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**PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT  
AMONG  
THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER  
AND  
THE NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGARDING  
THE NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM EAST END PROJECT**

10 This Programmatic Agreement (PA) is made as of this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022, by and  
11 among the Smithsonian Institution (SI), the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (DC  
12 SHPO), and the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) (referred to collectively herein as the  
13 “Signatories” or individually as a “Signatory”), pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic  
14 Preservation Act (NHPA), 54 U.S.C. § 306108, its implementing regulations 36 CFR Part 800 (Section  
15 106), and 36 CFR § 800.14(b) to govern the implementation of the National Air and Space Museum  
16 (NASM) East End Project (Project); and  
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the NASM is a Modernist style building designed by Gyo Obata of Hellmuth, Obata &  
19 Kassabaum, that opened to the public in 1976. A restaurant addition was constructed at the east end of  
20 the NASM in 1988, designed by Obata in the Late Modern/Post-Modern style, replacing the original  
21 public dining facility on the otherwise non-public third floor of the NASM (Exhibit A); and  
22

23 **WHEREAS**, the NASM building is rectangular in plan with alternating bays of solid blocks of curtain wall  
24 construction clad with stone and glazing. The restaurant addition is cruciform in plan encased in glazing,  
25 and with a stepped, hipped roof; and  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, the NASM and its restaurant addition are contributing elements of the National Mall Historic  
28 District, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). NASM and the restaurant  
29 addition are significant within the National Mall context under National Register Criterion A with a  
30 period of significance of 1791 to the present, and under Criteria Consideration G, which applies to  
31 properties achieving significance within the last fifty years if they are of exceptional importance; and  
32

33 **WHEREAS**, the SI completed a Determination of Eligibility (DOE) for individual listing of the NASM in the  
34 NRHP in October 2021, finding that the NASM is eligible under National Register Criteria A, C, and  
35 Criteria Consideration G, proposing a period of significance for the NASM’s individual listing as 1976, and  
36 determining that the restaurant addition and other later changes do not contribute to the NASM’s  
37 individual eligibility for the National Register; and  
38

39 **WHEREAS**, when the SI initiated Section 106 consultation with the DC SHPO on May 29, 2020, the  
40 Project consisted solely of demolition and replacement of the restaurant addition with a new dining  
41 facility. Consultation regarding that scope of work included a Consulting Parties meeting held on  
42 September 29, 2020, that focused on the dining facility program, the east terrace considerations, and  
43 the findings from the DOE; and  
44

45 **WHEREAS**, on July 14, 2021, the second largest philanthropic gift ever given to the SI modified the  
46 Project plans and scope by enabling the design and construction of a “world class center for education”  
47 known as the Bezos Learning Center (BLC) which will focus on both NASM-specific and pan-institutional  
48 programs, with a target completion date to commemorate the NASM’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the nation’s

1 Semiquincentennial (i.e., 2026). The SI held a second Consulting Parties meeting on October 19, 2021,  
2 for consultation on the revised Project plans and scope, and the development of an *Assessment of*  
3 *Effects on Historic Resources* report (Exhibit B) that found the demolition of the restaurant addition  
4 would have an “adverse effect” on historic properties; and  
5

6 **WHEREAS**, the SI subsequently determined that the existing restaurant addition is undersized and  
7 cannot accommodate the required program square footage of the BLC. The addition does not meet  
8 required blast criteria or structural codes and it has deficient mechanical systems that harm collections,  
9 and functional inefficiencies resulting from excessive solar heat gain inside the structure. The SI also  
10 determined that the demolition of the restaurant addition advances the missions of the SI and the  
11 NASM and is required for construction of the BLC; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the NASM East End Project now consists of the demolition of the restaurant addition and the  
14 design and construction of the BLC (Undertaking) (Exhibit C) and the Undertaking will be implemented in  
15 accordance with this PA; and  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, a separate project known as the NASM Revitalization Project is currently under construction  
18 at the NASM. The Revitalization Project is the subject of a 2017 Memorandum of Agreement and  
19 involves replacement of the museum building’s exterior cladding and glazing, and the construction of a  
20 security vestibule on the north side. The NASM Revitalization does not include modifications to the  
21 restaurant addition. The NASM Revitalization project is being constructed in phases, and the demolition  
22 of the restaurant addition must align with the next phase of construction beginning in March 2022; and  
23

24 **WHEREAS**, NCPC, a Signatory to this PA pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(f)(1), has approval authority over  
25 federal projects located within the District of Columbia pursuant to the National Capital Planning Act (40  
26 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1); and  
27

28 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Public. Law No. 108-72, 117 Stat. 888 (August 15, 2003), the SI is “deemed to be  
29 an agency for purposes of compliance with regulations promulgated by the ACHP pursuant to Section  
30 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act” for projects in the District requiring NCPC review and  
31 approval; and  
32

33 **WHEREAS**, the SI and NCPC have agreed that SI will be the lead agency pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2)  
34 for the undertaking to fulfill their collective Section 106 responsibilities; NCPC has elected to fulfill its  
35 Section 106 responsibilities by participating in consultation and by signing this PA pursuant to 36 CFR §  
36 800.6(c)(2); and  
37

