Bleadon

**Sent:** Friday, December 26, 2025 10:16 AM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] Please stop the ballroom!

Trump's ballroom epitomizes opulence and disrespect. It is not what this country stands for. Also, it is not HIS house! A 90k sqft ballroom that no one asked for is over the top, don't you think? Hasn't he hit his quota of the things he can remodel in the white house?

Please reign this project in.

Thanks,  
Amber Bleadon

**Sent:** Friday, December 26, 2025 10:55 AM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** Written Comments

Julie Mason Comments  
Name: Julie Mason

The destruction of the East Wing to build a presidential ballroom is reprehensible. It has opened the door to excessive corruption by the president and his billionaire backers through quid pro quo. It must be stopped.

**Sent:** Friday, December 26, 2025 11:26 AM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

David Jansing Comments  
Name: David Jansing

I think the president wants us all to forget who actually owns the White House. He had no right to remove so much as one brick from the East Wing without approval from the proper authorities, following established procedures. My opinion, for what it is worth, is that the East Wing should be restored to its original state at Mr. Trump's personal expense.

**From:** NCPC System  
**Sent:** Friday, December 26, 2025 12:37 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** Written Comments

Danny Bond Comments  
Name: Danny Bond

Trump should be put in his place. He is no dictator or king or any other figure that can simply tear down federal buildings without permission from congress. Who does he think he is?! Get him out and put someone responsible in charge. He is simply vindictive and is interested in making money for himself and inflicting pain on his opponents. Also his plans to litter the Washington area with praises to himself are totally in line with fascists ideals. I hope if his "things" get built that he will be alive and can see it all torn down after his departure. The most deserved blow to his ego!!!

Danny Bond

From: Greg Hall  
Sent: Friday, December 26, 2025 3:24 PM  
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
Subject: [External] White House Ballroom

I am very much in favor of upgrading the White House Ballroom! Regards, Greg Hall  
Sent from my iPhone

**Sent:** Friday, December 26, 2025 7:15 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** Written Comments

James Pulju Comments  
Name: James Pulju

I do not believe that a convicted rapist, convicted felon, tax cheat, child abuser, adulterer, narcissist, compulsive liar and serial fraudster should be allowed to damage historic public buildings.

**Sent:** Friday, December 26, 2025 9:02 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** Written Comments

Linda Barklind Comments  
Name: Linda Barklind

Ok. You've torn down the East Wing of our house, without our permission. Heavy sigh. So build a freakin' ballroom, but ONLY AS BIG AS THE (bludgeoned) EAST WING. Moron.

**From:** Patricia Reed  
**Sent:** Friday, December 26, 2025 11:32 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] new ballroom

As an 85 year old citizen who votes in every election, I am aghast that part of our White House has been torn down so that Donald Trump can build a ballroom to honor himself! I already refer to it as The Epstein-Trump Memorial Ballroom and I'm sure even worse names will surface if it is built. I'm hoping this committee will refuse to give permission for this project to move forward. There is no money to feed hungry school children or care for our homeless veterans to name just two issues needing attention but there is money for a ballroom which isn't needed. I don't for one minute believe it will be funded by donations from his friends. This is just another misuse of the taxpayer's money. And, just which American citizens will be invited to enjoy and use this new structure. We all know it will be only the mega rich and not any of our regular citizens of ordinary means.

Please, do not let this huge addition be built!!!

Respectfully,

Patricia Reed  
Orono, Maine

**Sent:** Saturday, December 27, 2025 1:29 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** Written Comments

Barry Schimpf Comments  
Name: Barry Schimpf

This man is destroying our White house and it is illegal. We have a convicted FELON destroying our Democracy.. Get him out of office

**Sent:** Saturday, December 27, 2025 6:38 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** Written Comments

Gil Jordan Comments  
Name: Gil Jordan

There is only one sane, reasonable action regarding the White House: Require that the East wing be rebuilt and restored to the pre-destruction condition. Do not, under any circumstances, allow Trump's obscene vanity ballroom project to proceed. Do not disrespect the American people and America's sacred traditions.

**Sent:** Sunday, December 28, 2025 11:41 AM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** Written Comments

Rosemary Verheyen Comments  
Name: Rosemary Verheyen

I am asking that, as plans for this massive ballroom, to replace our beautiful EastWing, is submitted and reviewed, that you take into consideration that this house belongs to the American people and WE did not choose to have any portion of it demolished and we certainly don't want what was beautiful and treasured replaced with a disproportionate, empty shell of a ballroom, eliminating offices for the first lady, rooms for special occasions with only a few hundred guests, special parties and gatherings, etc. One massive, disproportionate, and different styled ballroom will not serve our White House or the American people well. Please put a halt to all work until Americans have a chance to weigh in.

Thank you kindly  
Rosemary Verheyen

**From:** Susan Mundy

**Sent:** Friday, January 2, 2026 11:59 AM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] Whitehouse Ballroom

As a citizen of these United States I am writing to encourage the NCPC to reject Donald Trump's plan for the ballroom he claims the nation needs as a matter of National Security, a grander venue to hold state dinners and honor foreign dignitaries. The Whitehouse is the People's House, not the People's Palace.

Susan Mundy

**From:** NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 2, 2026 6:32 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** Written Comments

Joan Willoughby Comments

Name: Joan Willoughby

Project Name: Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements

Project Number: CP01

I cannot identify which project is the Trump ballroom on your list, however it is my understanding that you will be voting on this in January.

I am a US citizen and opposed to this project for the following reasons:

- The White House is the people's house. The people of the US did not ask for this, Donald Trump wants it. It is not an appropriate place for Donald Trump to memorialize himself.
- The gaudy, grandiose plans are not in line with what the White House is meant to be. It is the White HOUSE, not a castle. It would look completely out of place.
- Donald Trump has not acted in good faith regarding this project. If you approve this project it is highly unlikely that it will be delivered as presented.
- If Donald Trump must have a ballroom with his name on it then it makes far more sense to build it as a standalone somewhere else. There is no need for it to be built as an addition to the White House.

Thank you for taking my comments.

**From:** NCPC System  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 6, 2026 8:35 AM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** Written Comments

Samuel Combs, AIA, NCARB, Architect Comments  
Name: Samuel Combs, AIA, NCARB, Architect  
Project Name: Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements  
Project Number: CP01

Agenda No. 7A File No, 8733 East Wing Modernization Project  
(Information presentation; no action requested or taken)  
Presentation . . . . . NCPC Staff

We, the Undersigned Members of the American Architectural Historic Preservation Community have attached the two letters that we have sent to John McCrery, AIA and Shalom Baranes, FAIA, the first "ballroom" architect and then the second "ballroom" architect on the desecration of the East Wing of the People's House, the White House. We object to the illegal and immoral destruction of the East Wing by President Trump. We do find it amusing that you've entitled this subject as the "East Wing Modernization Project". You've totally destroyed the East Wing and now you call it a "Modernization Project". The following is a section of the letters that are attached:

1. The Trump administration has destroyed a significant portion of our country's most significant treasure by demolishing the historic East Wing of the White House. This was done with no public review and no consultation with bodies entrusted with the conservation and preservation of the District's historic assets, namely the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the US Commission of Fine Arts (CFA). Please note language of the legislation which created the NCPC:

"SEC. 2, (a) The National Capital Planning Commission, herein- after called the 'Commission', is hereby created and designated as the central planning agency for the Federal and District Governments to plan the appropriate and orderly development and redevelopment of the National Capital and the conservation of the important natural and historical features thereof. "

The NCPC was silent on the demolition of the historic "People's House". This was a dereliction of the duties entrusted to that body by the American public. It did so because the majority of the members of the Commission were replaced by President Trump with his own loyalists and three of his existing White House staff. Ex-officio members include Pete Hegseth, Secretary of War, and Doug Burgum, Secretary of the Interior, both Cabinet loyalists. Note that the NCPC hasn't met since July and there is no planned meeting until January 8, 2026. The CFA members have all been fired by the president though there is apparently a meeting scheduled for January 15, 2026.

[\(https://www.cfa.gov/\)](https://www.cfa.gov/)

Unless a condition of your commission to work on this project is the reconstruction of the East Wing in its original form along with the inclusion of any salvaged historical items from the demolition, you are complicit in the approval of its demolition.

2. The plan to build a structure that is twice the size of the White House Central Mansion and immediately adjacent to it will forever diminish its significance as one of the many important axial

focal points in Pierre Charles L'Enfant's plan for the District. Symmetry drives the effectiveness of the District's Plan. The White House itself respected and emphasized this symmetry with its own design. The size and scale of the West and (and now demolished) East Wings respected the Central Mansion and did not disrupt its significance as the focal point in the north/south axis from the Washington Monument.

The scale and location of the proposed ballroom creates an extreme imbalance of the White House. It would reduce the Mansion to the "tail wagging the dog". This is untenable and should be stopped.

The argument that there is a "need" for an enormous national ballroom, if it must be so, can be met elsewhere just as other public needs over recent decades have been fulfilled with museums and monuments that do not disrupt the District's magnificent plan but enhance and strengthen it.

3. We believe that no architect, whether they be Assoc. AIA, AIA, FAIA, RA or any architect worldwide should engage in what we believe is an illegal sole source commission. We believe it is improper and illegal to have the president award the most visible public building in the United States—the White House ballroom design through a sole source contract. The questionable action of soliciting donations from wealthy corporations and individuals to finance this out of scale, inappropriate ballroom is quid pro quo for those who donate. And, as a fellow architect to engage in a commission with the Trump administration which has demoted our profession to a non-profession, we request that you and any other architect refuse this commission. Let the hole that remains of what was once the historic East Wing of the "People's House" remain throughout the next 3 years of this current administration.

Mark I. Baum, AIA  
Brian Broadus, AIA  
Terry H. Brooks, Assoc. AIA  
George B. Bryant, Arch. (ret)  
Jeffrey Bumb, AIA  
Thomas Butt, FAIA  
Samuel Duff Combs, AIA  
Frank DiMella, AIA Emeritus  
Lee Gamelsky, AIA  
Robert Graham, AIA  
Thomas Gray, AIA  
Gene L. Greene, AIA  
Jack Hillbrand, AIA  
Ed Hodges, AIA  
Deborah Kander, RA  
Thomas Keeling, AIA  
Randy Krieie, AIA  
Robert C. Mack, FAIA  
James Malanaphy, AIA  
P. David Marshall, AIA  
Mark Nardini, AIA  
Nelson Breech Nave, AIA

Emily Reynolds, Assoc. AIA  
Annie Sauser, Assoc. AIA  
Lee Schwerin, AIA Emeritus  
Paul Scoville, AIA Emeritus  
Inda Sechzer, Assoc. AIA  
Peter Shaffer, AIA  
Robert Sotolongo, AIA  
Emeritus

**From:** Ulla Rupp-Crofton  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 6, 2026 1:52 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Ballroom

Sir/Madam,

I am against spending the peoples money for something that was good enough for other presidents!

Ulla Rupp Crofton  
Republican

**From:** Ron Nestor  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 8, 2026 3:00 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] East Wing Renovation

Attn Commissioners:

I was horrified to see the proposal for the Ballroom addition. As Commissioner Mendelson observed, this is just too big, overwhelming the historic Executive Mansion. In addition, the formal language mixing the pedimented portico and the extremely awkward use of arched windows of narrow spacing, is not at all consistent with the vocabulary of the White House. This abomination damages this important resource. The notion that a future West Wing second floor colonnade, proposed to remedy the damage that this project proposes is ridiculous. On the rendered elevations, for the long sides, there are ghosted porticos at the south ends of the proposal that are even more imposing, and the presentation effectively hid this.

I urge this Commission to reject this proposal and work to defeat it. A more modest reconstruction that would solve the access problems would be a better option.

Thank you for your attention.

Ron Nestor  
NOINDEXSTART  
Ron Nestor  
AIA, NCARB, LEED AP, Senior Principal  
Irvine, CA

-----Original Message-----

From: Diane Johnson-Quinn

Sent: Thursday, January 8, 2026 11:26 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] White House East Wing Demolition

A quick couple of questions about the demolition of the East Wing of the White House. First, given the age of the structure, did anyone test for asbestos prior to the demolition? Secondly, is it true that the rubble from the demolition was dumped at the public golf course on Haines Point? If the material contains as, what environmental hazard has been created by dumping the materials in the middle of a golf course?

Diane Johnson-Quinn

Woodbridge, Virginia

**From:** Elaine Cronin

**Sent:** Friday, January 9, 2026 9:23 AM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>; Thomas Luebke <tluebke@cfa.gov>; ncr\_whho\_superintendent@nps.gov

**Subject:** [External] Coordination needed

To Everyone Concerned

I think it is way past time for your voices to be raised in a coordinated effort, and in concert with others that could lend extra weight to your words. You are aware, of course, of the destruction of the Rose Garden and the East Wing, as well as plans for an enormous ballroom. You are surely aware that majority of Americans are against The People's House turning into an obscene facsimile of Mar-a-Largo.

Donald Trump has also announced plans to make the ballroom for which he bulldozed the East Wing of the White House even bigger. Despite a longstanding norm that additions to the White House have a lower profile than the main building, Jonathan Edwards and Dan Diamond of the *Washington Post* reported yesterday that Trump is now planning for his ballroom to be as tall as the White House. Trump's architect also said they are considering adding a one-story addition to the West Wing colonnade that runs alongside what used to be the Rose Garden. White House director of management and administration Josh Fisher also said that administration officials plan to renovate Lafayette Square, north of the White House.

Donald Trump does not own the White House or Washington, DC. I understand that multiple agencies oversee historic preservation. However, those agencies need to do more than throw up their hands. At the very least, have an OpEd or letter published in every major newspaper decrying Trump's actions, calling out those abetting him, and explaining what needs to happen to stop this.

As yet, we do NOT have a King, and we DO have a populace wanting to keep it that way.

Sincerely yours,

Elaine Cronin  
Massachusetts

-----Original Message-----

From: Constance Romo

Sent: Friday, January 9, 2026 2:11 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] The Ballroom

Not that it will matter because it looks like trump has control of this commission. Please DO NOT approve his ballroom. It sounds like it will be larger than the White House. He destroyed the East Wing without permission. He will only be here for 3 more years. This is not his permanent home. There are so many places to have his parties. He can have his parties at MiraLogo. He is destroying DC.

Connie Romo

-----Original Message-----

From: Linda Kranen

Sent: Friday, January 9, 2026 4:13 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] East Wing ballroom

You wowzers have your heads where the sun shineth not.

Number of Americans who want a huge gilt-smeared ballroom: One.

Number of Americans who don't want a huge ballroom, gilt-smeared or otherwise: 4.5 Million.

The purpose of a ballroom is so that One can blather incoherently at a captive audience and twist exponentially more arms at a time for bribes and kickbacks.

The purpose of the original smaller, more intimate East Wing space was to listen, something for which One lacks the intellectual capacity and inclination to absorb.

Slip your collars and run away. There's a malignant delusional arsonist holding the leash.

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary David

Sent: Saturday, January 17, 2026 3:59 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Trump's Ballroom

Please do not approve Trump's stupid ballroom that will dwarf the White House. The next president will just have to tear it down.

Gary David

Macedonia, OH 44056

**From:** Teryl Siegel  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 3, 2026 3:27 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] West Wing Colonnade

**As a citizen concerned with the preservation of our nation's historic context, I strongly oppose the proposed 90,000-square-foot White House ballroom and the 'upscaling' of the West Wing Colonnade.**

**The 1792 mansion's neoclassical balance is being destroyed by this project. I urge the Commission to reject the current 3D models and demand a significant reduction in height and mass. We cannot allow private 'gifts' to dictate the permanent destruction of our cultural landscape. Please use your authority to require a full Section 106-style review before any more work proceeds.**

Teryl J. Siegel  
Ashland, Oregon  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** Mary T Opie

**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2026 10:41 AM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] Defacing the White House

Enough is enough is enough is enough!

Please do your job. Put your big girl panties on and stand up to the bully. The sooner the better.

Please stop the bully from building monuments to himself and destroying the historical design of the People's House THE WHITE HOUSE . And all of our nation's capital, for that matter.

Please streamline this "project" before the bully destroys anything else.

Thank you.

Mary Opie

**From:** Daniel Jares  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2026 11:47 AM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] White House ballroom

It has been reported that the proposed new White House ballroom now being reviewed by you will be paid for by private funds. Assuming that is the case, I'd ask that such a project include the requirement of an endowment fund created to fund the addition going forward. Otherwise, future taxpayers will be saddled with the financial responsibility of paying for the upkeep, maintenance, etc. of this addition.

Peace,  
Dan Jares  
Lombard, IL

When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among must be treated as one of your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt.... Leviticus 19:33-34 NIV

Kings never seem able to silence the prophets for long. Walter Brueggemann (1933-2025) as quoted by Dong Hyeon Jeong in Sojourners

When we build ... let it not be for present delights nor for present use alone. Let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for, and let us think ... that a time is to come when these stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them, and that men [and women] will say as they look upon the labor, and the wrought substance of them, See! This our fathers [and mothers] did for us! John Ruskin

**From:** kenneth sampson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 3:51 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Letter for Honorable Acosta--Concern for Dismantling of White House Grounds

9 February 2026

Executive Director  
National Capital Planning Commission  
401 9<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Suite 500N  
Washington DC 20004

Dear Honorable Acosta,

I write out of concern for White House additions. The recent dismantling of the East Wing and current White House grounds beehive-construction-yard activity--complete with tower cranes and earthmovers--troubles me.

Ever since I visited Washington DC with my Dad and brother--flying from California to do so--when I was twelve, the White House has symbolized for me serenity, architectural grandeur and nobility. This dignity is under threat.

I recommend cessation of work, due to the following:

**Unity.** This "Trump Annex," once completed, will be a monument to the discord, friction, and disunity that characterize the current administration. The disdain for image-of-God presence in each person, and disrespect of too many citizens and friends of this great land, will be enshrined-in-granite due to our present White House inhabitant's callous and divisive nature. To me, it is sad.

In theological terms, this demoralizing disunity shreds "human dignity...despoils [and] wrecks integrity or wholeness...and strips away what holds...and joins [us] together in an atmosphere of hospitality, justice, and delight." (Not the Way It's Supposed to Be by Cornelius Plantinga, p. 32).

**Moral High Ground.** Our Commander in Chief's contempt for legal guard-rails and get-things-done bravado are embraced or tolerated by a good third of our Nation's citizenry. However, this is a bend-the-rules, truth-twisting, distortion-ringing regime. To embody and approve legal maneuvering, at the expense of our shared high ethical principles, in such a large structure is disheartening.

I realize stopping this project is most unlikely. If termination does not happen, I propose the National Capital Planning Commission clearly communicates to the American and global community (1) what is taking place and (2) what steps are being taken to be judicious, transparent

and attentive to long-standing policies, procedures, norms and legal guidelines regarding our Nation's Capital.

I write in my capacity as an American citizen, and as a "Soldier/Chaplain-for-Life" due to my almost thirty-year active-duty Army service to our Nation. To me, this issue bleeds over directly to our Armed Forces, due to the morale-impacting symbolism of our White House. Thank you for listening.



Kenneth L. Sampson  
Chaplain (Colonel) US Army (RET.)  
Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York 12520

**Copy Furnished:**

RDML Alan Baker USN CHC (Ret) Reformed Church in America  
Endorser  
Commission on Christian Action, Reformed Church in America  
Military Chaplains Association  
U.S. Army Chaplain Regimental Association  
The White House, Office of the President, Vice President  
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff  
Director of Strategic Religious Affairs, Office of the Chairman JCS  
Senator Charles Schumer  
Senator John Thune  
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand  
Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services  
Ranking Minority Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services  
Chairman House Armed Services Committee  
Congressman Pat Ryan  
Executive Director, Armed Forces Chaplain Board  
Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs  
Selected New York State Elected Officials  
Chair, Trust for the National Mall  
Chief Executive Officers: Booz Allen Hamilton; Lockheed Martin; Amazon; Apple;  
META; Google; Hewit Packard; Microsoft

Kenneth L. Sampson  
Chaplain (Colonel) US Army (RET.)  
Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York 12520

**"Unity Over Self"**

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Friday, February 13, 2026 1:20 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] New Arch in D.C./ Kennedy Center/ White House

Dear Sirs/ Madams of The NCPC,

I am writing to stress my unhappiness with the structural items that our current President has taken as his own property and wrecked or is about to wreck. He is not the Landlord of The United States, of The White House or of the DC Area.

He has already destroyed the look of the White House and I am aware there is currently a “ cease and desist” for that project. We all know he is about to tear down Kennedy Center, not to mention threatened to rename it.

Surely you have the authority to stop this NOW.

Last but probably not last, the proposed Towering Arch to the city. Why does he get to add and design an arch?

I propose your entity put a stop to President Trump’s toying with the great city of DC and the sacred monuments of our American citizens. God only knows what he may do next!

I do not require an answer. I remain a concerned citizen, embarrassed by what you are allowing to continue if you have the authority to stop it.

Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Cohn Knott

Bellaire, Texas

Sent from my iPad

**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2026 10:21 PM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] Capital vs capitol

Check the above. We are fighting to save the “ol” not the “al”. Our noble leader is concerned only with the “al”. The architect probably is concerned with the “al” as well if not his reputation. Hang in there!

Albert Hinckley, RA

**From:** Jennifer Moll

**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2026 8:25 PM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] The new ballroom in our house.

Republicunts don't have balls therefore they need no ballroom.

That is all.

-----Original Message-----

From: Pamela Holland

Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 9:54 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Input re East Wing

I would like to see the “ballroom” designed to become office spaces once this administration ends. There has always been a terrible shortage of office space, so at least this debacle can have a useful conclusion.

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Francesca Galt

Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 1:01 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>; cfastaff@cfa.gov

Subject: [External] NCPC Public Comment - CFA Public Comment

The White House belongs to the people. I urge you to protect and restore one of our most important Landmarks and respect the democratic values of the Historic design.

The size, bulk and scale of the home, in relation to the open spaces and vistas are our shared heritage and a Historic Cultural Landscape.

Protect the surrounding areas and landscapes for the safety and enjoyment of the community and save this significant site for only the most important functions.

Honor the original design and spirit and protect and restore the open spaces and public views so loved by the people.

Thank you for your consideration

Fran Galt

Santa Barbara CA

**From:** Christine Gelineau  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2026 2:33 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] EAST WING modernization public comment

I tried submitting this on your online form but not at all clear that it went through so repeating it here:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments concerning what is being referred to as the East Wing Modernization and ballroom addition Project. Given that the East Wing was summarily bulldozed, "modernizing" it has become necessary. You use the word modernize and it will be a good thing to update the wiring and make the new wing ADA accessible wherever possible. We're told there were structural and mold issues involved. There were other ways to have mitigated those issues but the bulldozer has made those points moot. As regards the exterior dimensions and the architectural style for the Peoples' House it is imperative that those aspects be restored to what they had been so as to preserve the balance and dignified elegance that the White House has always been known for. Imposing but not ostentatious. Nothing gaudy, flamboyant, or reminiscent of the regal. It is an emblem of democracy not aristocracy. The proposed gargantuan expansion of the East Wing to include a giant ballroom would totally distort the building. If a ballroom is needed (not clear at all that it would be), that should be constructed elsewhere in the city. To the extent possible, restore the historic nature of the building, such as the East Colonnade. Not sure if this is within your purview, but the soliciting of special interest funds to pay for the rebuilding is highly problematic. Hoping the American peoples' opinions will factor significantly into the rebuilding of this demolished wing of the Peoples' House.

