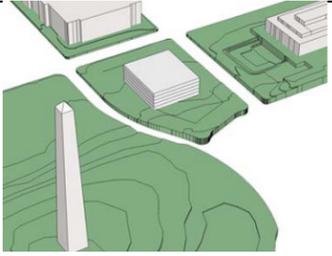
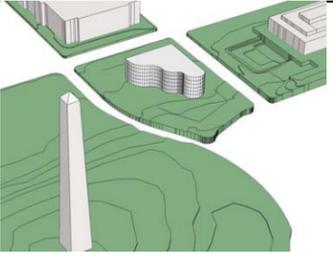
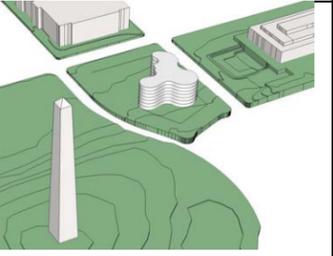
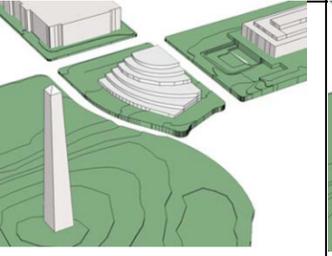
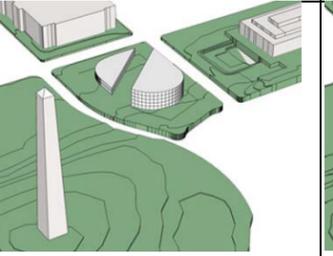
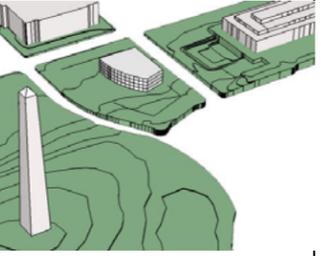


	Contextual Building Alignment	Washington Monument Orientation	Free Form	Terraced Roof	Enframing	Low Profile	
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5	Alternative 6	
							
	75'	90'	105'	90'	90', 45'	60'	<b>General Comments</b>
<b>DC HPO</b>	The building mass is too close to the Washington Monument, does not provide sufficient setback for trees along 15th Street, and does not defer to the presence of the Monument or acknowledge the urban design benefits of a "hinge" at the juncture of the city's two open space axes. It obstructs the iconic views of the Monument from the northeast and of the Federal Triangle from the Monument Grounds. On the other hand, the lower building height helps maintain an appropriate scale within the surroundings, both in close-up and distant panoramic views.	The building is too tall in views from the south and southwest, as well as distant panoramic views. It obstructs the iconic view of the Monument from the northeast as well as the Federal Triangle from the Monument. The eroded southwest façade softens the corner, but the implied frontal relationship to the Monument is inappropriately direct—a position reserved for the Capitol, White House, and Lincoln Memorial.	The building is too tall and obstructs the iconic view of the Federal Triangle and Post Office tower from the Monument. On the other hand, there is good retention of open space, and the massing provides a soft corner while avoiding a direct frontal relationship with the Monument. The free-form shape is sympathetic to the naturalistic character of the Monument grounds, but there is the significant danger of a visual distraction from the simple geometry of the obelisk. Some manipulation of the form could significantly reduce the effects on important views.	The building obstructs iconic views of the Monument from the northeast and Federal Triangle from the Monument. As with Alternative 2, the directionality toward the Monument implies an inappropriate frontal relationship. The exaggerated terrace form seems distracting and alien to the Mall and Monument grounds, and could result in an inappropriate visual impression, akin to giant bleachers.	The building obstructs the iconic view of the Federal Triangle, and the larger element is too tall. Adjustment in the relative heights of the two elements could be a significant improvement, as could shifting of the larger building slightly to the south. The central open space is welcome and could be dramatic, but the larger building is too close to the Monument and does not allow sufficient space for landscaping along 15th Street. The free-form shape is sympathetic to the naturalistic Monument grounds, and the division into two building blocks helps maintain an appropriate scale.	The lower building height helps maintain an appropriate scale within the surroundings, both in close-up and distant panoramic views. The disposition on the site is the best alternative in preserving open space, areas for landscape, and an appropriate distance from the Monument. The iconic view of the Monument from the northeast is obstructed, and the iconic view of the Federal Triangle from the Federal Triangle is partially blocked. These effects could be significantly reduced by manipulating the form and shifting the building placement somewhat to the south. The more subtle shape could strike an appropriate balance between the geometric and free-form alternatives.	The planning task is to make the building seem not out of place on the Monument grounds, but rather a natural terminus of the row of national museums on the north side of the Mall. In this respect the selected site is similar to that of the East Wing of the National Gallery, which completes the same row of museums at its east end, and we believe that some comparison to the East Wing is instructive.
	The viewsheds highlight the fact that the projected mass of the new museum is completely isolated with no apparent relationship to NMAH and the other museums					As the above-grade mass of the building is reduced to a reasonable scale in order to address these concerns, as in Alternative 6, the below-grade component of the museum inevitably grows. There are numerous examples of public buildings where a below-grade configuration has been successfully accomplished, but it is not an ideal condition.	
<b>NTHP</b>		Responds to the shape of the parcel; provides a clear terminus of the building line between the National Mall and Constitution Avenue		Responds to the shape of the parcel; provides a clear terminus of the building line between the National Mall and Constitution Avenue		Responds to the shape of the parcel; provides a clear terminus of the building line between the National Mall and Constitution Avenue	As alternatives are refined, we encourage the Smithsonian to evaluate physical connections and design references that could link the Museum with the National Museum of American History. Although the museums' programming would be distinct, African American history is part of American history, and it would be appropriate to relate the buildings physically. Relating the Museum to the National Museum of American History would also build a strong tie between the Museum and the building line, underscoring the transition from the building line to the grounds of the Washington Monument.
		One of the variables considered through the DEIS is the placement of the Museum within its designated parcel, as well as the context of the proposed museum's natural and built environment. Given the extreme significance of the Washington Monument and its grounds, we believe that the Museum's relationship and sensitivity to the Monument and landscape should be key criteria in any future alternative. This is best accomplished through Alternative 2, which would be oriented toward the Monument,		A stepped design, as presented in Alternative 4, could provide a smoother transition between building and landscape, encouraging the visitor to perceive the new building as an integral part of the historic site.	We also recommend that the Smithsonian continue to explore options for separating the building mass to allow for additional sightlines to and from the Monument, as in Alternative 5.	Would have the lowest impact on the Monument grounds	
						One of the variables considered through the DEIS is the placement of the Museum within its designated parcel, as well as the context of the proposed museum's natural and built environment. Given the extreme significance of the Washington Monument and its grounds, we believe that the Museum's relationship and sensitivity to the Monument and landscape should be key criteria in any future alternative. Relating the Museum to the National Museum of American History would also build a strong tie between the Museum and the building line, underscoring the transition from the building line to the grounds of the Washington Monument.	

