



# Smithsonian Institution

Office of Planning and Project Management

June 11, 2010

David Maloney  
Historic Preservation Officer  
Office of Planning, DC Government  
1100 4<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Suite E650  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear David:

Thank you for your letter of June 7<sup>th</sup> outlining the concerns of the District of Columbia's Office of Planning regarding the Section 106 review of alternative concepts for the new National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). These concerns were further elaborated on at a meeting held at the Smithsonian on Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> and attended by staff of the National Capital Planning Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts, Smithsonian's architectural team, yourself and your staff, as well as staff of the museum and the Office of Facilities Engineering and Operations (OFEO).

Please be assured that the Smithsonian is fully committed to continuing to evaluate the impact of this new museum on the historic resources on the National Mall, The Washington Monument, Constitution Avenue, the Federal Triangle and the Ellipse through the vehicle of the Section 106 Consulting Parties, to which you are a member. You have requested that before a preferred conceptual approach is selected to be further developed that the Smithsonian and the Consulting Parties continue to assess and not to dismiss an alternative prematurely. You have requested additional information be presented regarding analysis of setbacks, massing and view sheds, among others, and we will do so.

The regular Consulting Parties meetings will continue the process of analysis using a matrix tool that has been effective in isolating impacts. The Smithsonian will also direct the architectural team to further study the items outlined in your letter. It is anticipated that at the July 21<sup>st</sup> Consulting Parties meeting that this new material will be incorporated into the matrix for discussion and for informing the architectural team.

Your letter and this response will be posted in the Section 106 portion of the official website, [www.nmaahceis.com](http://www.nmaahceis.com), in an effort to keep all our partners informed as to these issues and our progress. We will also be engaging the architects and the museum in a dialogue discussion to further consider ways in which the museum's design and landscape can enhance the experience of access to the site, views to and from the Washington Monument and the Federal Triangle and respect for the historic plans developed for this area of the city. These new approaches will be shared with the agencies and the Consulting Parties as we continue to move forward in designing an outstanding new building for the city and the nation.

Thank you again for your thoughtful comments.

Sincerely,

Sharon C. Park, FAIA  
Associate Director,  
Architectural History and Historic Preservation  
Office of Planning and Project Management

Cc; SI OFEO; Kendall, Gill, Kolasinski, Ennaco: SI NMAAHC, Chase

P.O Box 37012  
600 Maryland Avenue, SW, Suite 5001, MRC 511  
Washington, DC 20013-7012  
202.633.6567 Telephone  
202.633.6233 Fax