Thank you,  
Christine Gelineau

**From:** Barb  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2026 2:57 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] East Wing "Improvement"

I am totally opposed to enlargement of the East Wing of the White House. This building should be brought back to it's original condition before it was destroyed. The law is the law. Follow the law.

Barbara Czarnecki  
Hayward WI

**From:** terry clampitt  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2026 3:08 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] The East Wing Modernization Project

Name Terry Clampitt  
Marion II

I am not at all happy that our countries most important building was allowed to be so badly damaged by a person claiming to love this country. My 1<sup>st</sup> question is how could this have been allowed to happen who approved it ,and why is no one being held responsible for the destruction of government property . 2nd question who owns this property ? And are there any guild lines to what can be done as far as making changes to a property you do not personally own and who can make these decisions to so drastically change the people's property? And as far as the new ball room I am extremely decusted that with so many families having really hard times making ends meet that the government would even contemplate building or allowing to be build , in his words a GOLDEN BALL ROOM .With to whole intent to flaunt the arrogance of a few people in front of the whole country . With 99% of the people not apart of this overindugant class of people. My hope would be that you could hold someone responsible for this destruction. And prevent the out right arrorgants of the leaders that are in the White House at this time.

Thank You. Terry Clampitt

-----Original Message-----

From: Valentine, Carol

Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 6:35 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] No White House Ballroom

To the White House Ballroom Committee Members:

I am writing as a concerned taxpayer at dictator Trump's grotesque plans for the East Wing. Hideous! You do understand Trump is notorious for not paying builders and contractors he hires; this has been his practice since he became an adult and worked with his father in NYC. It's all documented.

The size and scope of this so-called ballroom is ridiculously grotesque. Too large, gauche, Russian like, out of proportion to our beautiful historic White House.

Don't let greed blind you to Trump's foolish attempt to be a pretend builder. Withdraw your plans and have nothing more to do with the whims of a malignant narcissist. You'll be glad you let reason and decorum guide your decision to divorce yourself from such a horrible plan.

Thank you,

Carol Valentine

Sent from my iPad

-----Original Message-----

From: james healey

Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 6:42 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] East wing

Am I able to email my thoughts on the east wing? I am sickened by the history this man has destroyed. It should be a crime! He should be in jail! No one wants his ballroom but him! We are quite upset.

Sincerely,

Denise and James Healey

Sequim Wa.

Sent from my iPad

-----Original Message-----

From: Patti Williams

Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 7:15 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] East Wing

I'm disgusted at the current administration's pimping up of the People's House. I do not want one penny of my tax money to go towards the new design of the East Wing. In fact, I'm crushed that the previous history is now gone forever. I believe that the reconstruction should be a replica of the old and that every penny to rebuild should come out of the pockets of every person who signed off on the destruction of our history

Blessings 

Patti Williams

**From:** Karla Paske  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2026 7:29 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External]

Remember the East Wing of the White House? Remember the giant ballroom that the tech billionaires have agreed to fund in its place? The National Trust for Historic Preservation is making a gallant effort to stop this. And we can help.

Thanks to the National Trust, we have until March 4 to submit comments about the ballroom to the National Capital Planning Commission. You can make a comment through the link below (click on Submit Comment). PLEASE NOTE, the project is called East Wing Modernization on the pull down menu.

Anara Guard's comment on this is beautiful. She gave me permission to post it here, if anyone wants to use her language.

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

<https://www.ncpc.gov/participate/guidelines/>

(Photo: PBS) [Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

-----Original Message-----

From: NCPC System

Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2026 10:36 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Jean Sency

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

**From:** Deborah Sloan

**Sent:** Thursday, February 19, 2026 12:13 PM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] East Wing Modernization Project -- File #8733

I am writing to ask you to please review very carefully the proposed plan for a White House Ballroom. This 90,000 square foot building is almost double the size of the entire White House and will completely dwarf and make unrecognizable that iconic symbol of America. President Trump claims with no evidence that presidents for the last 150 years have requested a monstrous ballroom to entertain larger numbers of guests. He either does not understand or is ignorant of the fact that a structure that large would also necessitate additional china and furniture costs, as well as wait staff, calligraphers, social aides, florists, security personnel, an extra kitchen and kitchen staff to name a few.

As a former member of Mrs. Nixon's staff who worked in the East Wing assisting the Social Secretary, I was intimately involved in planning State Dinners and other social occasions which took place in the White House. Elegant State Dinners were held in the State Dining Room which seats approximately 140 people. An additional 50 guests were often invited to come after dinner for entertainment and dancing in the East Room. These dinners were intimate affairs and part of their magic was the guest's experience of being inside the White House and in close proximity to the President and First Lady. No one wants to be in an adjunct building as part of a large crowd all of whom would have to endure lengthened security protocols. The White House is owned by the American people and the President is only a temporary occupant who should never be permitted to change it single-handedly to his taste. Trump is proposing a monument to himself, his "legacy" he admits!

Lastly, the very fact of and the optics of a \$400 million (and growing) building, decorated in gold like the European and Middle Eastern castles and palaces, when many Americans are losing health care, paying higher prices for food and services and thousands of people are starving throughout the world are obscene and destructive of the America that we all cherish.

Thank you for the opportunity of commenting on the proposed ballroom.

Sincerely,

Deborah M. Sloan  
Bloomfield Hills, MI

-----Original Message-----

From: Beverly Ward

Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2026 12:45 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Proposed ballroom

To Whom this may concern

I am writing to express my dismay over the proposed ballroom by the Trump Administration. I watched with tears in my eyes as the East Wing was demolished. This was done without following lawfully required permits at the whim of President Trump. The White House is our house. Trump is a temporary resident. I feel this destruction is a slap in the face of every American who respects one of the most famous structures of our country. We cried when the Trump administration tore up the Kennedy Rose Garden and paved over the grounds. No one who came before President Trump, felt they had the right to destroy the building or the grounds as if this was their personal property. I ask that you please refuse to allow this project to go ahead. I would like to see the East Wing restored to its former state. The White House is not only the residence of those temporarily occupying the Oval Office, it is where our governing takes place. A ballroom should not overshadow the White House because of the ego of one occupant.

Thank you,

Beverly Ward

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Pamela Burch

Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2026 1:16 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] East Wing Modernization Project

To whom it may concern on the NCPC:

In no way is this an improvement or modernization. This is a travesty and should have been punished when the East Wing was demolished.

IU grew up in the District and understand the value of preservation. Please do not let this garish ballroom be continued.

Pamela Gordon

**Sent:** Thursday, February 19, 2026 1:59 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** Website comment from Darlene J Mitchener

Please hear us, the American people. Please DO NOT approve that ballroom. It's America's house and the people are opposed to this building. People are going hungry, without medical care, insufficient heat in their homes but there is money for this project??!!  
Please make a decision you'll be proud to stand behind. Thank you.

(About NCPC page)

**From:** Thomas Incorvia  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 19, 2026 2:49 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Historic Preservation Concern (Ballroom)

Austin, Texas

February 19, 2026  
National Capital Planning Commission  
Re: White House Grounds / Historic Preservation Concern

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing to urge the National Capital Planning Commission to halt any proposed or ongoing changes that materially alter or damage historic features of the White House grounds or adjacent historic areas.

**The White House is a national symbol and a public trust.** Any modifications should be narrowly justified, publicly disclosed, and reviewed with the strongest possible historic-preservation standards.

Please suspend further ballroom work until the Commission has confirmed that all required reviews have been completed and that the public record clearly explains the purpose, scope, and preservation impacts of the work.

Progress on this structure is damaging historic features, and creating a structure that will devalue the capital itself.

Respectfully,  
Tom Incorvia

--

=====

Tom Incorvia

**From:** Mary Ellen Lawrence  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 19, 2026 5:32 PM  
**To:** NCPG General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] RE: new dining hall for white house

I am a new subscriber to this website and am happy I found it. I am interested in restoration and regulatory rules that govern historical buildings and places. I earned an MA in Florence Italy and while there I studied art and architecture in that town where regulations provide rigorous guides for all types of building changes throughout the Tuscan region to this day. Maybe because of my background, I was first amazed and now horrified by the blatant disregard of historic preservation laws in Washington when I saw what this administration did when it leveled the east wing of the White House! I thought that perhaps the US has weak historic preservation laws. Then I watched in horror as plans for the dining hall were shown and holes dug right next to the White House! And then the garish gold added above the name of the historic Kennedy Center. Where was the howl of protests? Some "complaining" was heard but mostly from those who were on the opposite side of the political landscape from Trump. I wonder if those same people who kept silent at the destruction and holes in the ground near the White House, and disregarded Trump's adding his name on the Kennedy Center, are the same people who crowd the streets of Florence to see the historic buildings and artworks there? I would guess that is so. Why are we so cavalier about our own historic footprints? The dining hall dwarfs the White House. Is that the purpose? Is it meant to be a metaphor for the Trump Administration? that the White House is now a quaint nod to history?

Whatever the administration's intent, I find it reprehensible to see their disregard for all things that proudly scream "We the People..."

With concern, Mary E Lawrence MLS MA

--

*M E H Lawrence*

-----Original Message-----

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2026 7:04 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: TBJamison

This East Wing repurposing represents a clear disregard for the people of the United States and the history we have forged together. To imagine that someone would consider, plan and pursue such a project in such an underhanded and reckless manner only speaks to the morals and ethics of the man behind it. It's UNAMERICAN.

This insult to our people and our country needs to halt and be rewound. The costs to restore what has been destroyed needs to fall fully on the instigator(s). Personal donation/bribes solicited to fund this insult need to be returned, as such practice should be beyond the moral and ethical character of any holder of a political office in the USA.

**From:** Kate Leipprandt

**Sent:** Thursday, February 19, 2026 9:01 PM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] Please don't allow razing the East Wing of the White House

My name is Kathleen N Leipprandt, US citizen and proud American. My address is Arlington Heights Illinois

Please do not allow the razing of the East Wing of the People's White House. This is a historic landmark and not meant to be a personal monument , but the people's monument.

Sincerely

Kathleen Leipprandt

*Try to be a rainbow in somebody's cloud. -Maya Angelou*

**From:** NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2026 8:41 AM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** Website comment from Kathryn R Ludwick

The ballroom project is completely too large in scale compared to the White House. It definitely should NOT be the same height. It should be visibly shorter. There is absolutely no reason to make it so large. And it is a lie that Presidents have wanted one for 150 years. Making it so big also throws off what used to be the beautiful symmetry of the House.

(About NCPC page)

**From:** NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2026 8:48 AM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** Website comment from Kathryn R Ludwick

I am also appalled that a man with such limited taste (president Trump) has been allowed to gild everything in sight and ruin the Lincoln bathroom by turning it into a marble nightmare. He should NOT be free to do whatever he wishes to The People's House.

(About NCPC page)

**From:** NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2026 9:03 AM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** Website comment from Kathryn R Ludwick

I understand the commission of "Fine Arts" has been stocked with Trump sycophants. Please PLEASE rein them in. They obviously will rubber stamp anything Trump requests.

And no, I don't have TDS. I just have good taste and recognition for what is appropriate.

(About NCPC page)

**From:** John Lemley

**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2026 10:04 AM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] White House Ballroom

Good morning and thank you for your time.

My plea this morning is short and simple: Please block President Trump's plan to construct his planned White House ballroom. The project is alarming on a number of fronts, including those regarding historical preservation, scale, cost and symbolism. It's also completely unnecessary. Please halt the site preparation and construction now.

Thanks so much for your attention to this matter.

All my very best,

John

John S. Lemley

Atlanta, GA

Nuntius missi per mobile fabrica.

-----Original Message-----

From: Sherri Choate

Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 10:26 AM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] The White House " Ballroom"

Are there NO restrictions on what can or can't be done to one of THE most historical buildings in your area? Historical homes can't so much as change the paint color without the proper authorization much less destroy part of said building. Please let me know as US citizen why this has been allowed at the " Peoples House " with seemingly not even a blip on the radar

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2026 12:32 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Proposed ballroom addition

Dear Sirs,

While I understand the need for an indoor space to accommodate State banquets and other large functions, I respectfully request that you vote to limit both the size and current proposed configuration submitted by President Trump.

If the White House is truly “The People’s House,” then the fact that U.S citizens, when polled, are overwhelmingly against the President’s current plan, should be the deciding factor in your deliberations, not party affiliation.

Sincerely,

Lee Hiers Owen

-----Original Message-----

From: Deborah Whitford

Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 12:48 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] East Wing

An AP article appears in my local newspaper this morning 2/20/26. It shows conceptual drawings of the President's planned new East Wing of the White House. I am horrified. The proposed new structure completely diminishes the historic style and visual appeal of the existing structure, and the complete absence of symmetry is appalling. The whole concept as shown is shockingly embarrassing. Please consider something more appropriate to compliment the White House that we know and hold dear in hearts and mind. Thank you.

Deborah Whitford

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Nancy Kallenberger  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2026 12:53 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Trump Ballroom

The Trump ballroom plan is terrible. The whole project is being rammed down our throats without proper permission or planning. Please do not approve this project!

*Nancy Kallenberger  
Yakima, Washington*

**From:** Patricia Johnson

**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2026 1:00 PM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] White House ballroom

I want the plead with you to do whatever it takes to stop the building of this ballroom. I have talked about it with many friends and everyone is appalled that one person can cause so much damage to the White House without any oversight or input from professionals. Please help.

Thank you

Patricia Johnson

Kettering, OH

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

-----Original Message-----

From: David Thome

Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 1:42 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] File number 8733 White House East Wing Modernization Plan

National Capital Planning Commission,

It's with deep anguish and concern that under the President's direction the East Wing of the White House was so rapidly demolished. This should never have happened without the National Capital Planning Commission, the National Register of Historic Places or Congressional input and approval for historic preservation.

I respectfully urge that the rebuilding of the East Wing of the White House remain consistent with the historic scale, character, and architectural integrity of the existing structure and the broader White House complex. Any reconstruction should honor the original intent and visual continuity of this nationally significant site, ensuring that additions or modifications are harmonious rather than expansive or stylistically incongruous.

At the same time, it is both appropriate and necessary that the East Wing be brought fully into compliance with current safety standards and accessibility requirements, including ADA guidelines. Modernizing the building to ensure safety, inclusivity, and functionality is an essential responsibility and should be accomplished in a way that is sensitive to the historic context.

The East Wing has long served practical and ceremonial roles, including providing workspace for the Office of the First Spouse and associated staff. Any redesign should continue to accommodate these essential functions, ensuring that necessary offices and support spaces are included within the plan.

If event or gathering space is deemed necessary, it should be thoughtfully designed within the existing footprint of the East Wing. Such space should reflect restraint and dignity, avoiding unnecessary expansion or overly ornate features. The White House is a symbol of democratic governance and shared national heritage—it should not be treated or presented as a palace.

Above all, the White House belongs to the American people. Any changes to its structures should reflect stewardship, respect for history, and a commitment to preserving its character for future generations.

Sincerely,  
Teresa Thome  
Redmond, Washington

**From:** Maureen Wichtel  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2026 3:23 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Comments regarding the East Wing Modernization

Hello. I could not find on your website where to share my comments regarding this project, so I am including my concerns here. If this is not appropriate, please advise as to where I can share these concerns on your website.

Thank you.

### **Comment to the National Trust for Historic Preservation**

I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to the recent decision to allow the demolition of the East Wing of the White House and the plans for the construction of a new ballroom, particularly in light of the involvement of tech billionaires funding this project. This situation raises several critical concerns:

1. **Loss of Historical Integrity:** The East Wing is a significant part of our national heritage, representing the architectural and cultural history of the White House. Its demolition would erase a vital piece of our past, undermining the integrity of this historic site.
2. **Influence of Wealthy Donors:** The fact that this project is being funded by tech billionaires highlights a troubling trend where private interests can dictate public heritage. This raises questions about who truly benefits from such renovations and at what cost to the public.
3. **Financial Mismanagement:** The costs associated with demolition and the construction of a new ballroom are exorbitant. In times when our nation faces pressing social issues, prioritizing funds for luxury renovations over critical needs is both irresponsible and unjustifiable.
4. **Public Sentiment:** This project reflects an alarming disconnect between the administration and the American people. In an era of economic uncertainty, the notion of constructing a new ballroom funded by wealthy donors is seen as extravagant and out of touch with the realities faced by many citizens.
5. **Functionality and Accessibility Concerns:** The disruption caused by this demolition could hinder the important functions that take place in the East Wing. Furthermore, there are serious questions about the accessibility of the proposed new ballroom, which must be addressed to ensure inclusivity for all guests.
6. **Environmental Impact:** Demolition generates waste and could negatively affect the surrounding environment. Sustainable practices must be prioritized, yet this project seems to disregard such considerations.
7. **Political Ramifications:** This decision could exacerbate partisan divides and may become a focal point for criticism of the administration. Future administrations will also have to grapple with the consequences of altering such a historic space.

I urge the National Trust for Historic Preservation to take a firm stand against the unauthorized demolition of the East Wing and the proposed construction of the new ballroom. Preserving our historic sites is paramount to honoring our nation's heritage, and we must protect the integrity of the White House from being compromised by the interests of a few wealthy individuals.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Maureen Wichtel, DVM, PhD, Dipl ACVIM



**From:** Toni Chappell

**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2026 3:58 PM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] East Wing Modernization Project comment

Hello,

I have tried to comment on your website, but the link is not taking me to another page for comment.

Please record that I am completely opposed to the current administration's plans to renovate and "rebuild" the east wing. I am a student of the Lincoln presidency and, in particular, Mary Lincoln. It is a travesty to have this administration treat so many of our historic places as opportunities for further aggrandizement. I am OPPOSED to any renovations to the Executive Mansion without serious input from organizations like yours whose mission it is to preserve our actual history. Thank you for your time. Could someone please check the website to see why the button for public comment is not working?

Thank you!

Toni Chappell

**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2026 4:09 PM

**To:** Dirk Neyhart [REDACTED]

**Subject:** [External] This lifelong Republican in the voting booth since 1964 says, “No!!”

It is bad enough that we have elected a vain, vulgar, vindictive, venal, pathological liar, cheat, thief, racist, draft dodger, serial adulterer, pornstar fornicator, self-promoting pussy grabber, convicted felon, and unrepentant bully, but to be subjected to his aesthetic whims is intolerable.

Some people will put money before conscience and pride, so he has you for a while.

D.P. Neyhart

xxx

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### [United Nations Human Rights Council \(OHCHR.org\)](https://www.ohchr.org/)

The Human Rights Council is an intergovernmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and making recommendations on them. It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year. It meets at the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG).

### [The Universal Declaration of Human Rights \(abbreviated\)](#)

Article 1 - Right to Equality

Article 2 - Freedom from Discrimination

Article 3 - Right to Life, Liberty, Personal Security

Article 4 - Freedom from Slavery

Article 5 - Freedom from Torture and Degrading Treatment

Article 6 - Right to Recognition as a Person before the Law

Article 7 - Right to Equality before the Law

Article 8 - Right to Remedy by Competent Tribunal

Article 9 - Freedom from Arbitrary Arrest and Exile

Article 10 - Right to Fair Public Hearing

Article 11 - Right to be Considered Innocent until Proven Guilty

Article 12 - Freedom from Interference with Privacy, Family, Home and Correspondence

Article 13 - Right to Free Movement in and out of the Country

Article 14 - Right to Asylum in other Countries from Persecution

Article 15 - Right to a Nationality and the Freedom to Change It

Article 16 - Right to Marriage and Family

Article 17 - Right to Own Property

Article 18 - Freedom of Belief and Religion

Article 19 - Freedom of Opinion and Information

Article 20 - Right of Peaceful Assembly and Association

Article 21 - Right to Participate in Government and in Free Elections

Article 22 - Right to Social Security

Article 23 - Right to Desirable Work and to Join Trade Unions

Article 24 - Right to Rest and Leisure

Article 25 - Right to Adequate Living Standard

Article 26 - Right to Education

Article 27 - Right to Participate in the Cultural Life of Community

Article 28 - Right to a Social Order that Articulates this Document

Article 29 - Community Duties Essential to Free and Full Development

Article 30 - Freedom from State or Personal Interference in the above Rights

**From:** Nanci Bishof

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2026 3:56 PM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>; cfastaff@cfa.gov

**Subject:** [External] East Wing Modernization

It is an abomination to have the East Wing of the People's House, which is not the president's personal property but owned by the citizens of this country, unceremoniously destroyed before obtaining a review of its historical significance and input from the National Trust for Historic Preservation for how best to adapt and reconfigure it for modern usage. The current plans call for a structure that is far too dominant in size for the entirety of the White House. At present, it calls for 38' high ceilings in the ballroom. That in itself is ridiculous and too imposing. The People's House was fully considered before it's original construction and meant to reflect a turn from the opulence of Kings. That was a deliberate message through the use of restrained ornamentation absent the ostentatious exhibition of wealth. The utilization of 38' high ceilings and the overpowering size of the proposed ballroom is in opposition to that message and attempts to create a cathedral to power, waste, and grandiosity as its message. The entirety of the project needs to be scaled back physically and in its message. Its roof line needs to be far lower than that of the original White House to show its subordination to the tenets of our foundational constitution that all men are created equal and the United States is a democratic republic, not a flashy, privileged monarchy.

Nanci Bishof

Jacksonville, FL 32205

**From:** Kathleen Stratton  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2026 10:02 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] White House Modernization Project

I was told you are accepting public input on the White House modernization project.

I believe the ballroom idea is scrapped and that is wonderful news.

My opinion for repairing the scarred East Wing - don't do anything until Trump is out of the picture as he will surely find a way to cheapen any idea and throw a lot of money at it.

Thanks,  
Kathleen Stratton  
Minneapolis, MN

**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2026 10:07 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** Website comment from Lise Stone

Dear Commissioners,

I understand you are considering plans to replace the former East Wing of the White House with a new ballroom. While I accept that presidents have a need to entertain guests in appropriate spaces, I am bothered by the plans recently displayed. Apart from the proposed ballroom's dwarfing of the historic home —like a child taking an elephant for a walk — the process that has delivered the current plan strikes me as hugely inappropriate, even crass. As a citizen, voter, and regular admirer of beautiful buildings and the way they fit their purpose, I find the bulldozing of the old wing and slap-dash replacement repulsive. Where is the instinct to work with historians, respected architects, and the greater public? Respectfully, I hope you will hold yourselves to a higher standard than ring-kissing expediency. Please stop, think, revise. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Lise Stone  
Dobbs Ferry NY

-----Original Message-----

From: Mary Lee Ritter

Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2026 3:02 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Ballroom project

Commission Members,

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

Thank you for your time and attention into this rebranding of America.