38 **WHEREAS**, the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the undertaking, which was defined in consultation  
39 with the DC SHPO, is the same as the NASM Revitalization APE, and consists of portions of the National  
40 Mall Historic District with visibility of the NASM, and extending south of the NASM (Exhibit D); and  
41

42 **WHEREAS**, in addition to the Signatories, the SI has consulted with a wide group of interested parties  
43 and has invited them to participate as Consulting Parties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(f) (Exhibit E); and  
44

45 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5(a) the SI, in consultation with the Signatories and the Consulting  
46 Parties, applied the criteria of adverse effect to the demolition of the restaurant addition, and  
47 determined that this action will result in adverse effects on the National Mall Historic District as outlined  
48 below and as described in the *Assessment of Effects on Historic Resources*; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the SI buildings, National Gallery of Art, and other Federal buildings form the north-south  
2 boundaries of the main gathering space of the National Mall, with the rooflines and monumental  
3 building masses forming the backdrop for the Mall’s associations with National Register Criterion A. The  
4 demolition of the restaurant addition alters this backdrop setting, resulting in an adverse effect on  
5 historic properties; and

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, the 4<sup>th</sup> Street north-south vista is an identified contributing viewshed of the National Mall  
8 Historic District. The restaurant addition is directly visible within this vista’s setting, and demolition  
9 results in an adverse effect on this contributing feature; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, the SI and the Signatories agree that the design and construction of the BLC also has  
12 potential to result in adverse effects on the National Mall Historic District and other historic properties  
13 by altering the backdrop setting, contributing vistas, and through other means; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, the SI notified the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) on November 23, 2021,  
16 of the adverse effects associated with the demolition of the restaurant addition in accordance with 36  
17 CFR § 800.6(a)(1) and invited the ACHP to participate in the consultation to resolve adverse effects; and  
18 on January 13, 2022, notified the ACHP of its intent to prepare this PA and the ACHP declined to  
19 participate; and

20  
21 **NOW, THEREFORE**, the Signatories agree that the undertaking will be implemented in accordance with  
22 the following stipulations to take into account the effects of this undertaking on historic properties.

## 23 **STIPULATIONS**

24  
25  
26 The SI shall ensure that the following measures are carried out:

### 27 **1. MITIGATION MEASURES FOR DEMOLITION OF THE RESTAURANT ADDITION**

28  
29  
30 A. HABS Recordation Drawings: The SI will complete Historic American Building Survey (HABS) drawings  
31 to document the restaurant addition prior to the start of demolition activities. HABS drawings will be  
32 completed in accordance with *HABS Guidelines Recording Historic Structures and Sites with HABS*  
33 *Measured Drawings*. HABS documentation photographs were completed in 2017. The SI will submit the  
34 completed drawings to HABS for inclusion in the collection at the Library of Congress. The SI will publish  
35 the drawings on the SI’s Architectural History and Historic Preservation webpage or other public SI  
36 webpage.

37  
38 B. Video Walkthrough: The SI will gather data from a Lidar and high-definition panoramic imaging  
39 scanner to create a three-dimensional point cloud model of the restaurant addition prior to any  
40 construction or demolition activities. This record documentation will be utilized to create a video of a  
41 virtual experience of walking around the exterior and interior of the addition. The virtual walkthrough  
42 will be completed within two (2) years of the date of signature on this PA and will be posted on the SI’s  
43 Architectural History and Historic Preservation webpage or other public SI webpage.

44  
45 C. East End Project Webpage: The SI will maintain the materials available on the NASM East Project  
46 webpage. This webpage will contain presentation materials, Section 106 consultation history, and the  
47 Determination of Eligibility. This content will be posted on the SI’s Architectural History and Historic  
48 Preservation webpage or other public SI webpage.

1 D. Interpretive Signage: One (1) interpretive signage panel will be developed in consultation with the DC  
2 SHPO and installed on the east terrace of the NASM to provide the public with information about the  
3 history of the NASM and the restaurant addition, possibly including supplemental web-based resource  
4 material. The permanent location and all other details relating to the interpretive signage will be  
5 identified and developed in accordance with Stipulation 2 of this PA.  
6

## 7 **2. BEZOS LEARNING CENTER FUTURE CONSULTATION**

8

9 A. Bezos Learning Center Program: The BLC will be a nexus where creativity, problem-solving, and  
10 innovation take place, linking learners to the unparalleled collection that the NASM and its unique  
11 positioning on the National Mall offers. The BLC will house and present programs focused on the work  
12 of NASM and efforts that uniquely bring together resources and expertise from across the Smithsonian.  
13 Two of the primary program initiatives funded by the Bezos gift are the Bezos Empowering Educators  
14 Program (establishment of a national network of K-3 grade classroom educators working with NASM  
15 Museum educators) and the Bezos Science and Technology Innovation Challenges (middle/high school  
16 age learners are teamed to engage in future oriented problem solving rooted in the work of NASM and  
17 Smithsonian overall).  
18

