National Museum of African American History and Culture
Public Scoping Meeting
Smithsonian Castle
December 10, 2009
Agenda

Welcome; Purpose of Meeting

– Gary Willoughby

EIS and Section 106 Process and Issues

– Alan Harwood

Museum Vision; Project Schedule

– Jud McIntire

Design Overview/Competition Review

– Phil Freelon and David Adjaye
Purpose of Tonight’s Meeting

- Initiate Environmental Review
- Briefly Explain Project
- Solicit Public Comment
- Explain Ground Rules, Meeting Format and Logistics
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Joint Leads

Smithsonian Institution

Cooperating Agency

National Capital Planning Commission

National Park Service
Purpose and Need for the Project

- The purpose of the project is to fulfill the mandate of the National Museum of African American History and Culture Act, P.L. 108-184 (2003)
  - The Act states:
    
    “[Such a museum], would be dedicated to the collection, preservation, research, and exhibition of African American historical and cultural materials reflecting the breadth and depth of the experience of individuals of African decent living in the United States”

- The project is needed to:
  - Provide a national meeting place for all Americans to learn about the history and culture of African Americans
  - Establish an institution that can respond to the interests and needs of diverse racial constituencies
  - [Build] a national venue that can serve as an educational healing space to further racial reconciliation
What is NEPA?

- NEPA → National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
  (NEPA; Public Law 91-190; 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq)

- Established a national policy for **protecting the environment** and requires evaluation of alternative actions

- Goal: To ensure **informed decision-making**

- Can conclude with an EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or an EIS and Record of Decision (ROD)
What is Section 106?

- **Section 106** Component of National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
  
  (NHPA; Public Law 89-665; 16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

- Established a process to **protect resources** listed on, or eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places, and requires the consideration of alternatives if effects on historic resources are anticipated.

- **Goal:** To **minimize potential harm** and damage to historic properties.

- Can conclude in a Memorandum of Agreement with Consulting Parties.
Tier II EIS – An Integrated Approach

NMAAHC EIS – Tier II Process/Schedule

December 10, 2009

EIS PROCESS

Tier I EIS

Conduct Tier II Scoping

Collect Tier II EIS Data and Document Existing Conditions

Define Tier II Alternatives

Determine Environmental Consequences and Identify Mitigation Measures

Prepare Tier II Draft EIS Document

Conduct Public Review of Tier II EIS

Prepare Tier II Final EIS

Issue Record of Decision

Section 106 Process

Tier I Design Principles

106 Response to NMAAHC Competition/Revised Design Principles

Analyze 3 Alternatives in Relation to Design Principles

Identify Adverse Effects

Avoid or Minimize Adverse Effects

Identify Mitigation

106 Input on Tier II Draft EIS

Ongoing Consultation

Design Process

Massing Alternatives

NMAAHC Competition

Develop 3 Alternatives and Preferred Alternative

Refine Alternatives

Input in FEIS

Ongoing Design

2007-2008

WINTER 2010

SPRING 2010

SUMMER 2010
What Issues Did the Tier I EIS Address?

- Cultural Resources
- Aesthetics and Visual Resources
- Distribution and Movement of Groundwater
- Surface Water Resources
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Transportation
- Land Use and Zoning Policies
- Communities and Businesses
- Visitor Use and Experience
- Public Health and Safety
- Infrastructure and Utilities
What Issues Will the Tier II EIS Address?

- Land Use and Visitation
  - Site Context
  - Visitor Experience

- Transportation
  - Site Access and Service
  - Pedestrian and Bicycle Connections

- Cultural Resources
  - Historic Resources
  - Visual Impacts

- Natural Resources
  - Site Performance and Open Space

- Environmental Resources
  - Geotechnical and Hazardous Materials
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The Vision of The National Museum of African American History and Culture:

*Few things are as powerful as a nation steeped in its history.*

-- Lonnie G. Bunch III, Founding Director

There are **four pillars** upon which this museum stands:

- It will create an opportunity for all people to explore and revel in African American history and culture.
- It will use African American history and culture as a lens into what it means to be American.
- It will tell the African American story in an international context.
- It will be a place of collaboration.
The Museum Exists Now:

It is building collections, developing exhibitions and establishing a national identity through the following:

• Traveling Exhibitions
• Lectures & Symposia
• Books and CD Recordings
• Save Our African American Treasures: a National Preservation Initiative

For more information visit the museum on the web at:  
www.nmaahc.si.edu
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EIS and Section 106 Process and Issues; Opportunities for Public Comment
  – Alan Harwood

Museum Vision; Project Schedule
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Design Overview/Competition Review
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Commemorative Zones
Urban Design Context
UPLIFTMENT

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How Can You Submit Comments?

- During this Meeting
  - Public Comment Sheets
  - Comment Stations
- After this Meeting
  - E-mail: NMAAHC.EIS.Comments@aecom.com
  - Written Comments can be sent to:
    NMAAHC EIS
    601 Prince Street
    Alexandria, VA 22314
- For more information please visit our website:
  www.nmaahceis.com