Mary Lee and Richard Ritter

Sent from my iPad

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Gyulai

Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2026 6:36 PM

To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] White House Ballroom

It is with much horror and dismay that part of the White House has been demolished to construct an unnecessary and extravagant 90,000 foot ballroom. Having lived in D.C., and having visited the White House for a school, as well as having worked for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, I know the importance of the White House on many levels. For it, and the paving over of the Rose Garden to assuage someone's ego is inexcusable. I would hope the Planning Commission will do its job, saving our historic buildings that have long represented the heart and soul of our citizens for 225 years.

Sincerely, Susan Gyulai

**From:** mcblytle  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 21, 2026 6:54 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Re: Comments Submitted

I saw in the news that the board moved the vote up and in effect, negated the March 5 agenda which was to have discussion on this project. What is the board afraid of? That the public would have valid points and they would find it necessary to deny the permits? What a joke. It's obvious the board members are just tools of the president.

Sign me disgusted,  
Michele Boris Lytle

On Feb 20, 2026, at 4:30 PM, NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov> wrote:  
Dear Michele Lytle,

This automated response confirms your comments were submitted and received for the project: East Wing Modernization Project (File number: 8733). The National Capital Planning Commission is scheduled to review this project at the March 5, 2026 Commission meeting.

Your comments will be added to the public record and shared with the staff and Commissioners. You can review submission and project materials on the [Agenda Page](#)

You may watch the meeting during the [live streaming event](#).

Please note that meetings are live-streamed, videotaped, transcribed, and are also part of the public record.

If you have questions, please feel free to respond to this message (preferred) or call us during regular business hours (8:30 am-5:00 pm) at 202-482-7200.

Thank you.  
NCPC Office of the Secretariat

**From:** Susan Hall

**Sent:** Sunday, February 22, 2026 10:51 AM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] Ballroom plans

I am appalled and outraged by, first, the unauthorized destruction of the East Wing and now, the “plans” for the big beautiful ballroom that are being forced on the American people without proper review and authorization. It’s a national embarrassment and an architectural abuse and abomination. It must be stopped!

**From:** Kristi LaHaye <russell953@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 22, 2026 1:25 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] East ballroom White House

Disgraceful what is being done.

National news reported that the board moved the vote up and in effect, negated the March 5 agenda which was to have discussion on this project. What is the board afraid of? That the public would have valid points and they would find it necessary to deny the permits? What a joke. It's obvious the board members are just tools of the president.

**From:** Patricia Johnson <gnepat8@att.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 23, 2026 2:02 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Ballroom

I would like to express my feelings about the huge monstrosity that Trump is trying to add to our beautiful White House. A ballroom is not a bad idea, but it needs to be of modest size and planned by professionals.

Ina Johnson  
Kettering OH

**From:** Joan Toth

**Sent:** Monday, February 23, 2026 5:42 PM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] Your review of the proposed addition to the White House

On March 5th, your commission will review the plans for the new East Wing Ballroom at the White House. I am requesting that you NOT approve the plans as submitted. While the Commission of Fine Arts approved the plans, they were just "rubber stamping" the plans without really considering the impact this "ballroom" will have on the existing White House.

The following is a quote from the Secretary of the CFA:

"In two decades of case work, I have never seen as much public engagement ...more than 2000 messages, the vast majority negative." This is the people's house not the sole property of the president! The people should be considered when making these changes!

While some have said there is a need for a ballroom at the White House, the extreme size will overbear the White House. A smaller ballroom to accommodate 600 or so people would still allow for large gatherings.

Consider also the security problems when allowing 1,000 or more people onto the White House property at one time!!

Please do NOT approve the current plans as submitted, but send them back to the architect to revise them to a smaller, more suitable and less overbearing structure.

I speak for a large group of women and also any of the 2000+ persons that do not want to see a huge monolith constructed on the White House grounds.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Joan Toth  
(a concerned citizen)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 24, 2026 4:03 PM  
**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] East Wing Modernization Project

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am opposed to the East Wing Modernization Project. The cost is prohibitive. The historical structure and significance of the White House has not been properly addressed. Please, do not move forward on this project.

Diane Schultz

-----Original Message-----

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 2:08 AM  
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>  
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Miranda Rights

It is universally recognized that every tenant is strictly limited in what he can do to the owner's property even if he pays for the changes himself. He is always required to get the owner's permission and also follow legal and other restrictions especially for building or major alterations. He is not allowed to devalue, destroy or damage the owner's property.

The White House is the temporary home and symbol of the American democracy's president. It should not be overshadowed or overwhelmed by anything else. The lower levels of the house itself and the west and former now illegally demolished east wing are places of serious and important work for the executive branch.

It would send the wrong message to government employees, our country and every other country in the world if a monstrous entertainment space dwarfed the home and place of work. We are one of the dwindling number of democracies in the world. What we do matters. We are a government of the people, by the people and for the people. We are NOT the government of the selected few elite partygoers.

Please insist that any addition to the White House grounds be appropriately and tastefully downsized in comparison to one of our country's most important and identifiable symbols. Thank you. We are counting on you!

---

**From:** NCPC System <[info@ncpc.gov](mailto:info@ncpc.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 26, 2026 4:55 PM

**To:** Acosta, Marcel

**Subject:** NCPC Website Email

From: Mitchell T Hamilton

Email:

Sir,

I have added my comment on The White House "project". I am sickened that it even began. I have visited numerous presidential homes and historic sites where care has been taken to blend in needed building such as visitors' centers. This "ballroom" will be a grotesque blight on the city of DC not to mention The White House grounds.

I hope the NTHP will continue to fight this. Can something not be done to prevent the construction on the grounds of marring an historic site. Is there not some type of historic overlay in the area?

Thank you,

Mitchell T Hamilton

**From:** Louise Lynn

**Sent:** Thursday, February 26, 2026 8:53 PM

**To:** NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

**Subject:** [External] Fwd: February News - New Stadium at RFK Campus, Tidal Basin Development, & More

And is this going to be development to benefit the Trump property at his Club along the Potomac River in Virginia ???!!! Don't think the public is not aware of what is going on, hidden in these plans of what is being done as another BIG BEAUTIFUL PLAN THAT LOOKS LIKE WHAT IT IS !?!?!? Are you at the National Park and Planning so naive that you do not see " the writing on the wall " ? Look at the MAP !!

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Friday, February 13, 2026 6:49 PM  
To: East Wing Mod <eastwingmod@ncpc.gov>  
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Julie Garver

Hello, I want to provide comments on the White House East Wing project. However I do not see plans or elevations on this website. How can I access the plans and elevations?  
Thanks, Julie

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Sunday, February 15, 2026 11:09 PM  
To: East Wing Mod <eastwingmod@ncpc.gov>  
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Debra Hanes

The East Wing should be restored. If the ballroom plans move ahead, the scope of the planned ballroom should be reduced in size so that it doesn't overpower the main house. The original White House should always be what people see first. It should never be dwarfed by nor overshadowed by an outrageous ballroom.Thank You.

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 6:13 PM  
To: East Wing Mod <eastwingmod@ncpc.gov>  
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Kip McBane, A.I.A.

I oppose this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 7:44 PM  
To: East Wing Mod <eastwingmod@ncpc.gov>  
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: David Gurss

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on the East Wing Modernization Project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 9:25 PM  
To: East Wing Mod <eastwingmod@ncpc.gov>  
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Karen Stott

Reading this sounds like tax payers are paying for quite a bit of a plan that wasn't approved. Did trump lie when he said donations would pay for all of it. The nation park service does a good job and should keep taxpayers and Congress how much average Americans are actually paying with no benefits to us. Historical building should never have been demolished.

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 5:43 AM  
To: East Wing Mod <eastwingmod@ncpc.gov>  
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Susan Ragan

I oppose the spending of \$300 million or any other amount on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law is an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 9:34 AM  
To: East Wing Mod <eastwingmod@ncpc.gov>  
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Tina Rask

I would like to know how the demolition was allowed to move forward in the first place if the project had not been approved. Why were they not stopped? What consequences will there be for those involved in the demolition as it would seem that what was done was unlawful destruction of federal property.

Thank you for allowing for public comments on this. I sincerely hope the project does not move forward and that reconstruction of the East Wing will be done instead.

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 2:15 PM  
To: East Wing Mod <eastwingmod@ncpc.gov>  
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: donna joslyn

The monolithic plans that dwarf the White House, for the east wing, are disgusting. Do nothing at all with the site until at least the next administration, and preferably the one after that, is in office. Save money, preserve the site for the future.

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 3:08 PM  
To: East Wing Mod <eastwingmod@ncpc.gov>  
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: James E Allgood

PLEASE PUT THIS MONOLITH OF A PROJECT ON HOLD UNTIL SUCH TIME AS ARCHITECTURAL/DESIGN PROFESSIONALS CAN PRESENT A PLAN THAT REFLECTS THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE, NOT ONE THAT SERVES AS YET ANOTHER TRUMP SELF-AGGRANDIZEMENT ENDEAVOR. NCPC, YOU ARE BETTER THAN THIS. RESIST!

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 10:15 AM  
To: East Wing Mod <eastwingmod@ncpc.gov>  
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Robin Gower

I'd strongly oppose the building the proposed "East Wing Modernization" project for the following reasons:

The proposed building would be disproportionate functionally, architecturally and politically. It is shocking that your office would expand the size of this facility to accommodate periodic state dinners, and to glorify the executive inconsistent with a government of and by the people.

The agents and agencies charged with reviewing capital projects have been ignored and circumvented, and their membership has been manipulated for purely political reason. The public can have no confidence in the judgments of these agencies as reconstituted by executive fiat.

If you approve this absurd and grandiose construction, you will suffer long term ridicule.

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 11:26 AM  
To: East Wing Mod <eastwingmod@ncpc.gov>  
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: David Post

I would like to comment on the proposed East Wing Ballroom.

1. The south elevation ends too abruptly. The grand stair cases down to the lawn appear incomplete. The column filled portico feels a bit heavy in relation to the White House facade. Perhaps it should be more of a bay shape. The steps lead to lawn but feel incomplete. There should be a more intentional terminus to a patio or no steps. The portico could have a balustrade and planted terraces take the wall down to grade.
  2. The entry court at what appears to be the connecting foyer is too cut off from the driveway drop off area. Assuming guests will arrive at this point, the entry should open to vehicle drop off point, where presumably there will be a greeting party and media.
  3. Elevation A16 does not show the grand stair entry so hard to see the impact.
  4. Hard to understand how event service works. Is that from the north or underground?
- Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the process and for you efforts to make this project like all project support the vernacular of our beautiful capital city.

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 6:53 PM  
To: East Wing Mod <eastwingmod@ncpc.gov>  
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Steve Weaver

The East Wing of the White House was unlawfully destroyed. Do not reward those actions by approving it's replacement without an independent review of both the construction of the building and it's funding.

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2026 11:31 AM  
To: East Wing Mod <eastwingmod@ncpc.gov>  
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Sheila K. Bowen

I would like to submit my opposition to the East Wing Modernization Proposal. The proposed ballroom is another unnecessary, destructive vanity project by Donald Trump. The proposed building will be larger than the White House and the ballroom's gaudy ostentation will negate its classic grandeur.

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 2:48 PM  
To: East Wing Mod <eastwingmod@ncpc.gov>  
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Rebecca P York

Greetings NCPC Staff,

It is with much concern that I am replying to this exhibit of plans for the East Wing Expansion project.

I was a volunteer for the 2024 Christmas season to decorate the White House. The experience of entering the East Wing was completely overwhelming, and that I, a citizen had this unique opportunity to work inside the WH for only a brief time. We were told this is a museum, all areas/rooms and materials were to be worked in/with the utmost care and detail. To have seen the East Wing demolished without any regard to the process is a slap in the face to "we the people".

I am a retired commercial interior designer and senior project manager with over 40 years in the industry. I understand this process and have worked on presentation packages such as this. Usually, there are several "schematic designs" that are reviewed. Did that happen? If so, is there a way to see them? This EW expansion design makes the WH seem insignificant. Good design is supposed to be a "win win", the goal being to keep the integrity of the WH and grounds while developing a cohesive space to handle events larger than the maximum capacity of the East Room. Not a behemoth building that could be mistaken for the Treasury Building!

Also, if I were on the panel hearing the case for this project, as soon as page 23 was shown, I would throw the whole case out for the ridiculous typo. Spellcheck is too simple not to be used. I think the word was supposed to be "GROUNDS". If something this glaring was missed, what other details haven't been addressed? I would question the credibility of this firm.

This administration needs to be held to account. The East Wing needs to be rebuilt as it was until a more thorough and thoughtful design can be presented and agreed to. As I commented to the Editor of the Los Angeles Times last fall, in response to an Op-Ed over the East Wing legacy of this administration, "I can only hope that 'we the people' continue to fight to somehow preserve this symbol of our unique democracy.

Most sincerely,  
Rebecca York  
Idyllwild, CA

## **Los Angeles Times**

### **Memories of East Wing's past**

Re "East Wing demolition is a lasting scar of Trump's America," Opinion Voices, Nov.12

I was struck by guest contributor Rosa Lowinger's op-ed regarding the demollshed East Wing and its disappearance from our collective history as a nation.

Last year, I was a volun-teer White House Christmas decorator. I look back on that experience with pride, and now, with much sad-ness also. It took place for a full week over the Thanks-giving holiday; eight hours a day of intense, hectic cre-ative production and instal-lation.

Who wouldn't be awestruck entering the East Wing where we checked in, then proceeded through the corridor? Sunllght shone through the tall windows overlooking the Rose Gar-den. We then ascended to the Cross Hall and to the East Room. It still takes my reath away just thinking about it.

The White House curator emphasized to us that it was a museum with fragile, historic artifacts; any changes had to be handled with extra caution and care. With that in mind, we all did our job in reverence to the People's House.

The destruction of the East Wing is a tragedy. I can only hope that "we the people" continue to fight to somehow preserve this symbol of our unique democracy.

Rebecca York  
Idyllwild, CA



From: Joseph Ichter  
February 16, 2026

I oppose the building of a national/White House Ballroom on the remnants of the former White House East Wing. This is the People's House and there are rules, regulations and procedures to make changes to this structure, none of which were followed in the absolutely gross demolition of the East Wing. No President has the right, the authority or the power to alter this historic and very public treasure. Anything done forward needs to be accomplished under laws and established procedures with COMPLETE transparency on the costs, design and use. God forbid we end up with more soulless mar a lago design trash in our nations capital.

.....

From: Jane Boynton  
February 16, 2026

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

.....

From: Joe B. Rixman  
February 16, 2026

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans. Everything this administration does appears to be illegal. IT MUST STOP HERE AND NOW!!!

.....

From: Barry Fishman  
February 16, 2026

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

.....

From: Barbara Woolford  
February 16, 2026

East Wing Modernization:

I object to replacing the East Wing with any structure not approved by the relevant architecture and planning committees. No way it should be larger than the historic structure was. There are plenty of places millionaires (billionaires) can build their own buildings. NOT at the White House!!

Rebecca Hill, Retired Non-profit CEO

Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815

August 15, 2025

National Capital Planning Commission  
401 9<sup>th</sup> St. NW. Suite 500N  
Washington, DC 20004

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that the National Planning Commission has an important meeting coming up on September 4, 2025. It is my understanding that the issue of the drastically ugly plan to distort the "People's House" by President Trump will be on your agenda. I implore you as an important body with significant powers not to allow the travesty of this "big, ugly ballroom" to deface the White House, an elegant symbol of our democracy.

Trump's plans for this atrocious addition prove that he does not care about the many issues facing our citizens and non-citizens. People, many innocent of any crimes, are being captured and thrown into horrific prisons; the National Guard is being forced to turn against our citizens; our history is being erased; the chosen targets for hate are people of color and LGBTQ persons especially those who identify as Trans; within a year, many people will have their healthcare canceled; our media is being compromised; our value as a diverse nation is being ridiculed; Christian Nationalism is swarming out of dark corners to haunt our laws and beliefs; and our reputation in the world is being destroyed except with fascists.....to name just a few of Trump's attempts at a systematic destruction of our democracy.

The big ugly ballroom plan is a wicked metaphor for what Trump is attempting to do to our beloved United States. Please deeply consider a strong stand against this man who is hell-bent on turning us into another Russia.

Sincerely,



Rebecca (Becky) Hill

Alexandria, VA 22304

August 18, 2025

Mr. Marcel Acosta,, Executive Director

National Capital Planning Commission

401 9th Street, NW  
Suite 500N  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Acosta:

I have been a resident of the Washington, DC area for over 50 years. I have taught school in Fairfax County, VA, worked at a staff assistant on Capitol Hill, and even organized tours of Washington for visitors from other states and Canada. I love Washington, D.C. and am immensely proud of this city.

I am writing to urge you and your staff to do all that is in your power to stop President Trump from adding the immense ballroom onto the east side of the White House. Such an addition would completely ruin the integrity of the house.

I have read that a young immigrant from Ireland, James Hoban, competed with others, including Thomas Jefferson, to design the future home of our presidents. Some wanted a grand "presidential palace," and it was George Washington who nixed that idea. The White House was envisioned by our First President to be a residence, and one passed down through the ages that belongs to the American people, not to just one president.

Other than the fire in 1814, I cannot think of anything else that would ruin the White House more than adding a ballroom that will dwarf this elegant home. Since the White House has announced that ground-breaking will begin in September, this matter is urgent.

Thank you for your attention to this request and for all that you and your staff do for this city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane L. Harper". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Jane Lewis Harper



**American Muckrakers**

**. Spruce Pine, NC**

**28777**

**Via Email**

September 17, 2025

National Capital Planning Commission  
401 9th Street, NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20004

**Re: Complaint Regarding Proposed White House Ballroom Construction**

Dear Commissioners,

I write as a citizen of the United States to express serious concern about the reported commencement of demolition and site-preparation activities for a proposed “White House State Ballroom” on the grounds of the Executive Residence.

According to public reporting, the project is estimated to cost approximately \$200 million and will result in a permanent new structure of nearly 90,000 square feet on historic White House grounds. Reports further indicate that tree removal and demolition are already underway, despite the apparent lack of review and approval by the National Capital Planning Commission as required by law.

As you know, NCPC’s statutory duties include reviewing and approving all federal construction projects in Washington, D.C., to ensure compliance with planning, land use, and preservation requirements. The White House grounds, as part of President’s Park, are a historic federal property of unparalleled national significance. Any substantial new construction, especially one of this size and visibility, warrants full NCPC review.

I respectfully submit that:

1. **NCPC approval is required** before demolition or new construction of a ballroom may proceed on the White House grounds.

August 14, 2025

2. The project appears to implicate the **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** and the **National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)**, both of which require environmental and historic preservation review.
3. Allowing the project to advance without NCPC oversight undermines the Commission's mandate to safeguard the integrity, historic character, and planned development of the nation's capital.

### **Request for Action**

Accordingly, I respectfully request that NCPC:

- Immediately investigate whether demolition and construction activities have commenced without Commission approval.
- Require the White House, General Services Administration, or other responsible agencies to submit the full project for NCPC review.
- Suspend further construction activities until all applicable reviews under NCPC regulations, NEPA, and NHPA are completed.
- Provide the public with notice and opportunity to comment on the proposed project, consistent with NCPC's transparency obligations.

The White House is not the private property of any single occupant; it is a historic national symbol that belongs to the American people. Its alteration must be subject to the same federal planning laws and procedures that apply to every other federal building in Washington.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt response and to confirmation that NCPC will exercise its full oversight responsibilities in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Sincerely,

David B. Wheeler  
President & Co-Founder



National Trust *for*  
Historic Preservation®

October 21, 2025

Mr. William Scharf, Chair  
National Capital Planning Commission  
401 Ninth Street NW, Suite 500N  
Washington, DC 20004

Ms. Jessica Bowron  
Acting Director, National Park Service  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Ms. Billie Tsien, Chair  
Commission of Fine Arts  
401 F Street NW, Suite 312  
Washington, DC 20001-2728

***Re: Proposed Construction of White House Ballroom***

Mr. Scharf, Ms. Bowron, and Ms. Tsien,

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.” Our mission is to protect America’s significant historic sites and to advocate for historic preservation as a core public value.

President Trump has proposed the construction of a 90,000-square-foot ballroom on the east side of the White House campus, adjacent to the historic Treasury Building. Site preparation is already underway, including the demolition of a portion of the existing East Wing.

While the National Trust acknowledges the utility of a larger meeting space at the White House, we are deeply concerned that the massing and height of the proposed new construction will overwhelm the White House itself—it is 55,000 square feet—and may also permanently disrupt the carefully balanced classical design of the White House with its two smaller, and lower, East and West Wings.

The federally recognized Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation offer clear guidance for construction projects affecting historic properties. The Standards provide that new additions should not destroy the historic fabric of the property and that the new work should be compatible with existing massing, size, scale, and architectural features.

Owned by the American people, the White House was designed by Irish architect James Hoban, whose winning proposal was selected by President George Washington. The building respects Georgian and neoclassical principles. It is a National Historic Landmark, a National Park, and a globally recognized symbol of our nation's ideals.

We respectfully urge the Administration and the National Park Service to pause demolition until plans for the proposed ballroom go through the legally required public review processes, including consultation and review by the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts, and to invite comment from the public. These processes provide a crucial opportunity for transparency and broad engagement—values that have guided preservation of the White House under every administration going back to the public competition in 1792 that produced the building's original design. Doing so will help ensure that the project both honors the exceptional historic significance of the White House and acknowledges the investment that the American people have in the preservation of this beloved place.

The National Trust stands ready to assist the White House, the National Park Service, and relevant review agencies in exploring design alternatives and modifications that would accomplish the objectives of the Administration while preserving the historic integrity and symbolism of the People's House.

As we approach the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our country's founding, the preservation of historic places that represent our nation's history has never been more relevant or important. We urge you to take into account the deep reverence that all Americans hold for this iconic place, and to initiate the review process that can ensure the preservation of the historic White House for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carol Quillen", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Carol Quillen  
President and Chief Executive Officer

**MICHAEL R. TURNER**

TENTH DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT  
AND GOVERNMENT REFORM



2183 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6465

DISTRICT OFFICE:

120 WEST 3RD STREET  
SUITE 305  
DAYTON, OH 45402  
(937) 225-2843

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 24, 2025

Mr. William Scharf  
Chair  
National Capital Planning Commission  
401 9th Street NE, Suite 500N  
Washington, D.C. 20002-6117

Dear Chair Scharf:

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Historical Preservation Caucus, I have substantial concerns regarding the action or inaction by the National Capital Planning Commission and/or the White House during the undertaking of the demolition of the East Wing of the White House. The stark images of the East Wing demolished in mere days were deeply disturbing to Americans who cherish preservation of our nation's history. It also appears, in addition to the demolition of the East Wing, there were no efforts to preserve the historical artifacts or elements of the White House East Wing during removal.