<p><b>AAGHS</b></p>			<p>Alternative 3 is the other favorable design concept. A free form even with the proposed height could permit an orientation in all directions including 14th Street and the Monument as well and could respect some of the defining features of the Monument and Mall site. It presents a great opportunity for inventiveness in design and for respecting the agreed upon design principles.</p>		<p>Alternative 5 offers the greatest opportunity for engaging the public in the sense that it appears to offer an open concept that proposes to draw pedestrians through and to provide an inward glimpse to those driving by in vehicles – it is not closed off from the street. It seems that it also provides an opportunity to reconfigure museum footprint in a non-traditional manner while permitting green space, unfettered views of the Monument from certain angles.</p>	<p>Initially, Alternative 6 seemed appealing because of the lessened impact on the Monument. However, there were objections to having so much of it underground rather than proudly heralding itself.</p>	
<p><b>DOI</b></p>	<p>To further minimize adverse effects, the museum should be constructed within the building setback lines of the existing museums located along Madison Drive and along Constitution Avenue. This will minimize the adverse effects that the new building will have on the historic viewsheds and other critical cultural landscape elements of the Washington Monument grounds, and of the Washington Monument itself. Staying within these setbacks and height limitations will also establish the upper limit of total space within the structure above ground.</p>					<p>In order to minimize adverse effects, the museum height should be limited to 60 feet, or less.</p>	<p>All the alternatives have a need to study the geology of the site, flood plain, transportation access and further study on Historic Resources.</p>
						<p>As the alternatives are currently configured only Alternative 6, with a program size limited to 350,000 gsf, successfully minimizes the adverse effects to these significant cultural resources.</p>	<p>The DEIS concludes that all six of the alternatives will have significant adverse effects on the National Mall, the Washington Monument grounds, and the Washington Monument. The NPS concurs and recommends that the adverse effects should be minimized first then mitigated to the greatest extent possible.</p> <p>One important aspect of mitigation will be to ensure that the museum building and grounds are sympathetic to the cultural landscape of the Washington Monument grounds, the National Mall, White House, and President's Park. The design must be complementary to the architecture of the buildings nearby, and respectful of the relationship to the Washington Monument.</p>