19 i. Building Parameters: The BLC will be housed in a new building addition at the east end of the  
20 NASM. The existing restaurant addition is 22,000 gross square feet. The BLC addition proposes  
21 a comparable footprint to the existing restaurant addition based on existing site limitations from  
22 the loading dock, grade changes, and the east terrace (Exhibit F). The BLC program requires a  
23 total of 50,000 square feet anticipated to be housed within two levels above a ground floor  
24 restaurant space of approximately 22,000 square feet. The restaurant addition will be accessed  
25 through the ground floor of the NASM, and the BLC program accessed through a connection at  
26 the NASM's second floor. Small event space at the addition roof is planned to accommodate  
27 100-150 people for educational programming and events.  
28

29 ii. Observatory Program: Section 106 consultation on the BLC project will also address the direct  
30 and indirect effects that may result from establishing a permanent location for the Phoebe  
31 Waterman Haas Public Observatory in the southeast area of the NASM site. The proposed  
32 Observatory program requires a 21-26 foot commercially available metal dome mounted on a  
33 small foundation. The Observatory is anticipated to have an attached accessible external  
34 observation pad, around 900 square feet to accommodate fixed telescope piers.  
35

36 iii. Astronomy Park: Section 106 consultation on the BLC project will also address the direct and  
37 indirect effects that may result from including an exterior Astronomy Park on the NASM's east  
38 terrace. This outdoor park space is intended to feature interactive exhibits to connect visitors to  
39 astronomy and planetary science.  
40

41 iv. Comprehensive East End: The overall project will consider the design of the BLC addition,  
42 Observatory, and Astronomy Park as a cohesive system considering site features of the east  
43 terrace and the Revitalization project's comprehensive landscape design.

44 B. Bezos Learning Center Design Framework: The following will be considered in the development of  
45 design concepts for the Bezos Learning Center:

1 i. Design concepts must respect the formal setting of the National Mall and neighboring  
2 museums, including the Hirshhorn Museum, National Gallery of Art, and the National Museum  
3 of the American Indian. The NASM is sited on center with the 6<sup>th</sup> Street axis, designed in a  
4 symmetric relationship with the National Gallery of Art west building.

5  
6 ii. Design concepts must respect the NASM building and respond to its architecture and massing.  
7 Design concepts shall meet the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic*  
8 *Properties for Rehabilitation*.

9  
10 iii. Design concepts must carefully consider the BLC addition's physical connection to the NASM  
11 and materials. Design concepts may consider transparent walls to inspire learning through  
12 connection to the National Mall, BLC learner projects, and to the NASM's artifacts.

13  
14 iv. Design concepts must consider and respect contributing vistas of the National Mall Historic  
15 District, including the 4<sup>th</sup> Street north-south vista, the east-west viewshed of the central  
16 greensward, the building line established by the Plan of the City of Washington and views to the  
17 flanking elm trees and buildings along the Mall from pedestrian paths and the central  
18 greensward.

19  
20 C. Section 106 Consultation Process and Procedures: The NASM East End project schedule requires the  
21 demolition of the NASM restaurant addition in 2022, with the subsequent design and construction of  
22 the BLC. The SI shall consult with the Signatories, Consulting Parties, and the public in accordance with  
23 this PA and 36 CFR § 800 as follows:

24  
25 i. Preliminary Project Consultation: The SI may convene the Signatories for preliminary project  
26 consultation prior to formally initiating Section 106 consultation on the design of the BLC.

27  
28 ii. Initiating Consultation: After the Smithsonian has contracted with an architect-engineer team  
29 and completed the development of schematic design alternatives, the SI will formally initiate  
30 consultation regarding the BLC with the Signatories via letter.

31  
32 iii. Continuing Involvement of Consulting Parties and the Public: Consulting Parties and the  
33 public will continue to have the opportunity to participate in Section 106 consultation for the  
34 BLC. At the re-initiation of Section 106 consultation for the design of the BLC project, the SI will  
35 consult with the Signatories to update and expand the Consulting Parties list, as needed.

36  
37 The SI will establish a schedule for Section 106 consultation with critical dates and identified  
38 opportunities for consultation and comment. The SI will maintain a project specific website,  
39 with email notifications to Consulting Parties of Section 106 meetings and/or website content  
40 updates.

41  
42 iv. Assessment of Effect and Resolution of Adverse Effects: The SI shall apply the criteria of  
43 adverse effect in consultation with the Signatories and Consulting Parties to design alternatives,  
44 using this analysis to inform the selection of the preferred alternative. Section 106 consultation  
45 will evaluate all exterior design aspects of the proposed program, including the direct and  
46 indirect effects that may result on the NASM, the surrounding National Mall Historic District,  
47 and other properties within the APE.

