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Jacksonville, FL 32257
April 24, 2011

Amy Ballard
Architectural History and Historic Preservation
Smithsonian Institution
P.O. Box 37012, MRC 5011
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012

Dear Ms. Ballard:

I read with interest about the proposed National Museum of African American History and Culture. I am excited to hear about the efforts being undertaken to preserve and display key artifacts and information about African Americans at this new site. I sincerely believe this will be an enhancement to the specific site which is not presently occupied, and complementary to the historic surroundings. It is culturally and historically significant in that it demonstrates and acknowledges the tremendous contributions of African Americans to American History.

After reading the noted “background materials,” on the plans for land use and projected impacts of this project, I found that there has been a comprehensive and committed effort to select an appropriate site to construct the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Also, the access study and reports provide extensive information about various model options for visitor experiences, transportation, and service access along with projected impacts and costs. This reflects the overall proactive and progressive views and considerations of the planners regarding this project.

The National Museum of African American History and Culture building will fit neatly within the National Monument and Smithsonian complexes with minimal change to the existing terrain. It will be directly next to the National Museum of American History and in close proximity of similar “special focus” museums (ie., National Museum of the American Indian, National Museum of Natural History, etc.). I am looking forward to visiting the National Museum of African American History and Culture on my future visits to Washington, D.C. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts and reflections about this important project.

Sincerely,

Dr. Audrey Morrissette, Ph.D.