

Location of Meeting	600 Maryland Ave, NW – 400	
Time of Meeting	9:30am – 12:00pm	
Purpose of Meeting	1. Section 106 Road Map with process, products, and review benchmarks 2. Populating the S106 Design Principles	
Attendees:	Sharon Park, SI Jane Passman, SI Curtis Davis, SI Harry Rombach, SI Brenda Sanchez, SI Martha Catlin, ACHP Gene Keller, NCPC Nancy Witherell, NCPC Tom Luebke, CFA	Peter May, NPS Judy Robinson, Robinson and Associates Dreck Wilson, ASLAH Felicia Bell, USCHS Jill Cavanaugh, Berger Tom Whitley, Professional Guild of Tour Guides Don Hawkins, Committee of 100 Judy Scott Feldman, NCSOM Rebecca Miller, DCPL Nell Ziehl, NTHP

Programming and Pre Design

Sharon Park announced that on June 25, 2008 there will be a landscape architecture workshop for the NMAAHC. Peter Walker will facilitate this workshop as part of the programming and pre-design process.

Several participants asked to be included in the programming phase of the museum, as it affects site design, rooftop access, service, size, and shape of the NMAAHC.

Sharon Park responded that she confer with Curtis Davis about the possibility of engaging the consulting parties in the programming exercise.

Geotechnical Issues

Judy Scott Feldman asked the NPS if they studied the Monument specifically to determine if adjacent projects will undermine the structural integrity of the Monument.

Peter May stated no new studies have been performed following the engineering study for the Monument tunnel.

Sharon Park stated that a full geotechnical analysis will be a product of the design process.

Design Principles

A discussion of the Design Principles generated a series of comments from various participants:

Design Principle	Comments
<p>General</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The attendees favored the format of a bullet point laundry list of principles rather than the compartmentalized Principles and Goals by issue. ▪ The acronym NMAAHC should be replaced with ‘National Museum of African American History & Culture’ to reinforce the cultural marker
<p>Introduction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More description of the setting should be added to the introduction, including a reference to the other SI museums in the area.
<p>Urban Design Principle: The NMAAHC building will be part of a visual chain, framework, or necklace of individual buildings along the Mall, the Ellipse and President’s Park and Federal Triangle. It will be a building set off by its unique landscape, seen from all directions and, therefore should be jewel-like in its quality of expression.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The NMAAHC will be a part of a sequence of individual buildings on the Mall but not Federal Triangle, President’s Park, or the Ellipse. ▪ The buildings are elements as part of a sequence. ▪ The term “jewel-like” expression is too prescriptive or restrictive a term. ▪ The NMAAHC should convey a quality of expression that is unique to itself and compatible with the ensemble; the NMAAHC should not be the focal point. ▪ All adjectives in this principle should be eliminated ▪ The NMAAHC should be the anomaly to the formal Beaux Arts alignment of buildings and shapes ▪ The NMAAHC should demonstrate an appropriate iconography for its context and its purpose, but the NPS suggests not requiring the iconographic expression of a building like the NMAI on this side of the Mall ▪ ASLAH suggested that this design principle should require that the NMAAHC be an expression of the program ▪ Emphasis should be placed on the museum’s visual effects (size, scale, location, and form) and its location as a pivotal transition of the end of buildings. ▪ The building has four fronts ▪ The NMAAHC has a transitional location between the formal landscape of the east and the open and less formal landscape to the north, south, and west.

<p>Historic and Cultural Resource Protection Goal Establish an indirect correspondence to the Washington Monument, with a design that is expressive of the inherent values of the museum yet not detracting from the iconic dominance and stature of the Monument.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Indirect correspondence” is perhaps not the best diction. NMAAHC should be compatible with broader context and not deferential exclusively to WAMO. ▪ WAMO should not dominate NMAAHC either ▪ The design principles should consider the psychological orientation of the building ▪ The design should be sensitive to the viewsheds identified in the EIS ▪ A more positive term should replace “detract”
<p>Historic and Cultural Resource Protection Goal Provide a transition to the Monument grounds, such as a tree buffer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Provide” is too prescriptive ▪ “Buffer” is not the right term. Perhaps “transition” is a better word ▪ Street trees could soften the security line
<p>Visitor Use and Access Principle: The building will celebrate, as an expression of civic art, which changes over time but has a lasting place in history, the linkages with symbols of democracy, history, open space, and freedom of expression. The structure should be appropriately stately and formal, yet should invite active use of the site as part of the civic culture of the museum and the City.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “National Mall” should be included ▪ “Civic” used twice is confusing ▪ Eliminate “should be appropriately stately and formal, yet”
<p>Visitor Use and Access Goal: Explore opportunities for landscaping and integration of outdoor programmed space, including use of the topography. Establish safe, clear visitor access routes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landscape design should focus on pedestrian access
<p>Functional Principle: As a stellar 21st century museum building, the building will utilize best sustainable practices and incorporate security design with all elements projecting a welcoming environment for the visitor.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Separate two ideas into two sentences. ▪ The word “exemplary” should be substituted instead of “stellar” ▪ Could this principle be eliminated?

Following the discussion of principles and goals, Sharon Park recorded several High Priority Observations (Design objectives):

- NMAAHC has a pivotal location transition at the intersection of the north, west, east, and south axes of Mall
- It is a transitional location between the formal landscape of the east and the open and less formal landscape to the north, south, and west.
- The NMAAHC will be the last in a sequence of museums
- The design should be sensitive to the viewsheds identified in the EIS.
- The location of historic resources is important
- There is no back door to the building (NMAAHC will have all front sides)
- Views from above (WAMO, Old Post Office) are important
- This museum requires an appropriate relationship (scale) with the context
- The NMAAHC will be a museum for all Americans
- Defining the appropriate aesthetic character for this museum is a complex and difficult task.

Next Steps

The Smithsonian Institution will incorporate comments and feedback and distribute revised principles and goals in ten (10) days.