1 The SI will consult to identify ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate “adverse effects” pursuant to  
2 36 CFR 800. Agreed upon minimization and mitigation measures will be formalized in a separate  
3 Memorandum of Agreement executed pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.6  
4

5 D. Design and Construction Schedule: Section 106 consultation for the design of the BLC is planned to  
6 begin in early 2023. The target construction start date is 2024, with a target completion date of 2026.  
7 This schedule is subject to change with notification provided to the Signatories through the Monitoring  
8 and Reporting, Anti-Deficiency Act, and/or Design Consultation stipulations of this PA.  
9

### 10 **3. MONITORING AND REPORTING**

11  
12 Each year, by the anniversary date of the last signature on this PA until it expires or is terminated, the  
13 SI will provide the Signatories a summary report detailing work undertaken pursuant to the terms of the  
14 PA. Such report will include any scheduling changes proposed, any problems encountered, and any  
15 disputes and objections received in the SI’s efforts to carry out the terms of this PA. Failure to provide  
16 such summary report may be considered non-compliance with the terms of the PA pursuant to the  
17 Amendments and Non-Compliance stipulation of this PA.  
18

### 19 **4. QUALIFICATIONS**

20  
21 SI will ensure that all historic preservation work performed on its behalf pursuant to this PA will be  
22 accomplished by, or under the direct supervision of a person or persons who meet(s) or exceed(s) the  
23 pertinent qualifications cited in the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualifications Standards.  
24

### 25 **5. ANTI-DEFICIENCY ACT**

26  
27 The SI’s obligations under this PA are subject to the availability of appropriated funds, and the  
28 stipulations of this PA are subject to the provisions of the Anti-Deficiency Act. The SI will make  
29 reasonable and good faith efforts to secure the necessary funds to implement its obligations under this  
30 PA. If lack of appropriated funds or compliance with the Anti-Deficiency Act alters or impairs the SI’s  
31 ability to implement its obligations under this PA, the SI will consult in accordance with the Amendments  
32 and Non-Compliance stipulation, and if necessary, the Termination stipulation.  
33

### 34 **6. AMENDMENTS AND NON-COMPLIANCE**

35  
36 This PA may be amended when such an amendment is agreed to in writing by all Signatories. The  
37 amendment will be effective on the date a copy signed by all the Signatories is filed with the ACHP. If the  
38 Signatories cannot agree to appropriate terms to amend the PA, any Signatory may terminate the PA in  
39 accordance with the Termination stipulation of the PA.  
40

### 41 **7. DESIGN CONSULTATION**

42  
43 The SI will consult with the Signatories regarding any changes to the undertaking that may occur prior to  
44 re-initiating Section 106 consultation on the design of the Bezos Learning Center, including comments  
45 from informational briefings to the Commission of Fine Arts and the NCPC in Spring 2022. Should the SI  
46 not initiate construction activities for the Learning Center within a six (6) year period from the date of  
47 execution of this PA, the SI will pursue an alternative project that restores public use of the east terrace,  
48 and will notify the Signatories early in development of an alternative project.

1 **8. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

2  
3 Should any Signatory object at any time to any action proposed or the manner in which the terms of this  
4 PA are implemented, SI will consult with the Signatories to resolve the objection. If a resolution cannot  
5 be reached after a good faith effort to resolve the dispute, and the SI determines the objections cannot  
6 be resolved, the SI will:

7  
8 A. Forward all documentation relevant to the dispute, including the SI's proposed resolution, to  
9 the ACHP. The ACHP will provide the SI with its advice on the resolution of the objection within  
10 thirty (30) days of receiving adequate documentation. Prior to reaching a final decision on the  
11 dispute, the SI will prepare a written response that takes into account any timely advice or  
12 comments regarding the dispute from the ACHP and Signatories, and provide them with a copy  
13 of this written response. The SI will then proceed according to its final decision.

14  
15 B. If the ACHP does not provide its advice regarding the dispute within the thirty (30) day  
16 period, the SI may make a final decision on the dispute and proceed accordingly. Prior to  
17 reaching a final decision, the SI will prepare a written response that takes into account any  
18 timely comments regarding the dispute from the Signatories to the PA, and provide them and  
19 the ACHP with a copy of such written response.

20  
21 C. The SI's responsibility to carry out all other actions subject to the terms of this PA that are not  
22 the subject of the dispute remain unchanged.

23  
24 **9. TERMINATION**

25  
26 If any Signatory to this PA determines that its terms cannot or are not being properly implemented,  
27 that Signatory will immediately consult to attempt to develop an amendment per the Amendments and  
28 Non-Compliance stipulation of this PA. If the Signatories cannot reach agreement on an amendment  
29 within thirty (30) days (or another time period agreed to by all Signatories), any Signatory may terminate  
30 the PA upon written notification to the other Signatories. Once the PA is terminated, and prior to work  
31 continuing on the undertaking, the SI must either (a) execute a new MOA pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.6 or  
32 new PA pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.14(b), or (b) reinstate consultation on the unfinished components of  
33 the undertaking pursuant to 36 CFR § 800 and applicable sections of the PA. The SI will notify the  
34 Signatories as to the course of action it will pursue.

35  
36 **10. ELECTRONIC COPIES**

37  
38 Within one week of the last signature on this PA, the SI will provide the Signatories with one legible,  
39 color, electronic copy of the fully executed PA and all attachments fully integrated into one,  
40 single document. Internet links will not be used to provide copies of attachments. If the electronic copy  
41 is too large to send by e-mail, the SI will provide the Signatories with a copy of this PA on a compact disc.