Historic preservation is pivotal to remembering and celebrating our storied national history. Currently, there are over 100,000 nationally registered historic places, including the White House. This allows Americans to experience history and its impact in real time and learn how history directly affects their lives and shapes the world today. Making sure the White House is preserved correctly allows visitors to learn about the White House's role in shaping the United States' government, history, and impact on the world.

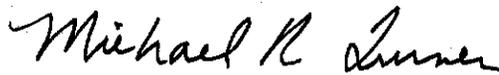
Accordingly, I respectfully request answers to the following inquiries:

1. **Consultation with the White House** – To what extent did officials at the White House consult with the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) prior to authorizing or initiating demolition of the East Wing, in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)?
2. **Additional Consultation and Written Authorization** – Did the White House seek consultation with the NCPC once it was determined the entire East Wing would be demolished, differing significantly from prior public plans? If so, at this time did the White House seek and obtain formal written approval, concurrence, or other authorization from the NCPC prior to demolition? If so, please provide copies of all correspondence, memoranda, or approvals related to such authorization.
3. **Preservation of Artifacts and Architectural Elements** – What efforts were undertaken by either the NCPC or the White House to identify, document, and preserve historically

- significant artifacts, fixtures, or architectural components within the East Wing prior to demolition?
4. **Compliance Procedures** – What internal NCPC review processes were triggered by the proposed demolition, and how did the Commission ensure compliance with the NHPA, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and related preservation statutes?
  5. **Post-Demolition Coordination** – To what extent is the NCPC currently engaged in oversight or advisory capacity regarding the design, construction, and siting of any new structure to replace the demolished East Wing?
  6. **Protection of Remaining Structures** – What mechanisms does the NCPC currently maintain to prevent future demolition, alteration, or modification to other historically significant structures within the White House complex, whether federally or privately funded, without prior Commission review and approval?
  7. **Environmental and Cultural Impact Review** – Was an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement conducted prior to the demolition? If so, please provide copies of such documents and indicate when public notice and comment opportunities were provided.
  8. **Consultation with Advisory Bodies** – Were the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and/or the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office consulted as part of the review process? If not, please explain why these statutory consultations did not occur.
  9. **Public Notice and Transparency** – Given this Administration's dedication to transparency, what public notice or stakeholder engagement processes were conducted prior to demolition, and how did the NCPC ensure compliance with transparency and comment procedures required for projects affecting federally significant historic properties?

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your responses.

Respectfully,



Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress

## **Letter of Protest Regarding the Demolition of the White House East Wing**

Subject: Irreversible Loss of the White House East Wing and Opposition to the Proposed Ballroom Project

To:

Mr. Reid Nelson, Executive Director – Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Ms. Kristi Tunstall Williams, Acting Federal Preservation Officer – U.S. General Services Administration

Mr. Marcel C. Acosta, Executive Director – National Capital Planning Commission

From:

Tim Malloy

Glenwood Springs, Colorado

Date: October 24, 2025

Dear Mr. Nelson, Ms. Tunstall Williams, and Mr. Acosta,

I am writing to express my deep sadness and outrage over the complete demolition of the White House East Wing and the impending construction of a 90,000-square-foot ballroom on the White House grounds. As an American citizen and professional in land planning, I am shocked that such an act could proceed with so little transparency, public oversight, or regard for historic preservation law and tradition.

Completed in 1942 under Franklin D. Roosevelt, the East Wing was designed by Lorenzo Winslow to balance the 1902 West Wing and to provide working space for the First Lady and social office. Over the decades it became inseparable from the functional and ceremonial life of the White House, serving as the public entrance for state events and housing offices central to its daily operation. Its destruction represents the most significant architectural and symbolic loss to the White House complex since the 1814 fire.

The White House is not only an active seat of government but also a singular national treasure. Even if the White House complex is exempt from certain provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the spirit and purpose of that law surely call for transparency, consultation, and preservation of nationally significant heritage. Any alteration to the White House grounds demands the utmost care in planning and design, given that even minor changes can affect the visual balance, symbolism, and integrity of one of the nation's most prominent monuments. Major interventions such as the proposed ballroom require a level of review and restraint commensurate with the site's unparalleled historic and civic significance.

Historically, every major addition or modification to the White House complex has been guided by deliberate design principles and nationally respected architects. The 1902 renovation by McKim, Mead & White under President Theodore Roosevelt modernized the White House while preserving its classical proportions. The 1948 Truman Balcony addition by William Adams Delano carefully balanced functionality with the neoclassical rhythm of the south façade. Even the 1942 East Wing expansion under Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt was designed with measured respect for the historic legacy and architectural character of the building.

The destruction of the East Wing has broken with that long tradition of deliberate, respectful stewardship. I respectfully urge your offices to:

1. Conduct a full investigation into how this demolition proceeded without full public and inter-agency review.
2. Require that any subsequent construction on the site—including the proposed ballroom—be suspended pending compliance with historic preservation and design review standards.
3. Establish safeguards to prevent such unilateral actions in the future on any federally significant property, especially national monuments of this stature.

The American people deserve assurance that decisions affecting the nation's most iconic building are made with the highest regard for its history, dignity, and legacy. I ask that you exercise your authority—and moral responsibility—to uphold these values and to ensure that no further damage is done to this irreplaceable national treasure.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Malloy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "M".

Tim Malloy

December 11, 2025

Mr. Shalom Baranes, FAIA  
Shalom Baranes Associates Architects

Washington, DC 20007

Reference: Destruction of the East Wing of the White House and the Impending Design of the Proposed New Ballroom to Replace the East Wing

Dear Mr. Baranes,

We, the undersigned, as we are sure you are aware, are a group of architects who questioned the initial ballroom architect's compliance with the AIA Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct. This concern has been reported nationally initially in *The Architect's Newspaper* and then the *Daily Beast*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, as well as other media. It was announced that your firm now has been hired to work on the White House ballroom project that replaces our historic East Wing of the "People's House"—the White House. We are writing to urge you to decline this sole source commission. We do so for the following reasons:

1. The Trump administration has destroyed a significant portion of our country's most significant treasure by demolishing the historic East Wing of the White House. This was done with no public review and no consultation with bodies entrusted with the conservation and preservation of the District's historic assets, namely the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the US Commission of Fine Arts (CFA). Please note language of the legislation which created the NCPC:

*"SEC. 2. (a) The National Capital Planning Commission, herein- after called the 'Commission', is hereby created and designated as the central planning agency for the Federal and District Governments to plan the appropriate and orderly development and redevelopment of the National Capital and the conservation of the important natural and historical features thereof."*

The NCPC was silent on the demolition of the historic "People's House". This was a dereliction of the duties entrusted to that body by the American public. It did so because the majority of the members of the Commission were replaced by President Trump with his own loyalists and three of his existing White House staff. Ex-officio members include Pete Hegseth, Secretary of War, and Doug Burgum, Secretary of the Interior, both Cabinet loyalists. Note that the NCPC hasn't met since July and there is no planned meeting until January 8, 2026. The CFA members have all been fired by the president though there is apparently a meeting scheduled for January 15, 2026. (<https://www.cfa.gov/>)

Unless a condition of your commission to work on this project is the reconstruction of the East Wing in its original form along with the inclusion of any salvaged historical items from the demolition, you are complicit in the approval of its demolition.

2. The plan to build a structure that is twice the size of the White House Central Mansion and immediately adjacent to it will forever diminish its significance as one of the many important axial focal points in Pierre Charles L'Enfant's plan for the District. Symmetry drives the effectiveness of the District's Plan. The White House itself respected and emphasized this symmetry with its own design. The size and scale of the West and (and now demolished) East

Wings respected the Central Mansion and did not disrupt its significance as the focal point in the north/south axis from the Washington Monument.

The scale and location of the proposed ballroom creates an extreme imbalance of the White House. It would reduce the Mansion to the “tail wagging the dog”. This is untenable and should be stopped.

The argument that there is a “need” for an enormous national ballroom, if it must be so, can be met elsewhere just as other public needs over recent decades have been fulfilled with museums and monuments that do not disrupt the District’s magnificent plan but enhance and strengthen it.

3. We believe that no architect, whether they be Assoc. AIA, AIA, FAIA, RA or any architect worldwide should engage in what we believe is an illegal sole source commission. We believe it is improper and illegal to have the president award the most visible public building in the United States—the White House ballroom design through a sole source contract. The questionable action of soliciting donations from wealthy corporations and individuals to finance this out of scale, inappropriate ballroom is quid pro quo for those who donate. And, as a fellow architect to engage in a commission with the Trump administration which has demoted our profession to a non-profession, we request that you and any other architect refuse this commission. Let the hole that remains of what was once the historic East Wing of the “People’s House” remain throughout the next 3 years of this current administration.

We believe that in accepting this commission, you may be in violation of the following Rules in the AIA’s Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct. We look forward to your explanation as to why you feel that you will not violate the following Rules.:

RULE 1.101: In practicing architecture, Members shall demonstrate a consistent pattern of reasonable care and competence and shall apply the technical knowledge and skill which is ordinarily applied by architects of good standing practicing in the same locality.

E.S. 1.3: Natural and Cultural Heritage: Members should respect and help conserve their natural and cultural heritage while striving to improve the environment and the quality of life within it.

RULE 1.402: Members shall not engage in conduct involving wanton disregard of the rights of others.

RULE 2.101: Members shall not, in the conduct of their professional practice, knowingly violate the law.

E.S. 2.1: Conduct: Members should uphold the law in the conduct of their professional activities.

RULE 2.105: If, in the course of their work on a project, the Members become aware of a decision taken by their employer or client which violates any law or regulation and which will, in the Members’ judgment, materially affect adversely the safety to the public of the finished project, the Members shall:

- (a) advise their employer or client against the decision,
- (b) refuse to consent to the decision, and
- (c) report the decision to the local building inspector or other public official charged with the enforcement of the applicable laws and regulations, unless the Members are able to cause the matter to be satisfactorily resolved by other means.

RULE 2.106: Members shall not counsel or assist a client in conduct that the architect knows, or reasonably should know, is fraudulent or illegal.

RULE 2.401: When performing professional services, Members shall make reasonable efforts to inform their clients of the potential environmental impacts or consequences the Members reasonably believes may occur as a result of work performed on behalf of the clients.

RULE 3.101: In performing professional services, Members shall take into account applicable laws and regulations. Members may rely on the advice of other qualified persons as to the intent and meaning of such regulations.

RULE 3.102: Members shall undertake to perform professional services only when they, together with those whom they may engage as consultants, are qualified by education, training, or experience in the specific technical areas involved.

RULE 3.201: Members shall not render professional services if the Member's professional judgment could be affected by responsibilities to another project or person, or by the Member's own interests, unless all those who rely on the Member's judgment consent after full disclosure.

We have provided the link to the AIA's Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct here:

<https://www.aia.org/code-ethics-professional-conduct>

We also believe that the destruction of the East Wing has not adhered to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation:

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/taxincentives/secretarys-standards-rehabilitation.htm>

As fellow architects, we cannot imagine any colleague who would support what has already been an extremely destructive and disrespectful act not only to the White House but to the citizens of our country who've placed trust in our profession to protect our historic assets and design environments that continue to accrue benefit to all. We architects need the courage to protect our historic built environment.

We have noted that your firm has an impressive portfolio of completed projects, many in the District. They show not only an admirable approach to architecture but a consistent respect for the environment in which they have been built. We want to make it perfectly clear that we harbor no ill will towards you personally. Your rejection of this commission would protect your professional reputation, uphold the integrity of the American Institute of Architects (the majority of signatories on this letter are members of the AIA but don't speak for the AIA), and prevent further harm to the nation's most symbolic residence.

We respectfully request that you to do what you know is right and decline this commission. We wanted to give you the chance to explain your actions and/or inactions relating to this matter before pursuing any formal Ethical Complaints. Your immediate attention to this matter is hereby requested and appreciated.

Very Sincerely the Undersigned Members of the American Architectural Historic Preservation Community,

Mark I. Baum, AIA  
Brian Broadus, AIA  
Terry H. Brooks, Assoc. AIA  
George B. Bryant, Arch. (ret)  
Jeffrey Bumb, AIA  
Thomas Butt, FAIA  
Samuel Duff Combs, AIA  
Frank DiMella, AIA Emeritus  
Lee Gamelsky, AIA  
Robert Graham, AIA

Thomas Gray, AIA  
Gene L. Greene, AIA  
Jack Hillbrand, AIA  
Ed Hodges, AIA  
Deborah Kander, RA  
Thomas Keeling, AIA  
Randy Krieie, AIA  
Robert C. Mack, FAIA  
James Malanaphy, AIA  
P. David Marshall, AIA

Mark Nardini, AIA  
Nelson Breech Nave, AIA  
Emily Reynolds, Assoc. AIA  
Annie Sauser, Assoc. AIA  
Lee Schwerin, AIA Emeritus  
Paul Scoville, AIA Emeritus  
Inda Sechzer, Assoc. AIA  
Peter Shaffer, AIA  
Robert Sotolongo, AIA  
Emeritus

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074  
MINORITY (202) 225-5051  
<https://oversight.house.gov>

December 17, 2025

Mr. William Scharf  
Chair  
National Capital Planning Commission  
401 9th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chair Scharf:

I write regarding your statement that the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) is expected to receive plans from the White House for its ongoing ballroom construction by the end of December.<sup>1</sup> As you know, the NCPC was “created to preserve the important historical and natural features of the National Capital” and is responsible for reviewing project plans and proposals affecting federal property, such as the White House.<sup>2</sup> The board, composed of 12 members, includes the chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which holds jurisdiction over the District of Columbia.<sup>3</sup>

As ranking member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I request that you share any document(s) regarding this project, including, but not limited to, notification of the NCPC’s receipt of the plans, access to directly review the plans once received, and regular updates on the NCPC’s review of the plans to keep apprised of the ongoing construction, including all waivers to or deviations from the standard review process as applied in past NCPC reviews. This information will assist the Committee in our ongoing oversight into the ballroom’s construction, especially in the event that I am to join the Commission in future Congresses.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Democratic Committee staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

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<sup>1</sup> *White House Is Expected to Submit Plans for New Ballroom to Planning Commission This Month*, ABC News (Dec. 4, 2025) (online at <https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/white-house-expected-submit-plans-new-ballroom-planning-128116475>).

<sup>2</sup> 40 U.S.C. § 8711(a).

<sup>3</sup> 40 U.S.C. § 8711(b)(1)(A).

Mr. William Scharf  
Page 2

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Garcia', written over a horizontal line.

Robert Garcia  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman

Washington, DC 20002

6 January 2026

401 National Capitol Planning Commission  
9<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Suite 500N  
Washington, DC 20004

via e-mail: [info@ncpc.gov](mailto:info@ncpc.gov)

Dear Commissioners,

As a United States citizen, District of Columbia resident, and practicing architect, I am writing in strong opposition to the folly which is being proposed by the Administration to replace the now-demolished East Wing of the White House.

Most importantly, I do not think that a gargantuan ballroom gold-encrusted addition represents the values that the United States was founded upon. It is a transparently self-aggrandizing project proposed by our current narcissistic President, more akin to palatial constructions of authoritarian kings against whom the American Revolutionary War was fought.

However, accepting the Administration's claim that the White House needs larger entertainment facilities, the following modifications should be made to bring the addition more into scale with the existing Main Residence and West Wing:

1. Reduce the footprint of the addition by at least 50%. This is based on the latest images circulating on social media and the press showing the southwest corner of the ballroom touching the edge of the oval driveway on the south side of the White House.
2. Reduce the height of the addition by one story, so that the Main Residence dominates as the tallest element as originally intended. This would lower the ballroom to grade level, making it more gracious for indoor/outdoor events and safer for egress purposes.
3. Reduce the height of the east connecting walkway to one story above grade, instead of two, making it equal in height to the west connecting walkway. No doubt, a stairway transition from the north portico of the White House to the lower ballroom could be graciously accommodated within the volume of the Main Residence.

Respectfully submitted,



Larysa Kurlas, Architect



January 7, 2026

National Capital Planning Commission  
401 9<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 500N  
Washington, DC 20004

To members of the Commission:

I am writing *in opposition to* the new proposal for a ballroom addition to the east side of the White House, as shown in the latest drawings issued by the White House [issued prior to the late replacement by the White House, of the architect engaged for the project].

I am a registered Architect and have lived in DC for almost forty years. I have also served on the Cleveland Park neighborhood's Architectural Review Committee for close to thirty years.

1. The idea of a large ballroom is not a good idea:
  - a. Such a facility would promote a more "exclusive" class-based, elitest presidency by virtue of facilitating more and larger, *private*, social functions, within the confines of the White House grounds.
  - b. Such a large facility would end up being lightly used, compared to the rest of the structures that now exist on the White House grounds. It would indeed become a white elephant of sorts.
2. The current proposal is too big: It dwarfs the existing White House and surprisingly begins to rival the adjacent U.S. Treasury Building.
  - a. The White House is, and has always been, the primary figure anchoring one part of the Capitol city's Federal Triangle. As such any other related structures should be deferential to the White House itself, much in the way the existing West Wing does.
  - b. Any proposal should be at least 50% smaller than now shown, and should also be significantly less tall (say at least one story lower) overall than the existing WH. Any connectors that touch the existing WH, should be no taller than one story, and the floor levels should *align* with the same levels on the White House (like existing West Wing).
3. The process to date has not been legal nor appropriate. The Fine Arts Commission has, in the past, not responded well to projects that have proceeded without proper approvals. Such indiscretions have been met with firm, yet fair rulings for the offending parties. The recent, unapproved, reckless demolition of the existing East Wing should be met with no less.

Please bring the full brunt of the law, in the form of a fair, informed, and firm review of any proposal for the East Wing of the White House.

Respectfully,

Phillip R. Eagleburger, AIA Emeritus

August 12, 2025

National Capital Planning Commission  
401 9th St. NW Suite 500 N  
Washington, DC 20004

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to ask you to please review very carefully the proposed plan for a White House Ballroom. This 90,000 square foot building is almost double the size of the entire White House and will dwarf that iconic symbol of America and make it unrecognizable. In the architect's rendering displayed by the White House Press Secretary it is impossible to even find the current White House structure.

Trump claims this monstrous ballroom is necessary for entertaining larger numbers of guests, forgetting that it would necessitate additional kitchen facilities as well as sets of china and silver. Additional staff would also need to be employed,

As a former member of Mrs. Nixon's staff who worked in the East Wing assisting the Social Secretary, I was intimately involved in planning state dinners and other social occasions which took place in the White House. Elegant state dinners were held in the State Dining Room which seats approximately 140 people. An additional 50 guests were often invited to come after dinner for entertainment and dancing in the East Room. These dinners were intimate affairs and part of their magic was the experience of being inside the White House. No one wants to be in an adjunct building in a large crowd with

lengthened security protocols. The White House is owned by the American people and the President is only a temporary occupant who should never be permitted to change it single-handedly. Trump is proposing a monument to himself, his "legacy" he admits!

Last but not least, the very fact of and the optics of constructing a 200 million dollar building, decorated in gold like European and Middle Eastern castles and palaces, when many Americans are losing health care, paying higher prices for goods and services and thousands of people are starving throughout the world are obscene and destructive of the America that we all cherish.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deborah M. Sloan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and 'S'.

Deborah M. Sloan

## I am 100% **OPPOSED TO BUILDING THE TRUMP BALLROOM**

- In addition to President Trump, who is cited hundreds of times in the Epstein Files, the major donors to the ballroom include at least three men with admitted connections to Epstein, and one man with a criminal conviction, who continues to plea for a pardon there are at least three men with Epstein connections among major donors to the ballroom.

WE DO NOT WANT OUR WHITE HOUSE CONTAMINATED BY THE SMARMY MONEY OF PEDOPHILES.

- Only Republican Trump friends, and companies that have specific business and policy decisions that depend on Trump's favor have contributed.

WE WANT A CHANCE TO CONTRIBUTE TOO. WHY DOES HE GET TO VIOLATE LAWS AND RULES TO DEFACE THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE, WHILE BLOCKING INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION OF OTHERS?

- Trump promised the ballroom would not change the footprint of the White House.
  - Ballroom **will be 140% the size of the current White House.**
  - Ballroom **originally est. to seat 650, it is now est'd to seat 900 people.**
  - **HE IS MORE THAN DOUBLING THE SIZE OF THE WHITE FOR THIS ONE VANITY PROJECT ROOM.**
  - We don't need this. The point of a White House dinner is to have a small, or relatively small, occasion to have personal interactions. Setting aside the fact that this President would be robbing zoos to get 900 sentient beings that would come to such an event if they were not paid or extorted.

**HE'S BUILDING A THRONE ROOM. THE WHOLE POINT OF  
AMERICA IS NO KINGS**

Written comments to the National Capital Planning Commission on the East Wing Expansion Project

2/22/26

By Charles M. Luebke, AIA

I have been a registered architect since 1977 and have also served on a city planning commission as a member and chair. That experience and responsibility have taught me the importance of decision making in the public realm and for the overall public good. Elected or appointed positions like yours takes the burden of the architectural and urban planning decision process out of the hands of the public to rest squarely on the shoulders of your commission. The Commission on Fine Arts in their "rubber stamping" approval of not only the preliminary plans for the White House East Wing Expansion and their subsequent appalling decision to approve final designs and plans of the project without even a submission of them, makes your responsibility that much greater. I have reviewed the plans submitted to the CFA. The first thing I must say is how did the demolition of the original East Wing ever happen without proper review and approval? The destruction of a portion of the Peoples' House or White House is not something that should have been done by the whim of any current resident of the WH. That being said and the act having been done should make approval of anything new even that much more intensive in its process. The current plans are a terrible design solution! The worst aspect of the design is the physical scale of the addition in relation to the existing main structure of the WH. It is totally out of proportion and dwarfs the main residence, which should be the main focal point of the complex. This scale issue is not just in the plan dimensions of the addition, but also in the massiveness of its scale in height. I believe no "ballroom" of this size could ever be designed properly to solve this problem. The concept of "bigger is better" fails completely in this context. The design execution of the building's four sides looks like a cacophony of classical design motifs thrown at the building to make them somehow fit into the fabric of federal building design. I urge you to disapprove of this project immediately. It is a waste of your time, and its construction would be an eyesore to our nation's presidential residence and the DC urban fabric. Approval of this design for political reasons and pressure from the current president is no reason to pass it through your process. He is merely a tenant for a short time in this residence. Courage to use sound urban planning and architectural review is warranted and essential as you are the last bastion of the public's right to determine what is appropriate and good for the future of this historic place. If any of you were appointed to your positions on the Commission by the current president, then your responsibility to the citizens of this nation is even more compelling to be independent. Respectfully, I ask you to do the task you were given which in this case is to deny approval of this project. The scale of it is just too immense. Thank you for your consideration.

