Agenda

Welcome and Purpose of Meeting

– Don Edwards, Justice and Sustainability Associates

Overview of Museum Project

– Jud McIntire, Smithsonian Institution

Presentation of Alternative Design Concepts

– Phil Freelon, FAB/S

Summary of Potential Environmental Impacts

– Alan Harwood, AECOM

Public Participation

– Don Edwards, Justice and Sustainability Associates
Purpose of Tonight’s Meeting

- Briefly Explain Project

- Present Alternative Design Concepts

- Summarize Potential Environmental Impacts

- Solicit Public Comment
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The Vision of The National Museum of African American History and Culture:

*Few things are as powerful as a nation steeped in its history.*

-- Lonnie G. Bunch III, Founding Director

There are **four pillars** upon which this museum stands:

- It will create an opportunity for all people to explore and revel in African American history and culture.
- It will use African American history and culture as a lens into what it means to be American.
- It will tell the African American story in an international context.
- It will be a place of collaboration.
The Museum Exists Now:

It is building collections, developing exhibitions and establishing a national identity through the following:

• Traveling Exhibitions
• Lectures & Symposia
• Books and CD Recordings
• Save Our African American Treasures: a National Preservation Initiative

For more information visit the museum on the web at: www.nmaahc.si.edu
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Public Participation

– Don Edwards, Justice and Sustainability Associates
Views and Adjacencies
Pedestrian Circulation
CELEBRATION

YORUBA CARYATID

FREELON ADJAYE BOND / SMITHGROUP
Rendering of view from Looking to Washington Monument from South Entry
Alternative 1
Competition / Plinth
Plinth Alternative
Plinth Alternative
Alternative 2
Plaza
Plaza Alternative
Plaza Alternative
Alternative 3
Pavilion
Pavilion Alternative
Pavilion Alternative
Pavilion Alternative
Alternative 4
Refined Pavilion
Refined Pavilion Alternative
Program above / below ground

<table>
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<th>Above Ground</th>
<th>Below Ground</th>
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<td>40 850 SQM</td>
<td>48 757 SQM***</td>
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***Includes operations yard
Refined Pavilion Alternative
Refined Pavilion Alternative
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Joint Lead Agencies

Smithsonian Institution

Cooperating Agency

National Capital Planning Commission
What is NEPA?

- NEPA → National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

(NEPA; Public Law 91-190; 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq)

- Established a national policy for protecting the environment and requires evaluation of alternative actions

- Goal: To ensure informed decision-making

- Can conclude with an EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or an EIS and Record of Decision (ROD)

NEPA Process

- Analyzes
- Determines
- Recommends

Project Alternatives
Environmental Effects
Mitigation Measures
What is Section 106?

- Section 106 → Component of National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
  (NHPA; Public Law 89-665; 16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

- Established a process to **protect resources** listed on, or eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places, and requires the consideration of alternatives if effects on historic resources are anticipated.

- Goal: To **minimize potential effects** on historic properties.

- Can conclude in a Memorandum of Agreement with Consulting Parties.

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Section 106 Process:

- **Considers and Informs**
- **Assesses**
- **Develops**

- **Project Alternatives**
- **Adverse Effects**
- **Avoid, Minimize and Mitigate**

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Tier II EIS – An Integrated Approach

EIS PROCESS

1. Tier I EIS
2. Tier II Scoping
3. Tier II EIS Data Collection and Existing Conditions
4. Tier II Alternatives
5. Environmental Consequences and Mitigation Measures
6. Compile Tier II Draft EIS Document
7. Conduct Public Review of Tier II Final EIS Document
8. Prepare Tier II Final EIS Draft EIS

Section 106 Process

1. Tier I Design Principles
2. 106 Response to NMAAHC Competition/Revised Design Principles
3. 106 Response to 4 Alternatives Relative to Tier II Design Principles
4. Adverse Effects
5. Avoidance and Minimization
6. Mitigation Identification
7. 106 Input on Tier II Draft EIS
8. Confirm Mitigation Measures

Design Process

1. Massing Alternatives
2. NMAAHC Competition
3. Alternative Development
4. Alternatives Refinement
5. Develop Preferred Alternative

Timeline:

- 2007-2008
- December 2009
- Summer 2010
- Fall 2010
- Spring 2011

Ongoing Design
Purpose and Need for the Project

- The purpose of the project is to fulfill the mandate of the National Museum of African American History and Culture Act, P.L. 108-184 (2003) which states:

“[Such a museum], would be dedicated to the collection, preservation, research, and exhibition of African American historical and cultural materials reflecting the breadth and depth of the experience of individuals of African descent living in the United States”
What Was the Tier I EIS and What Issues Did it Address?

- Cultural Resources
  - Archaeology
  - Historic Resources
- Aesthetics and Visual Resources
- Distribution and Movement of Groundwater
- Surface Water Resources
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Land Use and Zoning Policies
- Communities and Businesses
- Visitor Use and Experience
- Transportation
- Public Health and Safety
- Infrastructure and Utilities
- Cumulative Impacts
What Issues are Addressed in the Tier II EIS?