42  
43 **11. DURATION**

44  
45 This PA will be in effect for eight (8) years from the date of its execution. Prior to such time, the SI may  
46 consult with the Signatories to reconsider the terms of the PA and amend it in accordance with the  
47 Amendments and Non-Compliance stipulation of this PA.

1 Execution of this PA by the Signatories and the implementation of its terms evidences that the SI has  
2 taken into account the effects of the National Air and Space Museum East End Project on historic  
3 properties, and afforded the ACHP a reasonable opportunity to comment.  
4

5

6 **SIGNATURES FOLLOW ON SEPARATE PAGES**

7

8 **EXHIBITS**

9

10 Exhibit A – Photographs of the National Air and Space Museum

11 Exhibit B – Assessment of Effects on Historic Resources

12 Exhibit C – National Air and Space Museum Site Plan

13 Exhibit D – Area of Potential Effects

14 Exhibit E – List of Consulting Parties

15 Exhibit F – NASM East End Existing Site Plan

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**SIGNATURE PAGE  
PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT  
REGARDIING  
THE NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM EAST END PROJECT**

**FOR THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION**

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Nancy Bechtol  
Director, Smithsonian Facilities

Date

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5 **REGARDING**  
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11 **FOR THE DC STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER**  
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16 \_\_\_\_\_  
17 David J. Maloney

Date

18 DC State Historic Preservation Officer  
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11 **FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
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17 Marcel C. Acosta  
18 Executive Director

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Date

1 **EXHIBIT A – Photographs of the National Air and Space Museum**

2



4 NASM museum building, west and south elevations, September 2021.

5




7 Restaurant addition north elevation, and NASM east elevation, September 2020.

8




10 Restaurant addition and planted area at the east end of the NASM site, Historic American Building  
11 Survey, 2017.

1 EXHIBIT B – Assessment of Effects on Historic Resources  
 2



Smithsonian  
National Air and Space Museum



Smithsonian Facilities

**National Air and Space Museum – East End Project**  
**Assessment of Effects on Historic Resources**

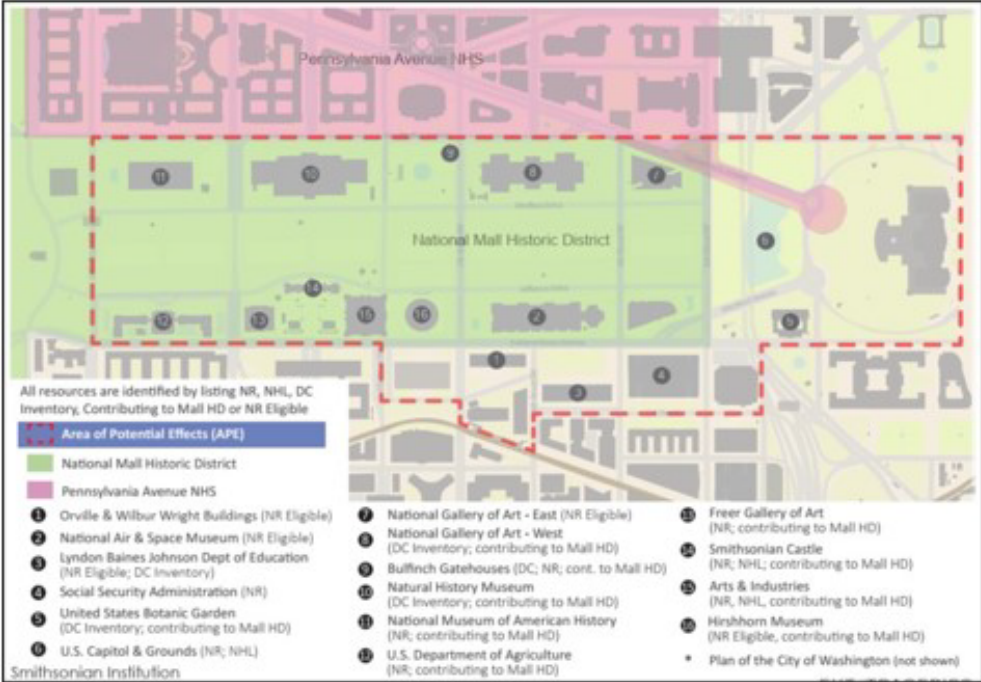
**October 2021**

**Criteria of Adverse Effect**

This document provides an assessment of effects on historic resources associated with the National Air and Space Museum East End Project. Effect assessments are based on the criteria of adverse effect as defined in the implementing regulations of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR Part 800). The criteria of adverse effect are defined as follows:

An adverse effect is found when an undertaking may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property’s location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. Consideration shall be given to all qualifying characteristics of a historic property, including those that may have been identified subsequent to the original evaluation of the property’s eligibility for the National Register. Adverse effects may include reasonably foreseeable effects caused by the undertaking that may occur later in time, be farther removed in distance or be cumulative (36 CFR § 800.5(a)(1)).