February 26, 2026

To the Chairman and Members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

I am writing to express my opposition to the plans to build a ballroom addition to the White House. It is not the fact of a ballroom that I object to; it is the way that this ballroom has been designed. I am a long-time resident of Washington, DC, a professor emerita of history and historic preservation, and the author of six books on American architectural history. I have a long and deep commitment to historic architecture and its power to explain the past and inform the present.

The White House is, inarguably, the most significant residential building in the United States. Designed purposefully and symbolically, it expressed the hopes of a new nation and an understanding of what the role of the president would be. Its location on its own hill, separate from Congress, articulates the balanced nature of our government. Its siting in the middle of the city suggests its accessibility to those who would petition the president. Its stone walls evoke permanence. Its Neoclassical design projects order, rationality, and dignity, but not opulence.

And its relatively small size is an important part of its symbolism. This was not a palace or a castle but, rather, a house. James Hoban's 1792 design, evoking a gentleman's country house in Ireland, was reduced by a story before construction was completed. The domestic scale of the White House is thus an important aspect to be preserved. Modest in size, the White House should be respected by new construction, not overshadowed.

The proposed ballroom does not defer to the architectural and symbolic masterpiece that is the White House. Four aspects of this are particularly concerning:

*Size of the ballroom:* A building the exact same height (to the cornice) but three times as large will overshadow the White House. A 10-foot setback is irrelevant given the size of the new building, and the assertion that trees will obscure the building is absurd. There is no guarantee that trees will survive even a year, and certainly not for the life of the new building. Trees are not a design strategy.

*Size of the connector:* The two-story connector is intrusive and unnecessary. At 40 feet high, it is too tall, too visible, and too obtrusive. The ostensible reason for this second story is so that visitors could enter the White House and proceed through the East Room to the ballroom, but it seems that most visitors would enter through the east side of the ballroom, where adequate security screening would take place. Further, would this not turn the East Room into a hallway? Two of the five windows on the east wall of that room would be removed for the corridor. We have not seen plans that explain the impact on the interior of the White House.

*Damage to the White House:* The exterior of the White House would also clearly suffer by this enlarged connector. At nearly 40 feet wide, the new second story of the connector will

necessitate removal of the handsome Palladian window in the center of the White House's east wall, as well as an adjacent window (see photo). Because the exterior stone walls date back to the original construction of the White House in the 1790s, unlike much of the rest of the building, the loss of this original fabric would be tragic.



*Size of the ballroom interior:* The size of the ballroom has not been justified. It would seem that the need to gather 1,000 diners would occur rarely, perhaps only for Inaugural Balls. Most of the time the attendance would be smaller, necessitating the partitioning of the space. The 38-foot-high ceiling of the ballroom would be woefully out of scale for a ballroom half of its length or width.

More time is needed for a careful reconsideration of this project. Constructing a ballroom is possible, but it should be deferential to the White House, not overwhelming. It should be scaled for its realistic uses, not aspirational ones. And it should not destroy any fabric of the White House.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alison K. Hoagland".

Alison K. Hoagland

Washington, DC 20002

26 February 2026

National Capitol Planning Commission

9<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Suite 500N

Washington, DC 20004

via e-mail: [info@ncpc.gov](mailto:info@ncpc.gov)

Dear Commissioners,

As a United States citizen, District of Columbia resident, and practicing architect, I am writing in strong opposition to the **White House East Wing Modernization** project as depicted in the 13 February 2026 drawings submitted by Shalom Baranes Associates which is being proposed by the Administration to replace the now-demolished East Wing of the White House.

Most importantly, I do not think that a gargantuan gold-encrusted ballroom represents the values that the United States was founded upon. It is a transparently self-aggrandizing project proposed by our current narcissistic President, more akin to the palatial construction of an authoritarian king of a political system against whom the American Revolutionary War was fought.

### SIZE/SCALE

In simple fact, the size and scale of the proposed Ballroom addition completely overwhelms the White House Residence and disrupts the classical balance of the central Residence with what should be subservient wings. The architect has unquestioningly accepted the Administration's programmatic requirement to accommodate 1,000 guests in the Ballroom at an inflated allotment of over 22 square feet per person. Why? Is it a good use of space to have an unnecessarily huge Ballroom remain empty most of the time?

Simply aligning the cornice of the Ballroom, as the architect has stated, does not automatically bring an addition almost three times the footprint size of the existing Residence "into scale", especially as the grade drops to the south of the site. The design relies on existing trees and landscaping to hide the bulk of the addition – an amateurish trick which first year architecture students are trained to avoid.

### PORTICOS

At the same time, the proposed design features huge highly visible porticos on the east and south sides of the Ballroom addition which, at 8 and 10 columns wide respectively, are more akin in heft to government buildings in the Federal Triangle. The Corinthian columns are almost 3 stories tall - a full story taller and much more ornate than the 4 Ionic columns of the north portico and 6 Ionic columns of the curved south portico of the Residence. They are even larger and more ornate than the 8-column-wide 2-story porticos the large Treasury building next door, which deferentially incorporates Ionic columns.

In a spectacular expression of excess, the 10-column-wide south portico of the Ballroom, with its grand staircase, appears to serve no practical purpose whatsoever. Its terrace level is located 12 ft. below the ballroom level and 4 ft. Its purpose is solely decorative, needlessly increasing the footprint size and extending the addition so much further south than the Treasury Building that it completely blocks the historically symbolic visual axis along Pennsylvania Avenue between the White House and the Capitol Building as conceived by Pierre L'Enfant. The length of the proposed addition also distorts the symmetry of Frederick Law Olmsted's oval driveway on the south lawn of the White House.

## **COLONNADE**

Balance and symmetry left and right of the White House Residence is seriously undermined by the proposed 2-story colonnade on the east side, relative to the existing 1-story west colonnade. Furthermore, it is inappropriate to place bathroom and theater functions in the colonnade, necessitating blind windows on the north side of the colonnade. The grand staircase on the south side of the colonnade, leading to a bathroom corridor is highly inappropriate. The architect has acknowledged the imbalance of the colonnades in the past by suggesting the building of a 2-story colonnade on the west side of the Residence, perhaps not realizing that it would connect to a shorter structure?

## **RECOMMEDATIONS**

Accepting the Administration's claim that the White House needs larger entertainment facilities, the following modifications should be considered in order to bring the Ballroom addition more into scale with the existing Residence and West Wing:

1. Reduce the footprint of the Ballroom addition by at least 50%, mainly by reducing the unquestioned size of the Ballroom itself.
2. Reduce the height of the addition by one story so that the Residence dominates as the tallest element as originally intended. This would lower the Ballroom to grade level on the White House south lawn, making it more gracious for indoor/outdoor events and safer for egress purposes. This would also reduce the climb to the Ballroom level from the east portico to 1/2 story, instead of 1-1/2 stories. There is no reason why the kitchen cannot be buried below grade, under the Ballroom. Perhaps it could be located on the west side of the lower level, which would allow for the First Lady's Offices to have windows facing east?
3. Reduce the height of the east colonnade to one story, making it equal in height to the west colonnade and eliminating the staircase on the south side. No doubt, a stairway transition from the north portico of the Residence to the lower ballroom could be graciously accommodated within the volume of the Residence. Relocate bathroom and movie theater functions proposed in the colonnade to the subterranean level below the Ballroom.
4. Reduce the scale of east portico. Eliminate the south portico altogether unless it serves a function for the Ballroom.
5. To balance the Ballroom addition, consider building a second story addition atop the West Wing to accommodate the First Lady's Offices.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larysa Kurylas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Larysa Kurylas, Architect

cc Phil Mendelson, Chairman of the DC City Council and NCPC Member via [pmendelson@dccouncil.gov](mailto:pmendelson@dccouncil.gov)

Muriel Bowser, Mayor of DC via [muriel.bowser@dc.gov](mailto:muriel.bowser@dc.gov)

Oye Owolewa, US Shadow Representative from DC via [adeoye.owolewa@dc.gov](mailto:adeoye.owolewa@dc.gov)

Paul Strauss, US Shadow Senator from DC via [senator@dc.gov](mailto:senator@dc.gov)

Ankit Jain, US Shadow Senator from DC via [ankit.jain@dc.gov](mailto:ankit.jain@dc.gov)

i

We do not want a

• ball room

• arch

or another object with

Trump's name on it.

Please, save the beauty and  
dignity of our capital.

I urge you to ask the American <sup>1-11-26</sup>  
people what they want done to The White  
House. Our White House. Pres. Trump has  
already demolished the East Wing without  
notice or permission. A ballroom? Now an  
addition? I do not care from where  
the funds originate - we don't want  
these changes! Step in.

And please, get a head of the ludicrous  
Arch scheme. We do not need nor want  
to feed this man's ego.

Hinda Brick, Roscommon, MI 72 years old, wife,  
mother, grandmother

AS A US CITIZEN  
I AM HORRIFIED THAT  
THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION

BURLINGTON VT 054  
27 OCT 2025 AM 11



HAS TORN OFF THE  
EAST WING OF THE  
WHITE HOUSE WITHOUT  
ANY PERMITTING  
OR PLAN FOR THE  
SO CALLED "BALL ROOM".  
I OPPOSE THE ACTIONS  
OFF THIS PRESIDENT &  
I HOPE YOU CAN BRING  
LEGAL ACTION AGAINST  
HIM OR AT LEAST SCALE DOWN

NATIONAL  
CAPITAL PLANNING  
COMMISSION  
401 9TH ST NW  
#500N  
WASHINGTON, DC  
20004

THE SIZE OF THE  
PROJECT!

CURRENT RESIDENT WRECKS  
HAVOC ON THE "PEOPLES HOUSE"



I hope there is a way  
to scale back on that  
garish, self-serving  
ballroom. Someone,  
hopefully, can stop it!

Please stop the construction  
of the monstrosity,

The White House is the  
people's house - NOT  
someone's personal  
fund-raising space!

Concerned Calif. gardener

Please do everything in your power  
to stop that Madman from destroying  
the People's House. Nor do I want  
an ugly marble arch. I have concerns  
about Asbestos and lead, and destruction  
of actual historical Art.

10/22/25

Dear Commissioners,

May I remind you of your job to protect and enhance the resources of our capital, including the White House? You need to stop the demolition and construction until a proper and legal process of review has happened. Please protect the property that belongs to all of us, which we hold sacred and have placed in the trust of you and others. Now is the time to be responsible, thoughtful and wise.

Sincerely,

Rev. Kathy Suho

4 Nov 2025

Dear Commissioners,

The destruction at  
President's Park and  
The White House is a  
disgrace! This belongs  
to the American People  
not the current president.  
This is not political.

I have been a republican,  
democrat, and independent.  
Please - do your job and  
maintain this historic  
property!

With deepest concern,  
Lisa Haddox

The White House is called "The People's House" because it is a symbol of American democracy owned by its citizens, not the president. The term highlights the fact that the president serves the people and that the house belongs to the nation,, with its history of public access, stewardship by the National Park Service, and its role as a venue for national discourse and protest.

Historical references as to why the White House is known as "The People's House" include:

1. Democratic Ownership: The building is maintained for the public and symbolizes the values and strength of the American people.

2. Accessibility: Since 2009, the White House Visitor Office has welcomed millions of guests, reinforcing the idea of it being open to the public.

3. Historical Significance: The term gained traction in the 1820s, with supporters arguing that because the president is elected by the people, the residence should be suitable to represent them.

4. Symbolic Representation: As First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy noted, the White House belongs to the American people and is a house for the nation.

While the U.S. House of Representatives is also referred to as "**The People's House**" due to its legislative role, **the moniker is commonly applied to the executive mansion to emphasize that it is not a private palace but a public institution.**

# The John G. Shedd Institute for the Arts

Telephone: [REDACTED]  
www.theshedd.org

February 15, 2026

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James Ralph  
Executive Director  
Tony Roethler  
Business Office  
Elijah Snyder  
Facilities

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Ginevra Ralph  
Director Community  
& Cultural Services  
Lynnea Barry  
Corporate Relations  
Storm Kennedy  
Public Relations

Katy Graves  
Arielle Gardner  
Kelli Langlands  
Community Relations  
Rachael Stegmaier  
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## National Capital Planning Commission

Re: East Wing Modernization Project – White House Ballroom

To the Commissioners:

Imagine Opening Night of the new ballroom: the President plans to confer a surprise award to a major donor sitting just 20 feet away from the stage!!

- The President praises the donor extensively, saying all sorts of lovely things about him.
- He announces Joe Smith's name.
- There is applause, but no one rises to go to the podium to receive the award.
- Suddenly, there is a flurry of activity at Mr. Smith's table with guests urgently gesturing for him to go up on to the stage where the President is standing.
- Not understanding why, he finally very reluctantly does so, receives his plaque, and quickly returns to his seat because he didn't hear the President ask him to "say a few words".
- Mr. Smith doesn't laugh at the President's jokes, and he doesn't participate in very much dinner conversation at his noisy table.
- Later, Mr. Smith and his wife don't dance because they can't hear the music even though it is amplified.

Scenarios like this happen all the time because architects, venue operators, and patrons themselves do not understand the need for an effective assistive listening system in public spaces such as the new ballroom.

I write as a manager of a performing arts venue to strongly urge you to **install a hearing loop as the ADA-mandated assistive listening system you choose for the new ballroom.**

It is not hyperbole to say that our patrons' lives have been changed once they could easily use our hearing loop assistive listening systems for acoustic music, films, speeches, amplified music, meetings, classes, and ticket/concession purchases.

- Of the three ADA-compliant systems (hearing loop, FM, and infrared) only a hearing loop would allow Mr. Smith to attend the event, turn on his hearing aid's telecoil program, and hear all of the speeches and all of the music directly and clearly.
  - He can then get up and dance naturally regardless of how close he is to the orchestra.
- The other two systems have serious drawbacks. They both require Mr. Smith to first hand over identification at the coat check in order to borrow the necessary transistor-radio sized receiver, along with a neckloop, which he then must wear plugged into the receiver at all times in order to hear the proceedings.

*The mission of The Shedd Institute is to be an education and performance center where people find and nurture community through discovery, creation and celebration.*

- He can hide the receiver in his tuxedo pocket.
- However, his wife, who also uses hearing aids and is wearing a slim, designer gown, decides to forgo strapping on all the extra required equipment. She therefore doesn't hear the President or the music.
- All of the other hearing aid users in the room (20% of most guest lists) can either use the elegant hearing loop system and hear clearly with no additional equipment, or they would all also have to borrow the additional equipment and wear it in order to hear the proceedings.
- The next morning Mr. and Mrs. Smith attend services at the National Cathedral, which also has a hearing loop system. They can hear everything, even sitting in the last pew, with just a click of their button.

I urge you to consider all of the potential uses of the hall -- from solo acoustic piano, to speeches, to square dance callers, to rock concerts, to video. The sound tech team will simply capture all the sounds Mr. and Mrs. Smith need to hear and transmit it to them directly through the hearing loop.

Additionally, please consider **every physical opportunity to mitigate bouncy, sharp, ambient sound** with the liberal use of acoustical panels in the walls and ceilings. This sound mitigation will make it easier for everyone to hear better and result in a much more elegant White House experience. If this sort of paneling doesn't currently look elegant enough, you have a powerful leadership opportunity to demand new designs to make the space both eminently useful and beautiful.

Senators, Representatives, donors, dignitaries and even presidents have hearing loss. Thank you for making the White House accessible to all.

Sincerely,



Ginevra Ralph, Director Community and Cultural Relations



National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)  
Re: Public comments on the proposed 90,000-square-foot ballroom addition to the White House

February 13, 2026

NCPC -

My father was a prominent preservation architect in Alabama. He designed full restorations, renovations, additions, and adaptive reuse projects for many historic structures in Alabama and Georgia. His philosophy for historic buildings was that anything “new” in the building should reflect the time it was executed. This does not mean design incompatibility, but recognition that modern plans, materials, fixtures, and equipment can be appropriately used and help future historians and restorers to understand the true history of the building across time.

Our White House has been burned, rebuilt, added to, and modernized over many decades to keep the building functional and secure for our national government and the occupants therein. This is how you save historic structures: by keeping them viable and adapting to modern uses and needs.

A grand ballroom for the White House has been a vision of many past administrations. It is, frankly, an embarrassment that world leaders come to the greatest country on earth only to be welcomed in a giant wedding tent with porta-potties, no matter how fancily they may be outfitted. Taxpayers should be grateful that private contributors who have been very successful in America are willing to donate the funds to bring this much needed addition to our capital complex. It will provide enhanced security and comfort for our leaders and guests and show them the dignity deserved in grand American style.

I am in favor of this ballroom addition and see no incompatibility in style to the existing building. Architectural elevations can be deceiving in scale. The perspective renderings are more helpful in determining the effect of the proposed addition. Refining the scale of the connecting wing between the White House and the ballroom building may be desirable. The ballroom itself seems set far enough aside to not overpower the White House.

Anne Nieman



# Comments on Ballroom Addition to the White House

Submitted to the National Capital Planning Commission

*February 14, 2026*

The proposed White House ballroom presents both opportunities and concerns that merit careful consideration by the NCPA. While I appreciate certain aspects of the architectural approach, several fundamental issues require examination before approval.

## **Architectural Approach: Roofline Consistency**

The decision to maintain the roofline consistent with the existing White House is commendable. This approach preserves the building's scale and creates a unified complex, particularly if the West Wing eventually receives similar treatment. This design principle demonstrates respect for the historic character of the White House complex.

## **Scale Concerns: Unprecedented Size**

The proposed scale raises significant questions about appropriateness and necessity. For context:

- Buckingham Palace Ballroom: 170 guests maximum capacity
- White House State Dining Room: 140 guests
- White House East Room: 200 guests
- Proposed White House ballroom: 900–1,000 guests (5–6 times larger than comparable diplomatic venues)

All G7 countries successfully conduct state dinners in venues of 150–200 guests. These intimate settings facilitate the actual diplomatic conversations and relationship-building that are the purpose of such events. A ballroom of 400–500 capacity would still represent a significant expansion while maintaining the diplomatic character appropriate for state functions. The proposed 900–1,000 capacity more closely resembles a political convention center than a diplomatic reception hall.

## **Access and Life Safety Deficiencies**

Egress and accessibility appear seriously deficient in the current plans:

- The lack of ADA-compliant access on the east side (Treasury building side) represents a significant oversight that must be rectified. This is not merely a technical requirement but a fundamental matter of equal access to the People's House.
- For a venue designed to hold 900+ people, the emergency egress routes appear insufficient based on the submitted plans.

- The NCPC should require detailed life safety plans, including emergency egress capacity calculations and ADA compliance documentation, before approval.

## **Entrance and Security Infrastructure**

The commissioners correctly identified the need for a comprehensive plan for attendee entrances and security screening. This issue must be addressed as part of this project, not deferred. The current practice of temporary tents and ad-hoc structures:

- Creates ongoing security vulnerabilities that are unacceptable for a facility of this importance
- Presents an unprofessional appearance unworthy of the nation's capital and the diplomatic functions supposedly being served
- Causes repeated damage to White House grounds through installation and removal cycles

A permanent, purpose-built entrance and security screening facility should be required as an integral component of this project. The past practice of piecemeal additions has been inadequate. The NCPC should insist on a comprehensive solution now.

## **Long-Term Operational and Ethical Implications**

While the NCPC's primary focus is planning and design, the long-term operational implications directly impact the public interest and should inform the commission's review:

### **Ongoing Federal Costs**

- Significant expansion of White House residence staff will be required for a 90,000 square foot facility—the current residence employs approximately 95 staff for 55,000 square feet
- Substantial increase in Secret Service personnel and security infrastructure to protect a venue of this unprecedented scale
- Annual maintenance, utilities, and operational costs that will persist in perpetuity, despite the structure being privately funded for construction only

The Government Accountability Office has repeatedly warned that donor-funded construction at federal facilities creates long-term federal obligations without corresponding funding. This pattern, evident in Smithsonian expansions where operating costs far exceeded projections, should not be replicated at the White House without full disclosure of anticipated ongoing federal costs.

### **Hatch Act Concerns**

The dramatic departure from traditional state dinner venue size raises legitimate questions about intended use:

- A venue 5–6 times larger than traditional state dinner halls appears designed for political events rather than diplomatic functions

- The proposed capacity (900–1,000) mirrors political convention centers and campaign event venues, not diplomatic reception halls used by peer nations
- While the President is exempt from the Hatch Act, federal employees who staff and maintain this facility are not—clear operational guidelines must be established to prevent misuse of this public resource for partisan political purposes

These concerns are not speculative. The 2020 Republican National Convention's use of White House facilities generated widespread ethical concerns and multiple Hatch Act violations by federal employees. A purpose-built venue of this scale could institutionalize such practices.

## **Recommendations to the NCPC**

The NCPC should:

1. Require specific justification for the unprecedented scale (900–1,000 capacity versus traditional 150–200), including documentation of the frequency and nature of events that genuinely require such capacity
2. Mandate comprehensive ADA accessibility and life safety plans, including detailed emergency egress calculations for the proposed occupancy
3. Require permanent entrance and security screening facilities as an integral part of this project submission, with detailed plans for visitor processing capacity
4. Request disclosure of projected long-term federal operational costs and establishment of clear usage guidelines to protect against misuse of public resources for partisan political purposes

## **Conclusion**

The White House belongs to all Americans. The NCPC has a responsibility to ensure this expansion serves diplomatic purposes proportionate to genuine need, not political ambitions disproportionate to historical precedent. A more modest expansion—in the range of 400–500 capacity—would still represent a substantial improvement over current facilities while maintaining the character appropriate for the People's House.

I urge the Commission to exercise its oversight authority thoughtfully and to insist on answers to these fundamental questions before approving a project of this magnitude and consequence.

*Respectfully submitted,*

J Joseph Copeland

High Point, North Carolina

info@ncpc.gov

I agree with what Anara Guard wrote, if you haven't read her comment, it is below.

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on this project, which was initiated without the proper authorization, permits, or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete razing of American history. I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead with penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans.

My comments are, this was not a project that was approved, it did not have permits and most importantly it is erasing American history. So much of our American history represented in the form of architecture is being torn down. The East Wing was an iconic part of the White House and right now in its place is an ugly eyesore that can only be healed by rebuilding the East Wing. The East Wing needs to be restored exactly how it was before it was illegally torn down. I don't think it was ever going to be financed by "rich billionaires" or anyone else but the American Public. This was to line the pockets a few people and their families, the average American would not be have access to this.

Regards,

Citizen katherine m. thompson

The East Wing of The White House should be rebuilt – as The East Wing of The White House. There is no need for a ballroom or any other type of huge dinner or gathering space. Washington, DC already abounds with such facilities.

The exterior of the East Wing should be replicated as it was before it was destroyed. The interior space should be rebuilt with The First Lady's offices, the Visitor's Entrance to The White House, and a Visitor's Center replete with a complete history of The White House – how it was designed, constructed, remodeled, and altered over the years.

As “The People's House” it should reflect that sentiment and not become a symbol of the Haves over the Have-Nots.

