Welcome!
The meeting will begin momentarily.

How to Use Zoom Webinar:

• Zoom webinar will not permit access to your camera.
• Please submit comments/questions in writing through the Q&A function.
• Written comments/questions can be submitted at any time and will be answered or discussed at designated points during the meeting by the panelists.
• Click "Raise Hand" if you would like to speak your comments/questions at designated points with the panelists. A moderator will grant temporary access to your device's microphone.

Thank you for participating in our virtual public consultation meeting!
Construct Integrated Bezos Learning Center

Consulting Parties Meeting #2
NEPA Public Scoping Meeting
11.01.2023

Smithsonian Institution

National Capital Planning Commission

Perkins & Will
Panel of Speakers

Moderator

Carly Bond, Acting Associate Director, Historic Preservation, Smithsonian Office of Planning, Design, and Construction

Panelists

Dr. Tina Menendez, Bezos Learning Center Director

Jane Passman, Senior Facilities Master Planner, Smithsonian Office of Planning, Design, and Construction

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Construct Integrated Bezos Learning Center

Consulting Parties Meeting #2 and NEPA Scoping, November 1, 2023
Meeting Agenda

I. Project Introduction
II. Bezos Learning Center Mission Overview
III. NEPA Process
IV. Section 106 Process
V. Context and Genesis of Form and Space
VI. Architecture and Landscape Design
VII. View Sheds
VIII. Next Steps

Q&A Process
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Project Introduction
**Project Introduction**

**NASM Revitalization**

**Revitalization**

- Memorandum of Agreement pursuant to Section 106 executed December 28, 2017
- NASM Revitalization construction substantial completion in 2024
- 7 years devoted to revitalizing NASM and providing a secure building envelope

**Transformation**

- 23 galleries and spaces reimagined for immersive learning
- 5,200 artifacts moved and preserved
- 1,400 new objects on display

*NASM viewed looking NE, October 2023.*
Construct Integrated Bezos Learning Center Scope

- Largest philanthropic gift since SI’s founding gift from James Smithson in 1846
- Gift designs, constructs, and supports a premiere space for education across Smithsonian, housed at the NASM, at the heart of the National Mall
- Bezos Learning Center program shall reach underserved communities in DC and across the nation
- Smithsonian will supplement these funds to include:
  - Demolition of restaurant addition aligned with NASM Revitalization construction
  - Address loading dock functionality providing proper height clearances and separation of delivery areas
  - Construct a restaurant facility
  - Design and construct permanent location for the Phoebe Waterman Haas Public Observatory
  - Design and construct the Phoebe Waterman Haas Astronomy Park
  - Landscape east terrace
Program Summary – Preferred

Section

Construct Integrated Bezos Learning Center

Consulting Parties Meeting #2 and NEPA Scoping, November 1, 2023
Bezos Learning Center
Mission Overview
Bezos Learning Center Mission Overview

The center will connect to all Smithsonian museums, coordinating STEAM-related collections and experts across the Institution and promoting inquiry-based learning in learners of all ages, with a focus on youth and educators in under-resourced communities. The center will activate programming in part by establishing partnerships with community-based organizations to reach students and teachers in Washington, D.C., and in communities across the country.
Section 106/NEPA Process Overview

Initiate Process

**Section 106**
- Determine undertaking
- Identify area of potential effect and historic properties
- Identify consulting parties and other stakeholders
- Refine area of potential effect and/or historic properties as needed.
- Access adverse impacts to historic properties
- Revise adverse effects as needed
- Resolve adverse effects
- Develop Programmatic Agreement/ Memorandum of Agreement

**NEPA**
- Develop purpose and need
- Identify cooperating agencies
- Determine range of potential environmental impacts
- Prepare draft Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Statement
- Revise draft Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Statement as needed
- Prepare final Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Statement
- Publish Findings of No Significant Impact/Record of Decision

Proceed with Action

Graphic courtesy of the National Capital Planning Commission.
National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, requires federal agencies to involve the public when making decisions that may impact the natural, cultural, and socioeconomic environment. An environmental assessment, or EA, will look at the potential impacts from the proposed action.

NCPC will serve as the lead and responsible federal agency and work with SI as project owner to comply with NEPA. NCPC and SI will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the environmental impacts of a range of alternatives for this project, in accordance with NEPA. The National Park Service will serve as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EA due to the project’s proximity to the National Mall Concurrently, SI will conduct consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
Draft Purpose and Need

• The purpose of the proposed project is to build and operate a world class center for education based at the National Air and Space Museum (NASM).

• The project is needed to provide:
  • a pan-Institutional resource overseen by NASM that will engage all students and teachers, with a particular focus on under-resourced communities in Washington, DC and across the nation, both at the National Mall site of the new facility and virtually through remote capabilities;
  • a 600- to 700-seat restaurant accessible from the Museum’s main level;
  • a public Astronomy Park; and
  • a permanent location for the Phoebe Waterman Haas Observatory on the East Terrace.
Preliminary Issues and Impact Topics

As part of the scoping process, SI and NCPC will review the potential impacts and determine which resources could be impacted and will be fully analyzed in the EA.