Effect assessments were considered within the below Area of Potential Effects, the geographic area in which the project may directly or indirectly result in alterations to the character or use of historic properties.



All resources are identified by listing NR, NHL, DC Inventory, Contributing to Mall HD or NR Eligible

- Area of Potential Effects (APE)
- National Mall Historic District
- Pennsylvania Avenue NHS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>① Orville &amp; Wilbur Wright Buildings (NR Eligible)</li> <li>② National Air &amp; Space Museum (NR Eligible)</li> <li>③ Lyndon Baines Johnson Dept of Education (NR Eligible; DC Inventory)</li> <li>④ Social Security Administration (NR)</li> <li>⑤ United States Botanic Garden (DC Inventory; contributing to Mall HD)</li> <li>⑥ U.S. Capitol &amp; Grounds (NR; NHL)</li> <li>⑦ Smithsonian Institution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⑧ National Gallery of Art - East (NR Eligible)</li> <li>⑨ National Gallery of Art - West (DC Inventory; contributing to Mall HD)</li> <li>⑩ Bullfinch Gatehouses (DC; NR; cont. to Mall HD)</li> <li>⑪ Natural History Museum (DC Inventory; contributing to Mall HD)</li> <li>⑫ National Museum of American History (NR; contributing to Mall HD)</li> <li>⑬ U.S. Department of Agriculture (NR; contributing to Mall HD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⑭ Freer Gallery of Art (NR; contributing to Mall HD)</li> <li>⑮ Smithsonian Castle (NR; NHL; contributing to Mall HD)</li> <li>⑯ Arts &amp; Industries (NR, NHL, contributing to Mall HD)</li> <li>⑰ Hirshhorn Museum (NR Eligible, contributing to Mall HD)</li> <li>⑱ Plan of the City of Washington (not shown)</li> </ul>
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NASM East End Project

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### **Project Background**

The National Air and Space Museum (NASM) is a large museum building occupying three city blocks at 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW on the south side of the National Mall in Washington, DC. The Modernist style building was designed by Gyo Obata of Hellmuth, Obata, and Kassabaum, and opened to the public in 1976 as part of the Nation’s Bicentennial celebration.



National Air and Space Museum, south and west elevations, 2016.



Restaurant addition, 2020.

In 1988 a restaurant addition was added to the east end of the building, also designed by Obata. The addition is a glass pavilion and cruciform in plan and included alterations to the east terrace of the site. A Determination of Eligibility (DOE) was completed in 2021 for the NASM to evaluate its individual eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The DOE found NASM eligible under National Register Criteria A, C, and Criteria Consideration G, with a period of significance of 1976, the year the museum was completed. The Restaurant Addition and other later alterations to the NASM were determined compatible with the character of the building and site, but they do “not rise to the same level of significance as the original design” and do not contribute to the NASM’s significance.

The Smithsonian Institution is planning a project to demolish the restaurant addition and construct a future addition to the NASM for a pan-Institutional learning center. The demolition of the restaurant addition is the subject of this undertaking. The NASM is a contributing element to the National Mall Historic District listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The NASM contributes to the National Mall only under Criterion A, and this effect assessment considers only how the demolition of the restaurant addition will effect the historic character of the National Mall. Per the DOE and period of significance of 1976, the demolition of the restaurant addition does not have an adverse effect on the significance of the Air and Space building or its individual eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.

### **National Mall Historic District**

The National Mall Historic District meets National Register Criterion C (properties that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values) for the period 1791 to 1965. The NASM constructed in 1976, falls outside of this period of significance, and does not contribute to the District under Criterion C.

The National Mall is nationally significant under National Register Criterion A (properties associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of American history) in the areas of entertainment and recreation, ethnic heritage, politics and government, education, and social history for the period 1791 to the present. The National Mall is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas



of entertainment and recreation for the period 1791 to the present. The NASM contributes to the District under Criterion A, and is part of the buildings, sites, structures, and objects within that add to this character and historic associations.

The National Mall meets Criterion A for politics/government, ethnic heritage, and social history as the site of demonstrations of rights of free assembly and free speech related to important issues in the nation's history, and as the symbolic core of American government. Smithsonian buildings, National Gallery buildings, and other Federal buildings form the north-south boundaries of the main gathering space of the National Mall and form the backdrop of significant public events.

The National Mall consists of a wide central lawn flanked by four rows of mature American elm trees. Most of the elm trees vary in height between 60-80', which creates a visual screen between the central green space and the buildings fronting Jefferson and Madison Drives. Building rooflines and monumental building masses form the backdrop setting for the Mall's associations with Criterion A in the areas of politics/government, ethnic heritage, and social history. The elm tree cover largely obscures the restaurant addition in the backdrop setting, however, the demolition of the addition will alter the setting and is an adverse effect on this characteristic of the historic district.



National Mall Landscape Plan.



Iraq War Protest, 2007.



Inauguration of President Obama, 2009.