I am opposed to the construction of a new East Wing in the form proposed by the white house. In the first place it was illegal to tear the East Wing down without prior approval from the authorities responsible for overseeing any modifications or reconstructions operations of Federal Historical Properties. In the second place the White Hose design for a new ball room was not approved by the authorities responsible for overseeing any modifications or reconstructions operations of Federal Historical Properties. In the third place, plan to equal or exceed the remaining portion of the White House would be an embarrassment of architectural imbalance and should be rejected by the authorities responsible for overseeing any modifications or reconstructions operations of Federal Historical Properties. The National Trust for Historical Places should not endorse this project. [I realized after the fact that autofill had used my professional email it a copy of this email, I apologize for that]

# White House East Wing Modernization

February 14, 2026

RE: NCPC File Number: 8733

On review of the various published plans to rebuild the East Wing, which includes a 90,000 sq foot addition of a White House Ballroom, I find the Ballroom in its current plan will over shadow the White House. It is my opinion the size of the projected Ballroom needs to be reduced in size in order to compliment the White House. The Ballroom size should be smaller than the White House, as it should be an extension of the White House and not the other way around.

The White House is the peoples house and a huge addition, costing a half a billion dollars, should reflect the historical aspects of the White House and what it represents to the American people.

Margaret Montes

[REDACTED]

Dayton, NV

Comment regarding East Wing Modernization Project

**NCPC File Number:** 8733

**Applicant:** Executive Residence at the White House

The East Wing Modernization plan is not in the interest of ordinary tax-paying citizens for several reasons. As a retired educator, I've analyzed information from Fox, PBS, CNN, WhiteHouse.gov, and documents available on the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) website, and I base my comments on that information. I do not support the East Wing Modernization plan as it stands.

The cost of this project is a prime issue. Initial cost estimates have been revised upwards by 100 million dollars. As a consumer, I face rising costs for food, housing, healthcare, and insurance, as well as clothing, gasoline, and home heating/cooling. This is not the appropriate time to increase spending on projects that are not immediately necessary and do not address consumers' immediate challenges regarding daily life. The East Wing modernization and ballroom will put pageantry before affordability. Let donors assist with affordability issues or pay fair taxes that, in turn, can fund modernization.

Using private donors to fund work on public projects is undemocratic. Beyond issues of *cui bono*, when we allow public resources to go to the highest bidder, there are ethical issues made obvious by Mr. Howard Lutnick's current problem of being associated with the Epstein Files. Anyone with a social media account can imagine the ballroom being called Pedophile Palace, Trump's Folly, and so on.

Getting public support for public projects, as the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis did in 1938 by mobilizing millions of Americans to mail dimes to the White House to fund a polio vaccine, was a transparent, democratic, and effective method of conducting public projects. Supporting projects like the East Wing Modernization and the proposed ballroom via private donors has the taint of elitism and whiff of corruption. The public at large and their elected legislators are not party to the project and thus deprived of their property, our public resources. Private funding means there can be pressure to allow the contributors greater access and use than the public at large.

To conclude, the current East Wing Modernization plan and ballroom is too expensive, even if funded by private donors because it won't have to fit the budgetary strictures that govern public spending for upkeep once it is built. The reputational stain that will attach to the project as scandal-linked donors like Mr. Howard Lutnick, who are not vetted or are even encouraged to donate, will destroy whatever value the plan might promise in terms of reputation or pageantry. The anti-democratic nature of this plan is a threat to the values of those of us who prize the United States as a democracy by favoring wealth over shared governance.

Submitted by:

Barbara K. Iverson

Professor Emerita, Columbia College Chicago



Barbara Bryant  
PO Box 2747, Myrtle Beach SC 29578

To: National Capital Planning Commission  
INRE: "East Wing Modernization Project"

Below is my rejection of the ballroom project submitted by the administration:

The White House is more than a residence for the sitting President; it is the "People's House," a living monument to American democracy and a cornerstone of our national heritage. The recent "East Wing Modernization Project"—characterized by the demolition of historic structures to make way for a 90,000-square-foot ballroom—represents a profound breach of public trust and legal protocol. To preserve the integrity of the Executive Mansion, construction must cease immediately, and accountability must be sought for the unilateral destruction of this historic site.

The administration's approach to this project has been marked by "ignorant willfulness," bypassing the very checks and balances designed to protect federal landmarks. By fast-tracking the project, the administration acted **arbitrarily and capriciously**, denying the American public their right to a formal comment period. This lack of transparency extended to oversight bodies; the project commenced without the mandatory preliminary filings and approvals from the **National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)** and the **U.S. Commission of Fine Arts**. Furthermore, the administration's handling of the **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** was a post-hoc attempt at legitimacy. Failing to conduct a full **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** before demolition—and instead issuing a less rigorous "environmental assessment" only after the East Wing had already been razed—is a transparent mockery of federal environmental and preservation laws.

The legal foundations of this project are equally precarious. Under the **Property Clause of the Constitution**, no "building or structure" may be erected on federal land in the District of Columbia without the **express authority of Congress**. By

moving forward without a legislative mandate, the executive branch has overstepped its constitutional bounds.

The financing of the project is perhaps its most troubling aspect. The **\$400 million private corporate donation scheme** is a blatant attempt to evade congressional oversight. By allowing corporations with active business before the government to fund a presidential vanity project, the administration has created a fertile ground for corruption, turning a national landmark into a billboard for private interests.

Beyond the technical and legal failures, the sheer scale of the proposed ballroom—**90,000 square feet**—is an affront to the architectural harmony of the White House. At nearly twice the size of the original Executive Mansion and West Wing combined, the structure would "dominate and visually imbalance" the site, forever altering the character of the historic landscape.

The demolition of the historic **East Wing colonnade** is a loss that cannot be measured in dollars alone. It serves as a stark reminder that no president has the unilateral right to destroy pieces of American history. The White House is held in trust for the public; it is not a private estate to be remodeled at the whim of its temporary occupant.

The cessation of construction is only the first step. True accountability requires that the damage be undone. The funds amassed from corporate donors, supplemented by **Donald Trump's personal funds**, should be redirected toward a meticulous, brick-by-brick restoration of the East Wing to its state prior to this unauthorized demolition.

The American people deserve a presidency that respects the law and the history of the office. By halting this project and demanding the exact restoration of the East Wing, we reaffirm a fundamental democratic principle: the President is a custodian of our national heritage, not its owner.

I am writing as a citizen who has never visited the White House. I have studied it from the historical and architectural lens, and I always thought that I'd be able to see it in person someday. I never considered the destruction of a part of a place that symbolizes the support of the public's right to visit and see the history and stage for the US's hospitality to the world.

The unauthorized and illegal destruction of an historical property that belongs to the people has already happened. To replace the gaping wound left with an oversized, historically unsympathetic, and gaudy statement on the corrupt and privatized access to an administration that has none of the public's interest as a guiding principle is not "Modernization." It is a monument to greed, corruption, autocracy, and ego of a few undeserving politicians and small people.

Any plan for this project should reflect access for the all of the public, space to celebrate the accomplishments of real Americans, and the support spaces for the interaction of the White House with its true owners, the citizens. This proposal of a gaudy oversized ballroom made for paying supporters to rub elbows with those with influence and parade their wealth in front of gold and marble displays of not modern, but coded designs of the past, should not be supported by the government, citizens, taxpayers, or donors. It will only tarnish quickly as a sad statement of a nation focusing on the hollow and ancient values of the 1% who hold themselves above others for no other reason than an unintelligent idea of what being human means.

I would rather the fresh scar remain until input from citizens and the staff that may actually use the space, architects and historical scholars, safety and ADA experts, and representatives of all political views are allowed to speak. This is a project forced upon the nation. We should not feel pressure to allow it or build anything until the more pressing needs of the nation are addressed and the legal and criminal cases and fines involved in the destruction of the East Wing are over. Then the foundations of the nation should be used to build a symbol of public access and celebration.

A nation in conflict with an administration unwilling to support the needs of all citizens, should not be planning a party space reflective of the crass ideas of some with no understanding of the history behind the images they wish to imitate. The White House is not a seat of power, but the place where the daily tasks, the studied responses, the struggle with issues and solutions, the meetings of international and local representatives, and the small moments of people living lives in service of the nation live.

One man, one group, should not be allowed to delete the history or celebrate themselves here of all places. The White House is OUR house. Let the neighborhood heal before this project is built.

Feeling unhoused,

Heather Cross

**I oppose the East Wing Modernization Project.**

**This project began without required National Capital Planning Commission approval, without environmental assessments mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act, and without congressional authorization required by federal law for construction on federal parkland in Washington.**

**The \$400 million cost is funded by corporations holding billions in federal contracts with the administration approving those contracts.**

**This creates an unacceptable conflict of interest.**

**The White House is not private property. It belongs to the American people. No president should have unilateral authority to demolish historic structures and approve construction without following the law and allowing public input.**

**I urge the Commission to reject this proposal.**

I oppose the rushed destruction of the historical East Wing, intentionally completed without following proper procedure in an attempted *fait accompli*.

The proposed 90,000 sq. ft ballroom, costing \$300 - \$400 hundred million, is not appropriate for the existing space. The ballroom is designed to dominate the space, making the People's House secondary to the Trump ballroom. The People's House, including the East and West Wing, as well as the National Mall, belong to every American. Changes to this historical area must not be foisted upon our Great Nation based upon the aesthetics of a single individual.

The White House, which may be considered modest in today's climate of excess, reflects the humble beginnings of

our Country and the economic diversity of our population in which only a very few can afford the excess of the proposed ballroom.

I am opposed to another rush decision being made as to the future of this site without input from all stakeholders for thoughtful consideration. Part of that consideration must include the substantial cost of the proposed project while our Nation is struggling fiscally and our government is slashing services to our neediest citizens. Donations are not dependable as currently structured and those received may well be put to a better purpose than currently envisioned. The current ballroom plans for this site must not be approved.

The rushed destruction of the East Wing

does not require a rush to rebuild. The grounds can be smoothed while a deliberative process is followed to determine the future of this site, whether it be rebuilding the East Wing, building an appropriately sized ballroom, or designed for a different purpose.

Thank you for your time and service to our Nation.

I oppose the expending of \$ 300 million on this project which was initiated without proper authorization, permits or design review. It is not a modernization project but rather a complete rearing of American History. I want this project cancelled and the East wing rebuilt and restored to its former design. No one is above the law and to permit this project to go ahead without penalizing those who broke the law would be an affront to all law-abiding Americans who believe in the importance and reverence of the history of this great country.

**Christene G Scott**

To: National Capital Planning Commission

RE: East Wing modernization and ballroom addition for Project and 2/19/2026 meeting

February 17, 2026

Dear National Capital Planning Commission,

I am writing to ask you to require the Trump administration to rebuild the East Wing to its original dimensions and materials. I was appalled and saddened to see the bull dozers ripping apart the PEOPLE'S HOUSE. The President of the United States is not the owner of this property and he has no right to destroy and/or disfigure it. This was an insult to our First Ladies and all the millions of visitors and dignitaries who graced her rooms and halls.

If you are not legally able to require the rebuilding, please do not support any addition that would be larger than the original dimensions of the East Wing as it stood before the destruction. Washington, DC and especially the Mall and all of our monuments are national treasures to be preserved for all generations. Mr. Trump has many "ballrooms" in his portfolio and does not need one in Washington, DC. He can use his hotels or Mar-Largo. As you know, any changes to the White House or any of our historic monuments are required to be approved by Congress. In addition, the proposed Ballroom is grossly inappropriate in size, height and bulk for the location.

Please exercise any and all authority you have to stop this travesty of a project from scaring the PEOPLE'S HOUSE.

Sincerely,



Christene Scott

## PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED EAST WING MODERNIZATION

2-14-26

Thank you for opening this project to public comments. The unexpected tearing down of the East Wing of the White House without following the usual processes for approval of alterations to historic sites was traumatic, to say the least. The White House and its grounds belong to the citizens of the United States, and there are safeguarding steps that must be followed.

Point 1. To address the proposed design as it has been portrayed, it is completely out of scale with the rest of the property and will be a visual abomination. Scale and balance are essential hallmarks of enduring design. There is no need for such a vast interior space, unless the actual intent is to land an airplane in there.

Point 2. The White House and its grounds are in a classical design style which MUST be respected. If not, we will end up with a visual testament to poor design, poor taste, and architectural malpractice for generations to bear witness to. There is an attempt at classical design here, but integrate more closely with the style of the White House.

Point 3. Do not make the White House appear to be a chicken coop attached to the barn. The White House is primary.

Point 4. When the project was announced, the cost was stated to be \$200 million, I believe. The cost has now risen to around \$400 million. The doubling of cost makes these numbers seem fictitious. If there is to be any taxpayer funding involved, which could turn out to be the case, make sure legitimate bids are being obtained from multiple competing contractors.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dorothy Sackett

## Statement on the White House Ballroom Proposal 2/16/2026

I recognize that the White House is a building with evolving needs, and that it has undergone various exterior and interior modifications since construction began in 1792. The proposed ballroom will be the first major change to its exterior appearance in the last 83 years (since the East Wing in its current form was built in 1942). Therefore, such a significant change to a historic building of this import should follow a rigorous and deliberate design and review process.

Since the project announcement, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) has expressed concern and offered recommendations in five areas:

- A. Establish a qualifications-based architect selection process
- B. Enact a rigorous historic preservation review
- C. Prioritize transparency and public accountability
- D. Consider “proportionality” and “design harmony”
- E. Leverage collaboration and expertise across the architecture profession

I share the AIA’s concern and support those recommendations. I also support the following additional items, articulated by the Society of Architectural Historians:

1. Enact a Comprehensive Preservation Review: Since the last significant exterior change to the White House in 1942, major advances have been made in the field of historic preservation. Federal regulations and best practices now mandate careful study and mitigation of the impacts of new additions and changes to historic buildings. While the White House is exempt from the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 that requires federal agencies to consider the effects of federal projects on historic properties, given the exemplary significance of this site, we urge the White House to follow a meticulous review of any proposed demolition and new construction. From the limited information released to the public, it is unclear whether the proposal involves any demolition of the existing East Wing. Statements by the Chair of the National Capital Planning Commission indicate that “demolition and site preparation work” can proceed outside of any approvals process for the new building.<sup>6\*</sup> More recently, President Trump stated that the ballroom will be “slightly larger” with a new capacity of 900 people as opposed to 650 people that was originally announced, reflecting an almost 40% increase in occupancy.<sup>7</sup> We urge the White House to be transparent and carefully consider the scope, scale and extent of all demolition and new construction. Various design options for the ballroom should be prepared, and a comprehensive process of review and approval should be initiated that prioritizes maintaining the historic character of the building, including but not limited to, architectural scale, proportion and style. In addition, the advisory bodies that exist to better guide preservation of the White House, namely The Committee for the Preservation of the White House, The White House Historical Association and the National Capital Planning Commission, should be consulted and offer their unbiased, thorough and objective assessment and oversight. Moreover, these

reviews should be carried out at a pace that allows in-depth deliberations and should not be rushed to meet an aggressive timeline.

2. Evaluate Impacts to the White House Grounds: The proposed addition appears to significantly extend into the landscape south of the existing East Wing. This impacts not only the layout and configuration of the buildings, but also the surrounding landscape that is equally important to the historic character of the White House and the President's Park (including Lafayette Park and the Ellipse). As such, any changes to the White House grounds should be carefully deliberated and involve appropriate landscape experts.
3. Consider Broader National Impact on Historic Preservation: Known as the "People's House," the White House is one of the most significant and visible historic properties in the country. Any project at the White House, whether it involves interior renovation, changes to the landscape, or a new exterior addition, acts as a national precedent in the treatment of historic properties. Recognizing this, we urge the White House to carefully consider our recommendations so that the project can have a positive influence on preservation practice, policies and procedures across the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carol J. Burns" with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Carol J. Burns

Architect and Concerned Citizen

Kathleen Koonz



East Wing Modernization Project- White House Ballroom

There have been remodels and additions made to the White House in the past which have all kept the design, size and scale of the existing building in mind. This design for a ballroom which is almost twice the size of the “people’s house” does not take any previous architecture into account. I feel that it should not be allowed to go forward. Thank you for following the law.

To: National Capital Planning Commission  
From: Katherine Slaughter, [REDACTED]  
Re: White House Ballroom Expansion

*NB: I watched the video of the meeting and have experience in local and state historic preservation and alterations to historic buildings as a member of Charlottesville City Council and advocacy work before local and state agencies regarding historic preservation.*

I agree with Commissioner Phil Mendelson that this project has been designed in a piecemeal fashion. This is contrary to federal laws regarding environmental impact statements (National Environmental Protection Act, the National Historic Preservation Act) where projects are to be considered in their entirety, not in piecemeal fashion. The logic of this is that approving the first step without looking at the entirety of the project might prejudice future decisions because of the time and funding put into the previous steps.

1. For example, demolition of the East Wing should not have been done without notice to the public and an opportunity to comment. Even if, as the NCPC Chair explained, the specific NCPC statute does not contemplate review of demolition, the scope of this demolition of a portion of an historic building -- by common sense standards -- should require public comment.

Why should not the public have had an opportunity to weigh in on demolition? And why has the demolition begun before a full plan could be reviewed by the public? While the current White House staff and the President may desire a larger ballroom, why are their wishes of greater consequence than the public at large?

2. Second, the piecemeal fashion of this design seems inappropriate. Demolition has already happened. and subsequent comments decry the out-of-scale size of the new wing. The NPPC chair asked that all await a detailed landscaping plan and its effect on the new wing. Yet, without a full review, work on the foundation has already begun. By the time of the review of landscaping, foundation work will be further developed creating reluctance to make changes because of the costs already invested in foundation alteration.

3. Third, and most important, the design of the new wing OVERWHELMS the rest of the White House: The central part of the White House is dwarfed by the addition. Despite matching the roof cornices, the size alone transforms the beautiful symmetry of the White House into a lopsided structure.

While the US may need a larger ballroom to entertain foreign guests, need it seat 1000? In my hometown of Charlottesville, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello has welcomed heads of state, including US presidents in elegant tents.

The NCPC Chair's comparisons with the King of England entertaining at Windsor Castle does not sit well historically. Especially during this year of our 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, we recognize how Americans fought the monarchy with all its trappings of wealth and class. Later, in 1960, First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy famously said that "The White House belongs to the American people."

Let any ballroom replacement complement, not overwhelm, the rest of the people's house. Nix this plan.

## East Wing Modernization Project:

I would like to see the following elements considered for this project:

- Something in the design that reflects each of the states and territories of the US
- Environmentally friendly materials that are sourced in the US, when feasible
- Classic design on the exterior that complements the existing structure
- The design should both preserve the history of the building and reflect the future of our democracy
- Include space for the First Lady and her staff
- Easily accessible by people that are differently-abled
- Surrounded by beautiful, appropriate landscaping that is visible from the interior of the building
- The East Wing project can include an event space (ballroom), but if the ballroom is the only function of the new space, then 90,000 square feet does not seem appropriate. This building belongs to the citizens of the United States, and its design and use should reflect that.

**The East Wing “Modernization” project needs to be stopped. The White House is the people’s house, not Donald Trump’s personal residence.**

**Without approval nor comment of any kind from the appropriate government entities who oversee our storied and historic buildings and properties, he brought in the bulldozers and tore the East Wing down. This was an assault on not only an institution but every American.**

**The source of funding is highly questionable. He claims private donations will pay for it but, considering how he plays Monopoly with our collective money, there should be a line by line accounting of how much and specifically WHO donated to this cause. I’m very skeptical that any money is coming out of Trump’s pockets.**

**While we have a crisis over affordable health insurance for Americans, people are struggling to pay their bills, put food on their tables and keep a roof over their heads, he and his mega billionaire friends continue to thrive. His ICE operations have been a disaster, costing people their lives and livelihoods. What was supposed to be a deportation of the worst criminals has become a removal operation of legal immigrants and even American citizens just to meet Stephen Miller’s demanded quotas.**

**A huge ballroom is only important to Trump and his ego. We do not need it. NOBODY entertains a thousand or more guests at lavish events anymore (except Trump). Large State dinners became a thing of the past within the last several administrations and we do not need an event space to rent out for banquets.**

**If he needs an updated bunker, build one but skip the huge, gawdy ballroom. He’s already ruined the Oval Office with his cheap gold crap, we don’t need 90,000 square feet of tasteless gawdy crap.**

## OBSERVATIONS

**White House Complex, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. East Wing modernization and ballroom addition.** Concept by Shalom Baranes Associates Architects

1. There does not appear to be a key view evaluation, based on a hierarchy of significant views and the degree to which such views are experienced.
2. Views from Hamilton Place, National Mall Historic District, 17<sup>th</sup> Street Historic District, from 16<sup>th</sup> St, and H Street NW are also relevant.
3. The view from the popular VUE Rooftop Bar at Hotel Washington be of interest or the view from Pennsylvania Avenue NW, which is understood to be a popular view point, is also relevant.
4. The setting and analysis of the Treasury Department complex is relevant.
5. Conspicuously absent appears to be any analysis of the significance of organizational planning between the Treasury Department and the Eisenhower Office Building.
6. Not only are “prospect” views to the White House important, but “projective” views from the White House are also relevant. There does not appear to be regard to “intervisibility” views accompanying the concept that might include views from the White House to the World War I Monument and Federal Triangle Historic District.
7. Existing conditions do not appear in relation to proposed conditions.
8. There does not appear to be a delineation of an Area of Potential Effects (APE).
9. There does not appear to be an identification of historic resources within the APE.
10. There does not appear to be a comprehensive settings analysis that describes cultural landscape values.
11. There does not appear to be an evaluation of the significance of the East Wing.

**The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties**, in particular the Standards for Rehabilitation, are intended as general guidance for work on all historic properties, are widely used, and have been adopted at the Federal, State, and local levels.

12. In accordance with Federal Standards (Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties) codified in 36 CFR 68, 1995, replication of a historic style is not recommended. The scale of the proposed addition in conjunction with its location and degree of historic replication diminishes the significance of the White House.
13. Site Sections are not particularly helpful to most people viewing the concept because we do not experience the built environment through site sections.
14. Similarly, elevations and their accompanying vertical dimensions, while necessary as an absolute measure, would not be experienced as such.
15. Plans, elevations, and sections are depicted in a limited context. Comprehensive contextual and experiential drawings are needed, commensurate with the significance of the place.
16. Floor plans should be fully annotated.
17. The scale of the grand stair, heavily colonnaded frontispiece, and generously-sized arched openings are hierarchically disproportionate to the character-defining features of the White House.

18. If one were to consider Federal Standards for example, we would initially consider the proposed expansion to be “rehabilitation”. *Rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.* However, upon review of the concept, the drawings confirm that the nationally-practiced criteria for an appropriate “treatment” described as rehabilitation, is not satisfied.