Preliminarily, SI and NCPC have identified the following resources for full analysis or dismissal in the EA:

Resources for EA analysis:
- Cultural Resources, such as Historic Districts
- Aesthetics and Visual Resources
- Visitor Use and Experience
- Traffic and Transportation
- Environmental Justice
- Air Quality
- Climate Change

Resources preliminarily dismissed:
- Water resources
- Wildlife
- Vegetation
- Soils
- Noise
- Floodplains

Are there any other resources SI and NCPC should consider as part of the EA?
How can I be involved?

This public scoping meeting is the beginning of the public involvement process.

At this meeting:
• SI and NCPC are looking for public input on the draft purpose and need, range of alternatives and potential impact topics for inclusion in the EA.

Future opportunities for comment:
• Draft EA will be published for public review and comment.
• Public meeting(s) after Draft EA publication to solicit public comments and answer any questions on the project.
• After all public comments are reviewed, SI and NCPC will update the draft EA based on substantive comments received and will also provide responses to all substantive public comments.
• SI and NCPC will then release a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) should the analysis prove there is no significant impact to the quality of the natural, human, or cultural environments.
How can I provide my comments?

There are multiple ways to provide public comments on the proposed action:

1. At this meeting via the chat or by requesting to speak
2. Submit comments via email to:
   Preservation@SI.edu
3. Mail hardcopy comments to:
   Smithsonian Institution
   Attn: Jane Passman
   PO Box 37012
   MRC 511 Suite 5001
   Washington, DC 20013-5012

All comments must be submitted by November 16, 2023
Section 106 Process
Section 106 Process Overview

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA):

- National Air and Space Museum (NASM) contributes to the National Mall Historic District
- Section 106 requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their projects on historic properties and seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects
- Section 106 requires consultation to seek, discuss, and consider the views of "consulting parties" who are invited to participate in the process
- Approximately 90 consulting parties or organizations invited to participate

Section 106 Process Overview

We Are Here

Step 1
Initiate the Process
- Define the Undertaking
- Initiate Section 106
- Identify Consulting Parties
- Involve the Public

Step 2
Identify Historic Properties
- Define Area of Potential Effects (APE)
- Identify Historic/Cultural Resources

Step 3
Assess Adverse Effects
- Assess Effects on Historic Resources
- Apply Criteria of Adverse Effect

Step 4
Resolve Adverse Effects
- Avoid, Minimize, and/or Mitigate Adverse Effects
- Notify ACHP of Adverse Effects
- Create Resolution Document (MOA/PA)

Consultation with Consulting Parties

- A Consulting Party is anyone with a demonstrated interest in the project.
- Consulting Parties meetings will review design progress, provide detailed discussions on how the Construct Integrated Bezos Learning Center project may adversely affect historic resources, and consider ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects.
Draft Area of Potential Effect

Key
- NASM Site
- Project Area
- Area of Potential Effects
- National Mall Historic District
- Pennsylvania Avenue NHS

Construct Integrated Bezos Learning Center

Consulting Parties Meeting #2 and NEPA Scoping, November 1, 2023
Construct Integrated Bezos Learning Center

Historic Resources

Key:
- NASM Site
- Project Area
- Area of Potential Effects
- National Mall Historic District
- Pennsylvania Avenue NHS
- National Air & Space Museum (NR Eligible)
- Dwight D Eisenhower Memorial
- Lyndon B Johnson Dept of Education
- Social Security Administration
- Terminal Refrigerating & Warehousing Co.
- US Botanic Gardens
- US Capitol and Grounds
- National Gallery of Art East Wing (NR Eligible)
- National Gallery of Art West Wing
- Bullfinch Gatehouses and Gateposts
- Mary E Switzer Federal Building
- Ulysses S Grant Memorial
- Natural History Museum

Locations:
1. National Air & Space Museum (NR Eligible)
2. Dwight D Eisenhower Memorial
3. Lyndon B Johnson Dept of Education
4. Social Security Administration
5. Mary E Switzer Federal Building
6. Terminal Refrigerating & Warehousing Co.
7. US Botanic Gardens
8. Ulysses S Grant Memorial
9. US Capitol and Grounds
10. National Gallery of Art East Wing (NR Eligible)
11. National Gallery of Art West Wing
12. Bullfinch Gatehouses and Gateposts
13. Natural History Museum
15. US Dept of Agriculture
16. Freer Gallery
17. Smithsonian Castle
18. Arts & Industries Building
19. Hirshhorn Museum (NR Eligible)
20. Orville & Wilbur Wright Federal Buildings (NR Eligible)
21. Plan of the City of Washington (Not Shown)
National Mall Historic District
Contributing Views and Visual Relationships

- Reciprocal view east-west between the Washington Monument to the Capitol
- North-south vista along 4th Street
- North-south vista along 6th Street, between NASM and the National Gallery West Building
- North-south vista along 8th Street, toward the National Archives
- North-south vista along 10th Street, between National Museum of Natural History and the Smithsonian Institution Building
- Visual relationships include views to the elms and the buildings along the Mall from the pedestrian walks and central grass panels
Questions and Comments

