

Smithsonian Institution

Architectural History and Historic Preservation

27 March 2006

Mr. David Maloney
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office
801 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 4000
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear David,

As you know, the Smithsonian Institution has been authorized to design and construct the National Museum for African American History and Culture on the National Mall. The site intended for the museum, known as the Monument Site, is adjacent to the Washington Monument Grounds at Constitution Avenue and 15th Street, N.W. It was one of the four designated by Congress for the possible location of the museum per Public Law 108-184, 20 U.S.C.80r (the Act) and subsequently selected for the new museum by the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian on 20 January 2006 pursuant to Section 8(a)(1)(A) of the Act.

Per Public Law 108-72, any project by the Smithsonian which requires approval by the National Capital Planning Commission is subject to Section 106 review. According to the National Historic Preservation Act, 36 CFR Part 800, agencies are required to take into account the effect of their undertaking on historic properties.

On 24 March 2006, we agreed that the undertaking to design and construct the new museum will have an adverse effect on the National Mall, a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and may have an effect on other listed properties also listed in the National Register of Historic Places, pursuant to CFR 800.5(1).

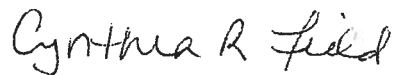
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We now wish to consult with you per 36 CFR Part 800.3(4)(e)(f), to identify the consulting parties who will work with us on the 106 process to help mitigate the adverse effects this undertaking will have on the National Mall.

I will also send a letter to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation inviting them to participate in the Section 106 process pursuant to CFR 800.2(b)(1).

We look forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia R. Field".

Cynthia R. Field, PhD
Chairperson