In particular, Standards 1-7 and 9-10, state:

1. A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces and spatial relationships.

**Response:** [Standard 1](#) would not be satisfied by the proposed work owing in part to the demolition of the 1902 East Wing (expanded in 1942) and in part to the scale, design, and placement of the proposed expansion.

2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.

**Response:** [Standard 2](#) would not be satisfied by the proposed work owing to the demolition of the 1902 East Wing (expanded in 1942).

3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.

**Response:** [Standard 3](#) would not be satisfied by the proposed work because the proposed expansion creates a false sense of historical development by replicating a historic style, form, and detail.

4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.

**Response:** [Standard 4](#) would not be satisfied by the proposed work owing to the demolition of the 1942 East Wing expansion, while not original, had acquired significance.

5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.

**Response:** [Standard 5](#) would not be satisfied by the proposed work owing to the demolition of the 1902 East Wing (expanded in 1942).

6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.

**Response:** It is unknown whether [Standard 6](#) would have been satisfied since a preservation-based condition assessment does not appear to have been undertaken, which might have informed design options for the 1902 East Wing (expanded in 1942).

7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.

**Response:** [n/a](#)

8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.

**Response:** [n/a](#)

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.

**Response:** [Standard 9](#) would not be satisfied by the proposed work owing to the scale, design, and placement of the proposed expansion and its spatial relationships to other historic structures and landscape characteristics, primarily of Lafayette Square Historic District. In addition, the significant southern protrusion of the proposed Ballroom and the scale of its footprint would not satisfy this Standard.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

**Response:** [Standard 10](#) would not be satisfied by the proposed work because even if the proposed work were removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the 1902 East Wing (expanded in 1942) would remain impaired.

In summary, there are two key “deficiency” aspects with the proposed White House Ballroom Concept:

### **Completeness**

1. For such a significant property, the analysis of built and cultural landscape significance, both tangible and intangible, and the corresponding impacts of the proposed expansion are impressively deficient.

### **Appropriateness**

2. For a property that may be exempt from the Federal Standards, best preservation practice and due regard for sustainability and mitigating adverse effects on climate change, the proposed expansion is considerably deficient.

## **Donald M. Faxon, Historian, Historical Architect, Artist and Designer**

I have been deeply involved in Federal compliance, the Section 106 process, and Design Review intended for compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for more than thirty years. My work has involved my skills in Art, Architecture, and Design I have never been a person of wealth, privilege, or enjoyed special opportunities but instead serve the people of the United States and so have worked - labored - hard to earn my expertise in this area and therefore assert that my dedication to the Nation's history and health is unimpeachable.

Like many historic resources, the East Wing of the White House consisted of areas and layers of history representing its entire history during the 20th century, and therefore no photography or "retroactive" Historic American Building Survey (HABS) descriptions can possibly substitute for the total loss of historic integrity that a complete demolition has caused this wing of the White House.

Further, I believe that the kind of arrogance and ignorance already displayed by the currently contracted architects, engineers and contractors who would demolish such a structure without public permission ensures that they are not suitable to carry on any work at this site. The American people did not elect to have this building assaulted by the well-off, nor should they have to live with the resulting fiasco that is being planned and designed by these claimed professionals or pseudo academics. Therefore...

THE DESTRUCTION THAT TOOK PLACE AT THE WHITE HOUSE SHOULD REMAIN TO BE INTERPRETED AS A MEMORIAL TO ITS HISTORY AND TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. IT SHOULD NO LONGER BE A SITE PROPOSED TO ENTERTAIN THE WEALTHY WHO DESTROYED IT BUT RATHER DESIGNED AS A TRIBUTE TO THOSE EVERYDAY AMERICANS WHO HAVE WORKED FOR THE COMMON GOOD IN OUR NATION FOR MORE THAN 250 YEARS... AND THOSE EVERYDAY AMERICANS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES OVER THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS FROM ASSAULT BY FEDERAL POLICE OFFICERS.

A commission of good, decent and caring Americans from a diverse ethnic, socio-economic class, and education level of backgrounds should be assembled to ensure this memorial is created and held to these standards. - Donald M. Faxon

Submission to the National Capital Planning Commission

Project Name: East Wing Modernization Project

NCPC File Number: 8733

Submitted by:

Karl Auerbach



The White House belongs to the people of the United States.

The White House is a monument to the United States, not a gaudy honorific to one person.

The sudden destruction of the previously existing East Wing was and remains an insult to the people of the United States – that building is our property, not a Presidential bauble.

The scale of the proposed “ballroom” reeks of haughty, personal pride. The decorations are gaudy and tawdry. This ballroom dishonors everything to which the US aspires. This is a ballroom of a king, not of a President.

The proposed style is suggestive of Albert Speer’s Berlin: the cult of the ubermensch rather than an expression of the balanced powers expressed in our Constitution.

This is a ballroom for Marie Antoinette, not Dolly Madison.

There is not a single atom of Democracy in this ballroom’s size, location, or design. It ought to be heated by fireplaces burning copies of the our Declaration of Independence and Constitution.

This Imperial Palace ought not to be built.

Perhaps Percy Bysshe Shelley best encapsulated this proposed monstrosity: That it is a personal monument that will become a symbol of Royal, even Imperial, hubris:

I met a traveller from an antique land,  
Who said—“Two vast and trunkless legs of stone  
Stand in the desert. . . . Near them, on the sand,  
Half sunk a shattered visage lies, whose frown,  
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,  
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read  
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,

The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;

And on the pedestal, these words appear:

My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings;

Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!"

Nothing beside remains. Round the decay

Of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare

The lone and level sands stretch far away.

National Capital Planning Commission

To Whom It May Concern:

I, like many Americans, am devastated by Trump's demolition of the East Wing without prior approval. I feel it is time to fight back. You may not be interested in my opinion, but I'm going to voice it anyway.

My recommendation is that, if the plans are not already approved, that it be stipulated that the "Ballroom" footprint cannot exceed that of the previously demolished East Wing. In addition, it can be no taller than the previous structure.

Additionally, I would stipulate that all individuals employed to build this addition be paid in advance, since we all know Trump's history of not paying his craftspeople.

I know it is not under your domain to ascertain if the building's footings, wiring, plumbing, etc., is up to code, but it would be unfortunate if the inspectors freely red-tagged and delayed the building.

Lastly, if I were in charge, I would refuse to issue an Occupancy Permit.

I know some of this is petty, but I feel it's time to fight back against this authoritarianism whenever possible.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Helen Fouraker  
Bellevue, NE

Oct. 22, 2025  
Medlin, Pa.

Dear Mr. President,

Let me begin this letter by saying I am not a political opponent of yours. To the contrary, I have always been a strong supporter of you because I agree with your beliefs and positions. In fact, I voted for you three times and would vote for you again if I could. However, regarding your proposal for the ballroom addition to the White House, I did not vote for this. Over the years I have been a student of the White House and have contributed many items of historical interest and value to it for which I was commended by Presidents Reagan, Clinton, Bush and several White House curators and Chief Usheps. I have visited the White House often and have a large personal collection of items pertaining to it.

While I sympathize with the need for "ballroom space" for large Presidential affairs, I believe a project of this size would better serve both the President and other branches of government at another convenient location in Washington D.C.

The project you propose will outsize and tend to overwhelm the existing Mansion and its grounds. Any addition to the White House needs to be

(2)

proportional to the size of the historic footprint of the building and also in style with existing architectural style, historic character and the layout of the White House grounds. Your proposal, unfortunately, does not meet these requirements and goals. Roman and Occian pillars, oversized pilasters, structure height & length do not properly mesh with the present White House. I especially do not like adding a second level to the East Terrace that blocks most of the center east window of the East Room. When the 1942

East wing addition was constructed, such a modification to the East terrace was carefully avoided. But not now in your plan. The facade of the new structure facing the Treasury Building should be in style with the North and South facades of the mansion, not a reflection of Roman forum styling. The ~~key~~ phrase here is a "reasonable expansion" which this is certainly not.

I hope you will take what I am saying seriously into consideration in your efforts. I am not the only Trump supporter who feels this and that the "better angels of your nature" will prevail in this matter. After all, the White House belongs to each of us and to all of us including you.

Thank you for listening.

Best Regards, James J. Cunningham Jr.

- CC: Vice President J. D. Vance
- Secretary of State Marco Rubio
- Speaker of the House of Representatives
- Senate Majority Leader
- Rep. Steve Scalise
- Sen. Ron Johnson
- Sen. Charles Grassley
- Sen. Lindsay Graham
- Sen. John Fetterman
- Sen. Don McCormick
- Rep. Jim Jordan
- Sen. John Kennedy
- Sec. of the Interior
- Director of the National Park Service
- The Fine Arts Commission
- The National Capital Planning Commission
- Committee for the Preservation of the White House
- The White House Historical Society

Kieran J. Outhouse

October 22, 2025

National Capitol Planning Commission  
401 Ninth Street, N.W.  
Suite 500  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Members of the Commission,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the ongoing renovations overseen by President Trump at the East Wing of The White House. The demolition began a few days ago, without prior approval from the National Capitol Planning Commission (NCPC), which would have jurisdiction reviewing this project. The White House has repeatedly stated that they do not have oversight over demolition, which seems to be a way to circumvent established review processes.

This ballroom, one of the largest additions to The White House in history, is funded almost entirely through donations. While one may admire the fact taxpayer money is not being spent on this, these donations come from extremely influential individuals in business. This raises major ethical concerns, and a conflict of interest that private donors will have major influence on Presidential decisions.

Previous administrations have conducted renovations, such as Harry Truman, who renovated much of the building. The difference is, the repairs were deemed necessary by engineers, and the structural integrity of the building was compromised. The funds were also appropriated and the project authorized by Congress.

The current East Wing, built in the early twentieth century and renovated under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, has significant historical significance. The Society of Architectural Historians and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, respected non-partisan organizations, have also expressed deep concern.

I am deeply concerned that this project is a waste of resources and poses serious historical and ethical concerns.

Thank you,



Kieran J. Outhouse

October 23, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

As an owner of the Federal Government Office, The White House, I am very upset about the recent destruction of the building.

The President does not own the White House or the property it stands on. Therefore, he has no authority to make any changes without the people of this country, the owners, approval.

The White House is a long standing historic symbol of Democracy and our Fight for Freedom. It is being demolished along with our country.

This is a reflection of the current administration, that has absolutely no checks and balances in government at this point. Our government offices and systems are waning to one individual's wishes.

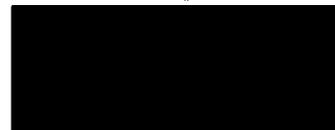
Someone who is focused on greed, authority, control, division, chaos, and revenge rather than serving the people of this country. That means serving all of the people in this country, not just his political party, campaign donors, business associates, foreign ties, friends and family.

Instead of building up the country, he is tearing it apart. This is breaking any trust in his office.

It is still a free country, and I am very proud to be able to state my concerns to the elected leaders of this nation.

Thank You,

Janette Reilly





The Burlingame Historical Society [REDACTED] Tax ID #: 94-2411929

Mr. William Scharf, Chair  
National Capital Planning Commission  
401 Ninth Street NW, Suite 500N  
Washington, DC 20004

Ms. Jessica Bowron  
Acting Director, National Park Service  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Ms. Billie Tsien, Chair  
Commission of Fine Arts  
401 F Street NW, Suite 312  
Washington, DC 20001-2728

October 24, 2025

**Re: Proposed Construction of White House Ballroom**

Dear Mr. Scharf, Ms. Bowron, and Ms. Tsien,

As one of thousands of local historical societies and museums around the United States, we take great pride in being good stewards of our history. We understand and are cognizant of the typical processes and protocols for making changes to even modest historic structures, so that they can be enjoyed by future generations.

We therefore find ourselves at a loss to explain why the same deference has not been given to the nation's White House, in preparation for a large remodel/addition of a ballroom.

We urge you to initiate a proper review process before irreparable loss has occurred. If said loss has already occurred, we wonder how this will be remedied.

Sincerely yours,

Jennifer Pfaff  
President  
Burlingame Historical Society

*The Burlingame Historical Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt public benefit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. We have provided no substantial donor benefits, goods or services in consideration of your donation and your gift is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Please retain this letter for your tax records.*

October 25, 2025

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

410 9<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 500 N

Washington DC, 20004

Dear Sirs:

I, like many American citizens, was deeply disturbed to see the plans for Trump's new ballroom. That 90,000 square foot monstrosity is completely out of scale with the existing White House and West Wing. Since the former East Wing has now been demolished, I suggest that this folly be constructed completely underground with a new East Wing built atop it. The new East Wing could accommodate an elaborate double staircase that descends to the ballroom. A huge water fountain/feature between the twin stairs would provide the dramatic entrance that Trump seems to favor. Constructing the ballroom underground with a new East Wing above it would certainly be a costly endeavor but I am confident that political donors can be squeezed for several hundred more millions.

What I can not comprehend is how something this outrageous got so fast-tracked that there is no turning back. Please restore some sanity to this project and preserve the dignity of the White House, the peoples' house.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M Oram", written in a cursive style.

Michael Oram, a concerned citizen

OCT. 25, 2025

Hi Wisconsin, Scharf,

I am writing in regards to the Demolition of the East Wing of the Historic White House owned by the American people. I can't believe he Demolished it on his own. It had so much history and was so beautiful. I love the old architecture. The new Ballroom is huge, way bigger than the White House, It will take away from the beauty of the Historic White House. Can it either be smaller or rebuilt back to original? He didn't have authority to Demolish it to begin with. And what do we need a Ballroom for that holds 900 people? And by the time it would be finished it will be the end of Trumps term. I thought the East Wing that held 200 people was sufficient. I sure hope all the beautiful paintings were saved of the first ladies. Joe Biden had it Decorated so beautiful last year for Christmas. This is a shame he took it upon himself to Destroy something that's not his. Please do what you can to fix the beauty it once was. Thank you

An American citizen

Bara Pissard

October 25, 2025

Congressman Tom Barrett  
28 W Ottawa St. Suite A  
Lansing, MI 48933

Re: Demolition of East Wing of the White House and Proposed Ballroom Addition

Dear Congressman Barrett:

You most likely believe that your role as a congressman is to not interfere with the executive branch of government and its decisions. However, you play an influential role in expressing your constituents' concerns to the administrative branch and introducing legislation when the executive branch exceeds its authority. This is one of the most important functions as a congressman - to counterbalance and push back against the executive branch particularly when certain actions are beyond the scope of decency, are illegal, demonstrate a lack of respect for the office of the Presidency and/or our citizens, or are injurious to our beloved institutions such as the White House and its grounds.

You are a congressman in a purple district. You owe your constituents more than just parroting this administration's policy positions. If we cannot count on you to speak up to the White House when necessary and introduce legislation to curtail excesses, upon whom can we rely?

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has issued a letter to the National Capital Planning Commission expressing deep concerns about construction of the proposed White House ballroom and posted an FAQ on its website. See Enclosed. Because it is important to me that I don't automatically oppose something simply because it's from the opposite party, I take the time to understand the facts obtained from reliable sources such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

I have no problem with reasonable and necessary upgrades being made to the White House during different administrations. However, my concerns related to the proposed ballroom are:

- the size and scope of this project and its necessity;
- the initial misrepresentations from the White House about the scope and impact of the project;
- whether there will be objective approval and oversight of the plans from an independent body with historical expertise about the White House; and
- whether the ballroom structure will aesthetically enhance the beauty of the White House and its grounds or overshadow it (i.e., a garish monstrosity versus a beautiful addition).

The project, as currently proposed, and the way the administration has initially implemented this project have not inspired confidence in the outcome. We should ALL be concerned regardless of our political differences. I urge you to express your concerns to the Executive Branch and to initiate Congressional oversight of the White House changes.

Sincerely,



Beverly J. Bonning



Cc: National Capital Planning Commission

TO:

Mr. William Scharf, Chair National Capital Planning Commission  
401 Ninth Street NW, Suite 500N  
Washington, DC 20004

FROM:

Mrs. Deborah Detering  


RE: WHITE HOUSE DESTRUCTION

I am outraged, and expect this is one of thousands of letters you will receive, that Mr. Trump (he does not deserve the title of President) has accomplished the destruction of the East Wing. How many historic items were lost or destroyed? Every wall of the East Wing is a part of the House.

That is MY house, not just Trump's. It belongs to **every** American citizen, not to him.

I hope the Commission will proceed to the full extent of the law in forcing a stop to this monstrosity and requiring restitution, although what has been torn down is irreplaceable.

Thank you,

*Deborah L. Detering*

Deborah L. Detering

*Thank you for writing that letter!*  
*DLD*

Katie M. O'Brien



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National Capital Planning Commission  
401 Ninth Street NW., Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20004

Re: White House Renovations by President Donald J. Trump

To whom it may concern:

I, like I hope all Americans, am appalled at the travesty that has befallen our national seat of the executive branch, the White House. Instead of railing on about what a horrible act President Donald J. Trump has committed, I would like to propose a remedy and beseech your aid in acting upon my idea.

I had heard that President Trump had planned a ballroom for the White House, but I had no clue that the intended location was to be on the site of an already existing structure. A friend posted a pictograph of a post on some social media site wherein it stated that the East Wing was destroyed and that this was the public entrance to the White House. While this enraged me more because of the symbolism inherent in such an act, I thought that a remedy could be had.

I commented on my friend's post that I would be more than willing to give to a fund to restore the White House to its now former state. While the structure would not be original to the White House, I believe it would serve as a symbol of the endurance of our nation, as well as erase this move by President Trump from the future of America. That may be a little much, but I hope you can see my intent and hopes.

Is there an office or a non-governmental organization that could spearhead such a fund, and can the government accept these funds from its citizens for such a rebuild? I'm sure there would be a Congressman I perhaps would need to contact as there might be a law that would have to be passed to affect such an action. I am cc'ing Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez on this correspondence as I do not think any Congressman from the State of Louisiana who would be willing to aid in this endeavor. While this may not be something you can assist on, Representative Ocasio-Cortez, any direction you could give would be greatly valued.

Thank you kindly for any assistance you can give to this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Katie M. O'Brien'.

Katie M. O'Brien

KMO/

cc: Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
250 Cannon HOB, Washington, DC 20515

# THE STATUE OF AMERICA

Hibernia, New Jersey

Tom Lanier, Founder

October 28, 2025

**Marcel C. Acosta**

Executive Director

**National Capital Planning Commission**

401 9th Street NW, Suite 500

Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Acosta,

I write to you concerning the architectural and symbolic evolution of the East Wing of the White House, presently undergoing restoration. The proposal to designate this new extension as the **Eagle Wing**, with its principal chamber consecrated as the **Eagle Room**, represents not mere stylistic renewal but a conscious act of national interpretation.

At the heart of this proposal stands the sculptural **Prototype of the Statue of America** — **Eagle Colossus**, a polished chrome eagle conceived as both a work of art and a structural idea. Installed within the Eagle Room, this prototype would serve as the intimate counterpart to the full-scale Eagle Colossus, proposed for permanent installation at Liberty State Park as a monumental companion to the Statue of Liberty across the harbor.

Together, these two expressions — the interior prototype and its monumental exterior realization — form a single architectural dialogue: the White House as the cradle of symbolism, Liberty Harbor as its horizon. The mirrored eagle within the Eagle Room would act as a luminous seed, reflecting the same spirit of freedom and unity that the colossal version would project outward to the world.

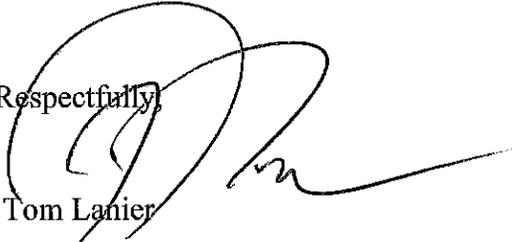
Historically, the White House has never been static. From Hoban's classical foundations to the Truman balcony and the Kennedy restoration, each age has contributed its own vernacular to the evolving language of democracy. To integrate the Eagle Prototype into the Eagle Wing is not to violate preservation principles, but to extend them — to make the building once again a living mirror of the American idea.

The **National Capital Planning Commission** has long recognized that the truest planning for our capital city lies in harmonizing historical continuity with visionary expansion. The Eagle Prototype continues that mission: its chromed surfaces are not ornamental excess but allegorical infrastructure — a symbol of vigilance, unity, and renewal rendered in the industrial vocabulary of our own century.

I respectfully ask that the Commission view the inclusion of this sculpture and the Eagle Wing designation as an act of historic continuity — a dialogue between America's founding imagery and its modern conscience. By anchoring the Prototype Eagle within the White House, we honor the same impulse that inspired the Statue of Liberty itself: that national symbols can evolve without ever losing the truth they represent.

With sincere respect and gratitude for your stewardship of our national capital,

Respectfully,



Tom Lanier

Founder, The Statue of America



# THE STATUE OF AMERICA

*A National Symbol of Unity, Vigilance, and Renewal*

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*Presented to the President of the United States  
In the Spirit of National Renewal and Enduring Liberty*

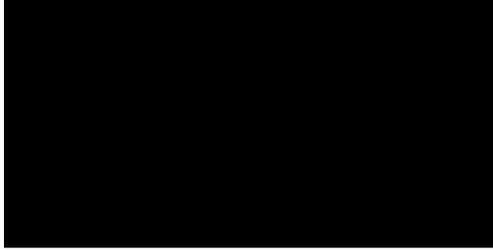
October 27, 2025

It is with the deepest respect that I present this proposal — one which I believe can transform the national conversation surrounding the new ballroom being constructed to replace the East Wing of the White House. There has been considerable public criticism of this project — questions of necessity, symbolism, and permanence. I believe there is a single, unifying solution that would not only silence all objections, but elevate the work to an enduring expression of American identity. I respectfully propose that the new ballroom be consecrated as The Eagle Ballroom, and that it feature a prototype of “The Statue of America” — the monumental chrome American Bald Eagle sculpture I have written to you and Ms. Susie Wiles about on four prior occasions. The Statue of America represents unity, vigilance, and renewal — a modern counterpart to the Statue of Liberty. Installing its prototype within the new ballroom would transform the space from a subject of controversy into a patriotic masterpiece: a hall embodying American strength, grace, and aspiration. Furthermore, I suggest that the adjoining structure be designated The Eagle Wing. By dedicating the space not to an individual, but to our most sacred national symbol, you would secure its permanence against future political revision. The Eagle, unlike any name or administration, belongs to every generation of Americans. This single act would silence criticism, preserve the project from reversal, and ensure that the East Wing’s successor is remembered not for controversy, but for vision — for embodying the spirit of America itself.

*Respectfully submitted,*

**Tom Lanier**

Founder — The Statue of America Project



October 30, 2025

[REDACTED]

National Capital Planning Commission  
401 9<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
#500 N  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Executive Director Acosta:

I am concerned and appalled by what is happening to the "people's house." In other words, The White House. It is my understanding that your commission is responsible for any changes to Federal buildings and the White House comes under your jurisdiction. My question to you is when was it made public that parts of the East Wing would be destroyed to make room for a 999-person ballroom? The White House does not belong to the current inhabitant. It belongs to the American People and we should have been advised about the changes and had an opportunity to support or deny those changes. A second query is what funds were used to cover the destruction of part of the East Wing of the White House? This whole dismantling of what was once a beautiful building with so much history is unforgiveable.