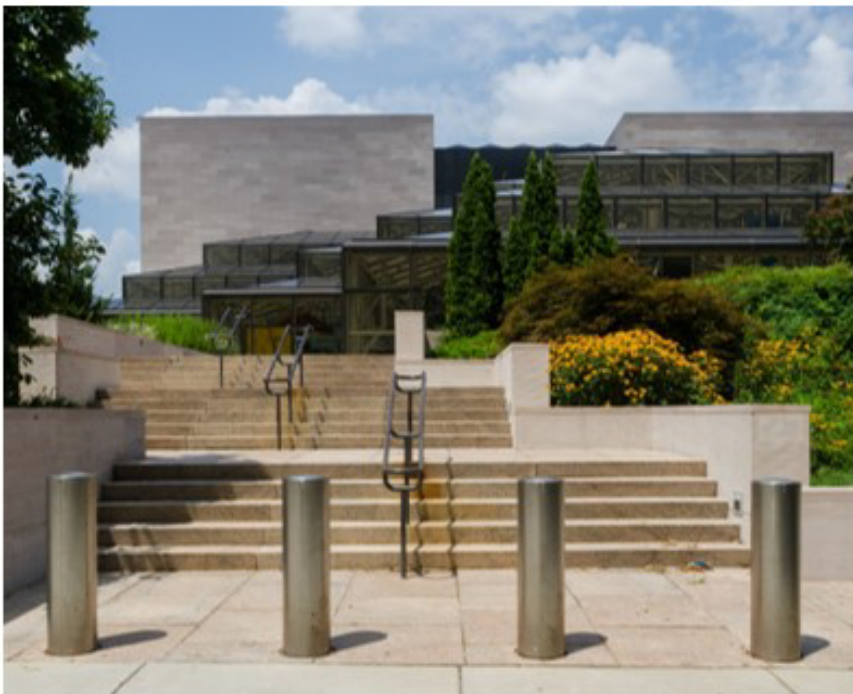
The National Mall meets Criterion A for entertainment/recreation and education, as the site of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Gallery of Art, and the site of continuing recreation in the form of museum and memorial visitation. The restaurant addition is operationally and functionally separate from the NASM, and its development was not an expansion of the NASM's exhibition and programs. The demolition of the restaurant addition does not diminish the NASM's educational purpose, and does not have an adverse effect on this characteristic of the historic district.



The National Mall has specific views and visual relationships that contribute to the significance of the historic district. The annotated aerial photograph below notes the significant views. The vista along 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW is considered significant, and the restaurant addition is prominently visible as pedestrians pass the NASM moving north. The NASM frames the 4<sup>th</sup> Street vista as the street passes the site and is elevated above the street due to the steep grade change at the east end of the site. The demolition of the restaurant addition is an adverse effect on the setting of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and character of the vista.



Annotated aerial photograph of the National Mall. The location of the NASM is noted with a blue outline, and the significant views and visual relationships noted with yellow arrows.



Visibility of the restaurant addition from the sidewalk of 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW.

The NASM is sited on center with the National Mall's 6<sup>th</sup> Street axis, also a significant vista in the Historic District, and is in a symmetrical relationship with the National Gallery of Art's west building. The National Gallery's marble projections align with the NASM's receding steel and glass planes. The





restaurant addition aligns with an outdoor National Gallery exhibition area, and the demolition of the restaurant addition will have “no adverse effect” on the historic reciprocal relationship between the two buildings.



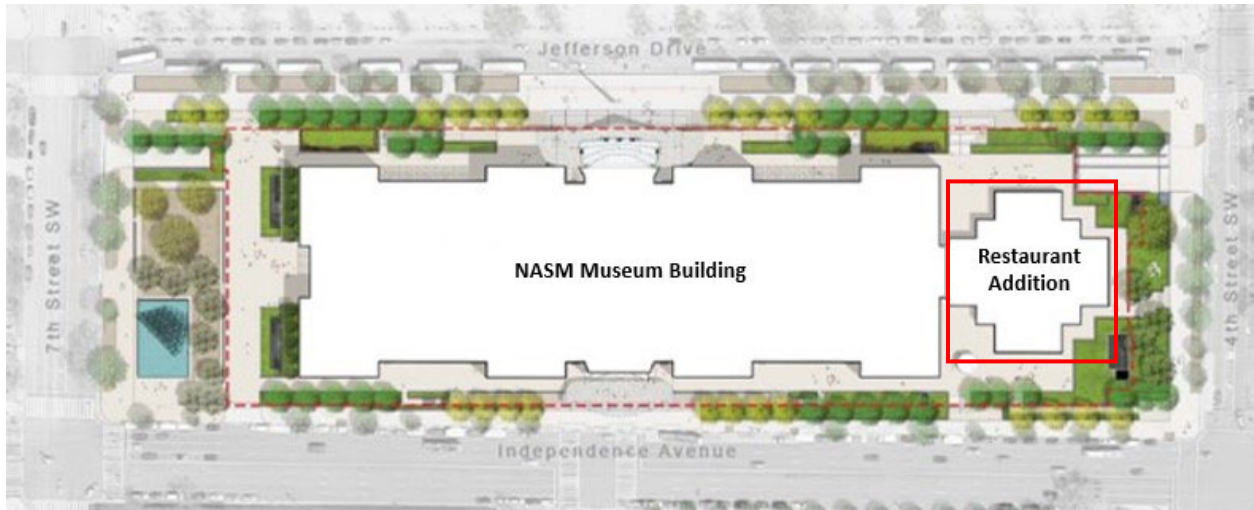
National Mall aerial view. Red arrow notes the 6<sup>th</sup> Street axis and reciprocal relationship between the National Gallery portico and the NASM center glass atrium gallery.