- Land Use and Planning Policies
- Visitor Experience
- Historic Resources
  - Views and Vistas
  - Spatial Organization
  - Land Use
  - Circulation
- Visual Impacts
  - Surrounding Urban Context
  - Key Urban Viewsheds
  - Night Lighting
- Transportation
- Geology, Soils, and Groundwater
- Conservation of Natural Resources
  - Open Space
  - Global Climate Change
  - Site Performance
- Cumulative Impacts
Land Use and Planning Policy Impacts

- Landscaped areas, public plaza, and pedestrian improvements would be consistent with the National Mall Plan; loss of open space is inconsistent with National Mall Plan (NPS, 2010)
- Security measures consistent with Mall-Wide Perimeter Security Improvements Plan (SI, 2004)
- Destination on 14th Street consistent with DC Center City Action Agenda (DC OP, 2008)

Visitor Use and Experience Impacts

- Significant change in open space experience for visitors to the National Mall
  - Loss of flexible open space used for recreation, First Amendment demonstrations, and special events
- Establishment of a new cultural destination for museum visitors to the National Mall
Historic Resource Effects

- **Land Use** – Major/Significant Adverse Effects on:
  - Established uses of the Washington Monument Grounds

- **Vegetation** – Major/Significant Adverse Effects on:
  - Significant vegetative features of the Washington Monument Grounds

- **Buildings and Structures** – Major/Significant Adverse Effects on:
  - Washington Monument, Monument Lodge, Bulfinch Gateposts

- **Views and Vistas** – Major/Significant Adverse Effects on:
  - Long views within the Washington Monument Grounds, distant views of the Washington Monument Grounds
  - Panoramic views from the National Mall, views of the Federal Triangle and 15th Street, views from principal street corner crossings and along National Mall pathways, night views

- **Spatial Organization** – Major/Significant Adverse Effects on:
  - Spatial organization of the Washington Monument Grounds, the National Mall, and the monumental core
**Historic Views to the Site**

**View Corridors Past the Site**
Visual Resource Impacts

- **Plinth Alternative**
  - Major impact: 14th and 15th Street view corridors, Urban Context

- **Plaza Alternative**
  - Major impact: 14th and 15th Street view corridors, Urban Context, Night Lighting

- **Pavilion Alternative**
  - Major impact: 14th and 15th Street view corridors

- **Refined Pavilion Alternative**
  - Major impact: 14th and 15th Street view corridors
Geology, Soils, and Groundwater Resource Impacts

- No significant geologic features on site

- No impact on soil stability
  - Building loads would be grounded on deep foundations extended into bedrock
  - The Washington Monument is located 670 feet southwest of the project site and beyond the zone of influence of construction

- No significant impacts on groundwater due to diaphragm slurry wall
Natural Resource Impacts

- Open Space Resources
  - 38 existing trees would be removed (including 14 special trees)

- Site Performance
  - The amount of the site (19%) covered by paving or hardscape would increase:
    - Plinth Alternative 65%
    - Plaza Alternative 69%
    - Pavilion Alternative 49%
    - Refined Pavilion Alternative 52%

  - No net increase in stormwater runoff due to on site water capture
Transportation Impacts

- Minimal peak hour vehicular traffic generated by museum
- No significant impact on surrounding transportation system
- Increased pedestrian volumes
Cumulative Impacts

- Significant impacts:
  - Loss of open space on or adjacent to the Mall for recreation, First Amendment demonstrations and special events
  - The open space character and vegetation of the Washington Monument Grounds
  - Key urban viewsheds and historic views and vistas
  - Increased pedestrian volumes

Selected Ongoing and Future Cumulative Impact Projects

- Potomac Park Levee Project
- United States Institute of Peace Headquarters
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial
- Thomas Jefferson Memorial and Seawall Improvements
- Smithsonian Institution Mall-Wide Perimeter Security Improvements
- National Museum of American History, Kenneth E. Behring Center Public Space Revitalization/Expansion
- Department of Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover Building, National Aquarium Entrance
- Washington Monument Permanent Security Improvements
- Madison Drive Roadwork
- Centennial Initiative/Wayfinding and New Pedestrian Guides
Mitigation Measures

- **Design modifications:**
  - Placement within the site to generally respect established setback lines
  - Efforts to reduce the above-ground mass of the museum
  - Continuity of Washington Monument Grounds – curvilinear paths and materials

- **Site features:**
  - Replacement of trees lost to construction
  - Sustainable methods of capturing stormwater on site
  - Relocate underground utilities to areas outside of building footprint

- **Recommendations:**
  - Align NMAAHC with the established setback lines of the Mall
  - Continue to minimize the reflectivity of the exterior skin
  - Continue to reduce exterior lighting
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How Can You Submit Comments for the Record?

- During this Meeting
  - Oral Testimony (Recorded for Transcript)
  - Public Comment Sheets
- Until January 11, 2011
  - E-mail: NMAAHC.EIS.Comments@aecom.com
  - Written Comments can be sent to:
    NMAAHC EIS
    c/o AECOM
    675 N. Washington Street, Suite 300
    Alexandria, VA 22314
- For more information please visit our website:
  www.nmaahceis.com