I endorse the Five Bill Campaign to restore the People's House to its previous beauty. That Campaign is as follows:

1st Bill (\$1, \$5, \$10, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1000, or more) would be to remove the tacky Trump gilding throughout the White House and return it to what Jacqueline Kennedy did when she restored the interior as a showcase of American history and culture-a living museum, not Mar a Lago II.

2<sup>nd</sup> Bill would be to replant the Rose Garden since Roses have been the unofficial symbol of the White House since it was rebuilt in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Edith Roosevelt had the Olmsted brothers establish the area as a formal flower garden. Edith Wilson designated it as the Rose Garden. Again, this is not Mar a Lago II!

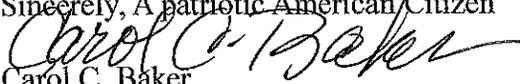
Bills 3 and 4 would be used to reconstruct a replica of the First Ladies East Wing offices with any materials that can be recovered.

Please note that all of these changes had to do with what women of the White House contributed. It seems there is little respect for our First Ladies and women in general by the current occupant of the White House.

5<sup>th</sup> Bill would be to tear down or reduce the size of the unnecessary ballroom.

If your Commission did not approve of what is happening to this Federal building, please take immediate action to stop any more dismantling of The White House and support the Five Bill Campaign to restore the People's House to its proper, historical, and lovely condition.

Sincerely, A patriotic American Citizen

  
Carol C. Baker

November 2, 2025

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
401 9<sup>th</sup> Street NW Suite 500  
Washington DC 20004

Subject: The White House aka The Peoples' House

Dear Commissioners,

We understand that your commission is authorized to approve all changes to historical building sites in the Nation's Capital.

Did you authorize the total demolition of the East Wing? We are heartbroken to see this destruction of this beautiful historical building to make room for Trump's ostentatious ballroom. Trump's gaudy remodel of the Oval Office is bad enough. At least the Oval Office can be restored with another remodel in the future.

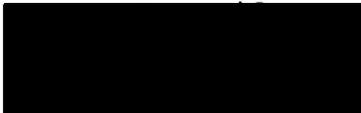
Please make Trump rebuild the East Wing at his expense to restore the Peoples' House. Surely, after all the government workers Trump fired, there must be another idle building in the DC area that could be remodeled for Trump's ballroom rather than taking a wrecking ball to the White House.

Please STOP the madness. Please forbid construction without prior public inputs and approvals. Please demand transparency in funding, with no secret donors and absolutely no burden to tax payers.

Good Luck. I hope he doesn't fire all you people too. I pray someone stands up and saves our Democracy.



Cindy Domanchuk



November 6, 2025

**To:** National Capital Planning Commission  
401 9th Street, NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20004

info@ncpc.gov

**Subject:** Formal Opposition to the Trump Golden Ballroom Project

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my deep concern and strong opposition to the proposed construction of the Trump Golden Ballroom on the White House grounds. This project, reportedly costing \$350+ million and spanning 90,000 square feet, has already resulted in the demolition of the historic East Wing—an act carried out without prior approval from Congress or your Commission. Every single one of these donors . . . HAS ISSUES BEFORE OUR COURTS – this is a PAY FOR PLAY trump scam . . . AGAIN.

As of now, this Golden Ballroom is known as the EPSTEIN DANCE HALL PALACE throughout America and I doubt that stigma will ever change and will be referred to as pedophile palace for eternity. An honor for a convicted pedophile, “best friend of trump for 10 years” while they are alleged to have forced minors into unpleasant situations is truly disgusting. These are little girls they abused, not women and the evidence has only started to come out.

Please STOP any and all building plans. Trump does not OWN my White House and for him to destroy my East Wing was criminal. Noticed how he tried for as long as possible to keep it quiet. Never mind Jackie Kennedy’s Rose Garden and the trees for Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt. WE CAN NEVER GET THOSE BACK. Don’t let trump build the golden ballroom and then force us to live with this shame. Our White House is NOT a frat party – it is a place to conduct the Nation’s business.

The National Capital Planning Commission exists to preserve and enhance the historical, cultural, and natural resources of our nation’s capital. The unauthorized destruction of the East Wing—a structure with significant historical and architectural value—represents a blatant disregard for these principles. It also undermines the transparency and accountability that should govern federal construction projects.

While the White House has stated it will “soon” submit plans for the ballroom to your Commission, the fact that demolition has already occurred raises serious questions about the

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integrity of the review process. The NCPC must not allow itself to be reduced to a ceremonial rubber stamp for projects that violate both procedural norms and public trust.

Furthermore, public sentiment is overwhelmingly opposed to this project. A recent poll found that 76% of Americans disapprove of the demolition and ballroom plans, with 65% strongly opposed. This is not merely a matter of aesthetics—it is a matter of democratic process and respect for our shared heritage.

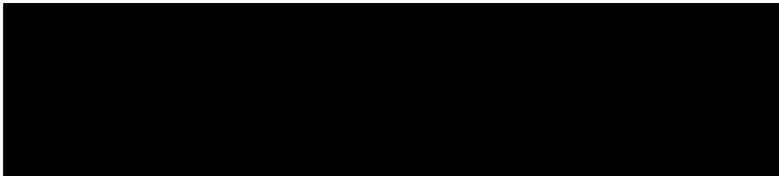
I urge the Commission to reject any plans for the Trump Golden Ballroom and to demand a full accounting of the legal and procedural breaches that have already occurred. The NCPC must stand firm in its role as a steward of the capital's integrity and ensure that future projects reflect the values of preservation, transparency, and civic responsibility.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

*Thomas & Kathleen Morin*

Thomas and Kathleen Morin



November 6, 2025

November 12, 2025

National Capital Planning Commission  
401 9th Street, NW, Suite 500N  
Washington, DC 20004

Re: White House East Wing Demolition and Ballroom Project

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my extreme objection to the demolition of the East Wing of the White House and the proposed construction of an architecturally inappropriate out of scale ballroom in its place.

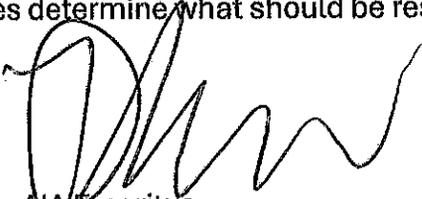
As you are aware, The NCPC was formed in 1952 by an Act of Congress to have responsibility for oversight of such projects. I enclose below SEC. 2(a) of that act:

"SEC. 2, (a) The National Capital Planning Commission, herein- after called the 'Commission', is hereby created and designated as the central planning agency for the Federal and District Governments to plan the appropriate and orderly development and redevelopment of the National Capital and the conservation of the important natural and historical features thereof.

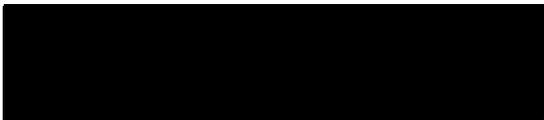
That the Commission has remained silent on the demolition of the People's House is an extraordinary dereliction of the duties entrusted to this body by the American public. Further, to permit construction of a building adjacent to the White House that will completely overwhelm the Executive Mansion itself would be unforgivable.

As an architect, I personally took a project through the review and approval process at the NCPC and the Commission of Fine Arts and greatly valued their consultation and direction. There is no question in my mind that the White House would benefit from a similar process.

I call on you to assert your authority and halt construction until such time as the appropriate bodies determine what should be restored and what, if anything, should be built. Thank you.



Francis L. DiMella, AIA Emeritus



November 20, 2025

National Capital Planning Commission  
401 Ninth Street NW Suite 500  
Washington DC 20004

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Americans who are going about their jobs at work, tending their families, and keeping appointments in their busy lives, I a retire, write to you. What millions of us have in common are our serious concerns about Trump's plan to build a 90,000-square-foot White House ballroom with little to no input from us, the American citizens!

The White House is one of the most famous buildings in the world. It is built on grounds chosen by George Washington in 1791. The architecture was done in a neoclassical style with a Palladian influence. It is 168 feet long and 152 feet wide. In 1800 John Adams was the first president to live in it. He wrote to his wife, "...may none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof." Franklin Roosevelt later had this phrase engraved inside the White House. It was built to be the home, office and entertaining place for the current president, who represents ALL of us.

We have grave concerns that the 90,000 square feet of new construction, will seriously diminish the White House that is 55,000 square feet. In our minds the White House is above all a symbol of freedom and justice for all Americans, not a place to party with 1,000 guests. I'm aware the current space for formal dinners is limited these days and sometimes the guests are not able to dine in the same room. Perhaps a wise compromise would be to seat 500 guests in 40,000 square feet of new construction, and bring down the \$300 million dollar cost. In doing so hopefully, the important historical and natural features of the nation's capital will be preserved.

Recently, President Trump had the historical East Wing obliterated virtually overnight and fired all six members of the U.S. Commission on Fine Arts that would have been given the job of advising on the design element of the \$3000 million White House ballroom, we the citizens were shocked. Where does Trump get the power to do that so quickly with our consent?!!!

Hopefully this project can be paused so your organization, the National Capital Planning Commission and the National Trust for Preservation, who are legally required to and have the authority to review new construction at the White House, have had an opportunity to do so.

Sincerely yours,

Sheila B. Anderson



Linda Balzan

12/07/2025

National Capital Planning Commission  
401 9th Street, NW  
Suite 500N  
Washington, D.C. 20004

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

One of the most disturbing events I have witnessed has been the complete destruction and demolition of the White House's East Wing in October, 2025.

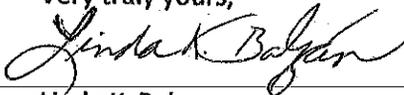
Why wasn't the National Capital Planning Commission consulted prior to the demolition? How can any president undertake the destruction of what I consider to be citizen property? That edifice is historical and belonged to the citizens of this country. At least it required your agency's oversight.

It was not Donald Trump's to unilaterally decide to demolish. I can only now demand that the National Capital Planning Commission firmly take hold of the reins regarding the reconstruction of the East Wing into a 90,000 square foot ballroom. On face value, that's way too much space to devote to a ballroom that will not be in service to the American people, will dwarf the White House and will be a shrine to Ostentatiousness and Greed, in my opinion. Neither of which are admirable definers of American policy and good will.

Our public buildings should reflect and be accessible to Americans. A \$300 Million Dollar ballroom will never be accessed by a majority of Americans. No one will be touring a golden ballroom to learn of our government workings or to feel a part of our democracy.

Oversee the project very carefully, hopefully scale it back and exercise the control your government agency is meant to control.

Very truly yours,



Linda K. Balzan

January 3, 2026

**Carol Quillen**

President and CEO

National Trust for Historic Preservation

2600 Virginia Avenue NW, Suite 1100

Washington, DC 20037

Cc: Donald Trump

Judge Richard J. Leon

Chief Judge James E. Boasberg

Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States

Senator Martin Heinrich

Senator Lujan

Rep. Gabe Vasquez

**National Capital Planning Commission**

U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

National Women's History Museum

League of Women Voters

National Organization for Women

American Historical Association

National Trust for Historic Preservation

Melania Trump

Ivanka Trump

Re: Destruction of the historical East Wing **center of women's leadership, labor, and visibility inside the White House built in 1902**

Dear Ms. Quillen,

The East Wing has historically been the **center of women's leadership, labor, and visibility inside the White House**.

Given the long history of the East Wing as a center of women's leadership and public service, its demolition raises concerns about how women's contributions to the White House are being valued in this moment. Many Americans have noted that past public statements and actions by Donald J Trump and his corrupt administration have sometimes reflected a dismissive tone toward women's voices and roles in public life.

While I do not presume to know the intent behind the decision to replace the East Wing with a private golden dance hall \$400 million ballroom, the effect is nonetheless troubling: **a space historically associated with women's work in government has been ERASED, while significant resources are being directed toward a project that offers little public benefit.** This contrast underscores why Congressional oversight is essential — to ensure that decisions affecting national heritage reflect respect for all who have shaped it.

I am writing to urge the National Trust for Historic Preservation to continue to take legal action to halt the demolition of the East Wing of the White House and the construction of the proposed Golden Trump Epstein Dance Hall \$400 million ballroom. This project threatens not only the architectural integrity of one of our nation's most iconic historic sites but also undermines the legal framework designed to protect it.

Eleanor Roosevelt turned the East Wing into a nerve center for women's political power

When Eleanor Roosevelt moved into the White House, she didn't treat the East Wing as a social annex—she quietly turned it into a **working headquarters for activism, press, and policy**, especially for women.

From the East Wing, she:

- **Held regular press conferences where only women reporters were allowed to attend**, forcing newspapers to hire and retain female journalists if they wanted access to the First Lady and the White House. This was a deliberate strategy to expand women's presence and power in the press corps.
- Used the East Wing as a **base of operations for her activism**, meeting with labor leaders, civil rights advocates, and women's groups who were often not welcome in the West Wing's more formal political channels.
- Helped professionalize the First Lady's staff, laying the groundwork for the modern Office of the First Lady as a serious, policy-adjacent operation housed in the East Wing.

That means the East Wing wasn't just "where the First Lady's office was"—it was literally the place where **women were written into the story of American political life**, both in the press and in policymaking.

Rosalynn Carter then turned that legacy into a formal institution

Decades later, **Rosalynn Carter** made history by turning what had been evolving informally into something official: she was the first to have a **formally recognized Office of the First Lady in the East Wing**, with a structured staff and defined roles.

From that office, she:

- Took on **mental health policy** as a national priority.
- Sat in on **Cabinet meetings** and attended key briefings, signaling that the East Wing was not ornamental—it was part of the governing apparatus.
- Helped cement the idea that the First Lady's office was a **professional, policy-relevant institution**, not just a social function.

So, when you talk about the East Wing, you're not just talking about a hallway and some offices—you're talking about the place where **Eleanor Roosevelt forced newspapers to hire women** and **Rosalynn Carter turned the First Lady's work into a recognized, staffed, policy-connected office**.

The White House and its grounds are protected under several federal statutes, including the **National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA)**. Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and to provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment. The apparent lack of transparency and public consultation in this case raises serious concerns about compliance with this provision.

Additionally, the **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** mandates environmental assessments for major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The scale and permanence of a 90,000-square-foot ballroom on the White House grounds would likely trigger NEPA review requirements—yet no such review appears to have been conducted or disclosed.

The **Executive Office of the President**, while not always bound by the same procedural requirements as federal agencies, is still expected to uphold the spirit of these laws, especially when altering a site of such profound national significance. The Trust's October 21 letter rightly raised these issues, and I believe the time has come to pursue injunctive relief to prevent further irreversible damage.

I respectfully request that the National Trust initiate legal proceedings to enforce compliance with the NHPA and NEPA, and to protect the White House from inappropriate and historically insensitive alterations. I—and many others—stand ready to support your efforts through public advocacy, amicus briefs, or fundraising.

Thank you for your continued leadership in preserving America's heritage.

Sincerely, *Thomas & Kathleen Morin*  
Thomas and Kathleen Morin

*On a personal note... it is hard not to see this ballroom as a reflection of trump's own vanity and how he detest women—*

[REDACTED]  
January 9, 2026

Honorable William Scharf  
Chairman  
National Capital Planning Commission  
401 - 9th Street, N.W., Suite 500N  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Chairman Scharf:

I am a retired public affairs officer for the U.S. Department of the Interior, having served various Secretaries of the Interior since 1977, in a variety of duties and locations, for 35 years.

I viewed the National Capital Planning Commission's meeting of January 8 — or at least tried to — in an effort to further educate myself about the proposed, but ongoing, White House ballroom project ... and NCPC's role in reviewing and ameliorating the impacts of that project and the prior East Wing demolition on the Nation's cultural heritage.

In my professional opinion, NCPC's public engagement efforts need further refinement and improvement if your commission is to successfully fulfill its responsibility to the public trust by displaying complete transparency in its deliberations, to wit:

- o The "livestream" link to yesterday's Commission meeting (<https://www.ncpc.gov/live/>), provided by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, was non-functional. It merely took non-in-room viewers to the NCPC's Web page and to a countdown clock for the Commission's session. At the expiration of the clock, the screen simply froze. Multiple attempts to re-boot and re-engage with your live-streaming were unsuccessful;
- o Whereupon I successfully linked to the Commission's meeting via Youtube ... only to discover that the in-room camera live-streaming your deliberations on Youtube was improperly positioned, preventing viewers from seeing the easel-mounted displays presented by Shalom Baranes, principal architect for the aforementioned project. As such, his presentation was only marginally useful to livestream viewers. A simple realignment of the easel to afford an improved viewing angle would have solved this deficiency, but no effort was made during your Commission meeting to readjust.

Honorable William Scharf  
January 9, 2026  
Page 2

These are public outreach obligations that any competent agency public affairs officer would have noted and attended to beforehand.

On public business of the gravity, urgency, and public interest of the White House ballroom project, the National Capital Planning Commission is going to have to ramp up its public engagement competencies to keep pace with its responsibilities to the American public. Yesterday's presentation was insufficient and technically deficient.

Very truly yours,

David Klinger

cc.: Mr. Steven Morgan  
Web and New Media Manager/NCPC

Honorable Shalom Baranes, Principal  
Shalom Baranes Architects

Ms. Carol Quillen, President and Chief  
Executive Officer  
National Trust for Historic Preservation

✓ blind carbon copy: Honorable Marcel Acosta  
Executive Director, National Capital Planning Commission

January 17, 2026

**Carol Quillen**

President and CEO

National Trust for Historic Preservation

2600 Virginia Avenue NW, Suite 1100

Washington, DC 20037

Cc: Judge Richard J. Leon

Chief Judge James E. Boasberg

Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States

Senator Martin Heinrich

Senator Lujan

Rep. Gabe Vasquez

**National Capital Planning Commission**

National Women's History Museum

League of Women Voters

National Organization for Women

American Historical Association

Shalom Baranes Assoc.

Donald trump

To Whom It May Concern,

The recent claim that the East Wing must be demolished due to “structural issues” raises more questions than answers. If such a drastic action is truly required, then the reconstruction should reflect the gravity of what that space represents. For generations, the East Wing has been the working heart of the White House — a place shaped, sustained, and elevated by the labor of women who served this country with integrity, intellect, and grit. To even suggest replacing that legacy with what amounts to a personal golden \$450 million dance hall is not only tone-deaf, it is profoundly DISRESPECTFUL to the women whose work has defined that space. On a personal note, it's hard not to see this ballroom as a reflection of Trump's own insecurities and his vanity.

What makes this even more troubling is the timing. While critical discussions were underway — including high-stakes deliberations on Venezuelan oil and matters that actually affect national policy — President Trump rose from the meeting to admire the IMAGINED entrance to his proposed ballroom. A ballroom that does not exist. A ballroom he is simultaneously urging, showing the courts they better authorize. The premature celebration of a structure not yet approved, prioritized over substantive governance, speaks volumes.

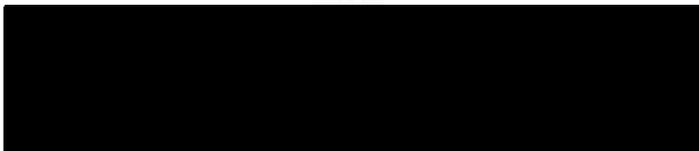
The Constitution does not grant any president the authority to unilaterally reshape the White House for personal indulgence. Any alteration to federal property requires legal process, oversight, and justification rooted in public interest — not vanity. The Appropriations Clause exists for a reason: public funds and public spaces are not private playgrounds. The idea that a historically significant wing — one tied to the contributions of women who have shaped policy, diplomacy, and national history — could be torn down and replaced with a ballroom at the WHIM of one individual undermines both the spirit of that constitutional safeguard and the dignity of the institution itself.

The East Wing, shaped by decades of women's service, is suddenly "structurally unsound" — yet somehow a private ballroom is the urgent priority. Hard to miss the symbolism when you leave a major policy meeting to admire a FANTASY construction project that gives a slap in the face to those women who have served.

If the East Wing truly requires rebuilding, then let it be rebuilt with purpose. Let it honor the women whose work has defined it, not erase them. Let it reflect the seriousness of public service, not the spectacle of self-promotion. The American people deserve a White House grounded in duty, not distraction. Build a bigger, stronger, East Wing as it was originally designed. If trump wants to party . . . let him go to his Maralargo Country Club.

At a moment when attention should be fixed on governance, diplomacy, and the real responsibilities of the office, we are instead confronted with a fixation on a "pretend" ballroom and the spectacle surrounding it. If the East Wing must be rebuilt, let it be rebuilt with purpose — not as a monument to vanity, but as a renewed space that reflects the contributions of those who have shaped its history.

Sincerely,   
Thomas and Kathleen Morin



Feb. 15, 2026

I definitely have an opinion on the White House changes. I do not think ANY President should be able to change ANYTHING in the White House without permission. Not only is this a historical landmark it is the People's House! It was designed to be a modest home for our President. He and his family are our tenants, not owners.

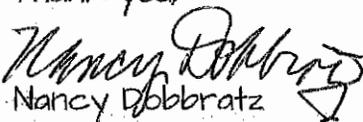
I would like the West Wing put back the way it was. The interior should have updated plumbing and electrical work and ADA accessibility. Whatever redesign is needed it should be done by your commission, not the President.

A ballroom should DEFINITELY NOT BE ADDED! Maintain the footprint please!

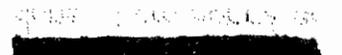
I understand incoming Presidents redo the Oval office, but I assumed (perhaps in error) that they had some strict parameters to what could be done. I am horrified that he sent the Resolute Desk out for refinishing. We can but hope when it returns it has not been gilded.

You MUST assert yourselves and take control of this disaster.

Thank you,

  
Nancy Dobbartz

  
Richfield MN 55423

  
[Redacted return address]

[Redacted return address]

M.S. Gillham

February 16, 2026

National Capital Planning Commission  
401 9th St NW  
Suite 500 N  
Washington DC 20004

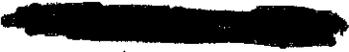
Subject: White House Modernization Project

To Whom It May Concern:

My opinion on the White House Modernization Project is to restore the exterior dimensions and architectural style, to update wiring and other needed fixes and make the interior ADA accessible where possible. Past processes need to be followed for making any changes. The White House is the house of the people. Do not make a ballroom. Build it somewhere else. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
M. S. Gillham



To: National Capital Planning Commission:

February 17, 2020

I oppose the spending of \$300 million on the East Wing Modernization project. This is a complete razing of American history, and as a U.S. citizen, I want this project canceled, and the East Wing rebuilt + restored. NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW - and to permit this project + go ahead without penalizing those who BROKE THE LAW would be an affront to all law-abiding U.S. citizens.

Thank you,

Rosella Borchardt

Clarksburg, MD 20871