

**Draft Design Principles**  
**National Museum of African American History and Culture**

Revised 3/28/08; Sharon Park; for review and development 4.23.08

- 1) The building form should respond to and respect the unique shape of the site
- 2) The building form should avoid projecting into the view shed south of the double row of trees when seen from the northern side of the National Mall looking west from east of the site
- 3) The building should respect the open feeling and freedom of movement of the site which is comprised of a gently sloping open space and a bordering cluster of mature trees along Constitution Ave. and 14<sup>th</sup> Street
- 4) The architectural expression should strive toward a discernable geometry yet maintain a fluid form that compliments the Washington Monument
- 5) The architectural expression should be sculptural in a way of visually communicating with the monument and not be comprised of harsh angles, forms or edges that overshadow or detract from the current dominance of the Washington Monument on the site.
- 6) The composition of new design elements should respect the formality and dignity of its neighbor, the Federal Triangle complex.
- 7) The context of an open field and a sense of free pedestrian movement across the site should be respected in the landscape treatment and the extensive use of outdoor program space should be encouraged
- 8) The spatial boundaries informed by the massing/setback alternatives should not restrict creativity or preclude important design elements, such as towers, domes, projections and new viewing vantage points from being incorporated, if those elements enhance a holistic design solution and are complimentary to the character of the surrounding environs.
- 9) The use of materials, forms and features to enhance the monumental, emotive, syntactic, sculptural, and specific identity of this museum should be encouraged within the context of its site on the Monument grounds and its adjacency to significant historical properties in and around the Mall
- 10) General geotechnical and flooding issues unique to this site and location near the Washington Monument, the Federal Triangle and the National Museum of African American History necessitate sensitivity and engineering excellence on the part of the design to avoid foundational damage or instability. Monitoring will need to be incorporated into all phases of investigation and construction.