Moderator

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Construct Integrated Bezos Learning Center

Consulting Parties Meeting #2 and NEPA Scoping, November 1, 2023
Context and Genesis of Form and Space
Site Aerial
1980 Pre-Restaurant

Construct Integrated Bezos Learning Center
McMillan Line
Contextual Framework

Definition of the McMillan and corresponding setbacks of the South face of NASM
Continuing the contextual language of Open Space reflection across The National Mall
Urban Edge and Green Space
Contextual Framework
Connecting the Public Realm of The National Mall and The Eisenhower Memorial
Site Historical Context
1975 Site Plan

Jefferson Dr

National Air and Space Museum

Independence Ave

Construct Integrated Bezos Learning Center
Learning Courtyard
Design Concept

Spiral Force draws people in and diffuses knowledge out.
Architecture and Landscape Design
Spiral Galaxy
Massing Progression

The Spiral Galaxy as the basis of form generation. The dynamic nature is an intervention to open to the National Mall and Eisenhower Memorial and Draw People In.
Transparency
Massing Progression

The North face opens up to the Mall to draw people in. The internal Spiral Band (Gallery) is faced with transparency to Diffuse Knowledge Out.
Circulation
Massing Progression

The Circulation Spine is continuous along the Spiral Gallery Atrium overlooking the National Mall.
Purpose
Massing Progression

The outer Spiral Band is filled with purpose.
Dining, Learning and Experience stacked up vertically.
Lift Massing Progression

Separation of Purpose, lifting the volume of Learning and Experience of the BLC as a Pavilion-like Structure and letting the transparency of the base be infilled with Dining and connection to the Green around.
Pavilion in the Garden

The form lightly hovers over the Green Landscape between the National Mall and Eisenhower Memorial, embracing the connection between the two.
Construct Integrated Bezos Learning Center
Site Perambulation
Spiral Organization Scheme

Construct Integrated Bezos Learning Center

Consulting Parties Meeting #2 and NEPA Scoping, November 1, 2023
Landscape Plan & Planting Palette

Existing & Restored Plantings

New Landscape Plantings

LINE OF BASEMENT BELOW

Construct Integrated Bezos Learning Center
Site Alternate - Perambulation
Extended Orthogonal Scheme
Site Alternate – Landscape Plan

Legend

- Existing & Restored Plantings
Landscape Comparison
Spiral vs Orthogonal

North Aerial View

Spiral

Orthogonal
Landscape Comparison
Spiral vs Orthogonal

South Aerial View

Spiral

Orthogonal
Construct Integrated Bezos Learning Center
Southeast Aerial

Construct Integrated Bezos Learning Center
Questions and Comments

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View Sheds
Contributing View Shed: 4th St South

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Consulting Parties Meeting #2 and NEPA Scoping, November 1, 2023
Contributing View Shed: Jefferson Dr East

Construct Integrated Bezos Learning Center
Construct Integrated Bezos Learning Center

BLC

Consulting Parties Meeting #2 and NEPA Scoping, November 1, 2023
Next Steps
# Section 106, NEPA and Project Schedule

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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| August 9, 2023         | Consulting Parties Meeting #1                  | Project introduction
|                        |                                                | Initiate Section 106 consultation                                    |
| November 1, 2023       | Consulting Parties Meeting #2 NEPA Scoping     | Review purpose and need
|                        |                                                | Review potential environment impacts
|                        |                                                | Review concept design alternatives                                  |
| November 6, 2023       | Tour the NASM Site                             | 9:30-10:30am
|                        |                                                | Meet at the NW corner of Jefferson Drive and 4th Street SW           |
| February 2024          | Consulting Parties Meeting #3                  | Design Update                                                        |
| November 2023 -        | Development of draft EA                        | NEPA analysis ongoing                                                |
| November 2024          |                                                |                                                                      |
| May 2024 – February 2025 | Consulting Parties Meetings                  | Section 106 consultation ongoing                                    |
| Spring 2025            | Final Design Submissions                       | NEPA FONSI and Section 106 MOA complete                             |

- Parties will receive a minimum 30-day email notice of a public meeting
- Section 106 consultation and NEPA process will run concurrently
Next Steps

Please visit the project webpage:
https://airandspace.si.edu/about-transformation/bezos-learning-center/106

Today's presentation material and meeting recording will be available on the project webpage by November 3, 2023.

Please RSVP to attend to the November 6th site tour from 9:30-10:30am by sending an email to preservation@si.edu.
How can I provide my comment?

There are multiple ways to provide public comments on the proposed action:

1. Submit comments via email to:
   Preservation@SI.edu

2. Mail hardcopy comments to:
   Smithsonian Institution
   Attn: Jane Passman
   PO Box 37012
   MRC 511 Suite 5001
   Washington, DC 20013-5012

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Construct Integrated Bezos Learning Center

Smithsonian Institution

Thank you!

Perkins&Will