### **Conclusion**

The National Mall is nationally significant under National Register Criterion A (properties associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of American history) in the areas of entertainment and recreation, ethnic heritage, politics and government, education, and social history for the period 1791 to the present. The National Mall is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of entertainment and recreation for the period 1791 to the present. The NASM contributes to the District under Criterion A, and is part of the buildings, sites, structures, and objects within that add to this characteristic and historic associations. The demolition of the restaurant addition alters the National Mall setting and the 4<sup>th</sup> Street vista, resulting in an adverse effect on historic resources. The demolition of the restaurant addition has “no adverse effect” on the 6<sup>th</sup> Street vista and reciprocal relationship between the NASM and the National Gallery of Art West Building.

1 **EXHIBIT C – National Air and Space Museum Site Plan**

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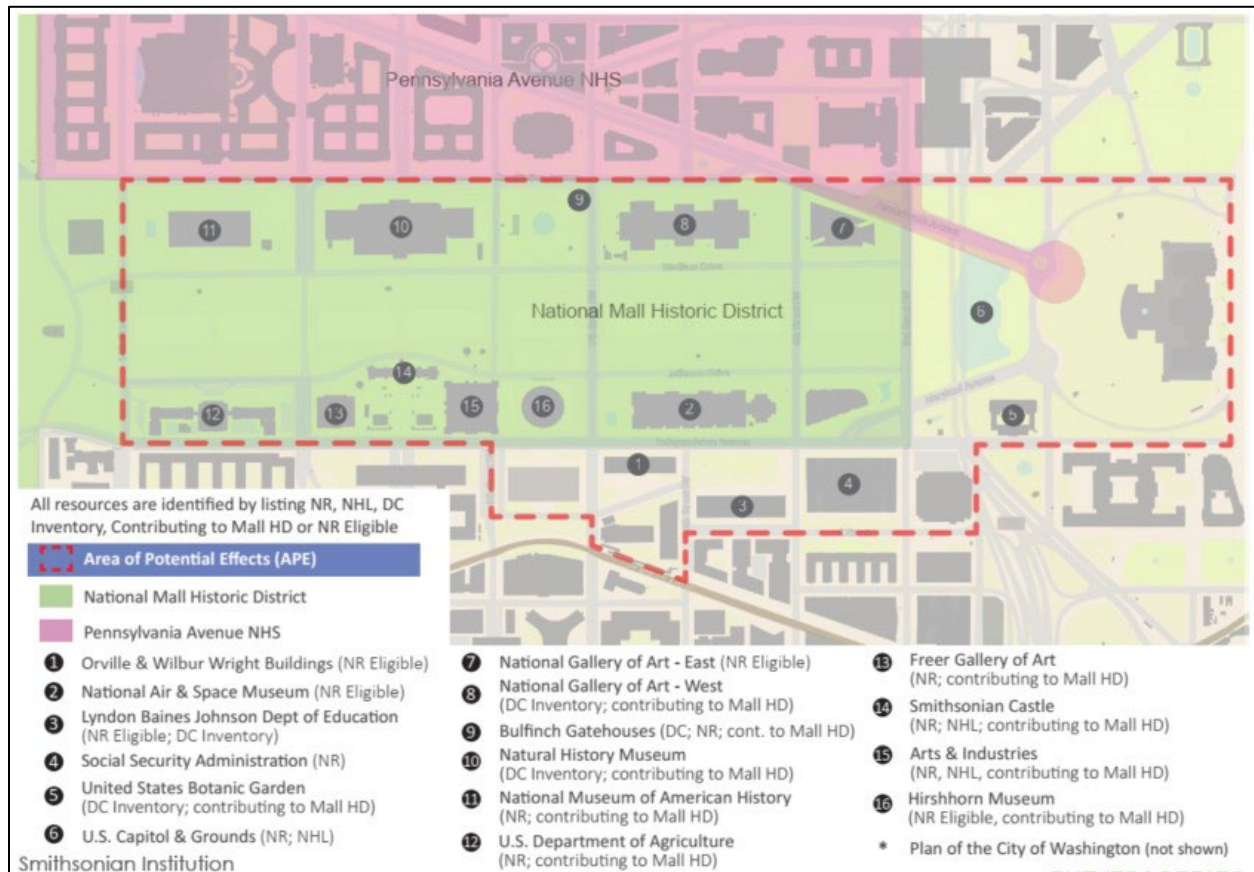


3  
4 National Air and Space Museum Plan, 2019. Undertaking includes demolition of the restaurant addition  
5 noted with a red outline.

6

7 **EXHIBIT D – Area of Potential Effects**

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1 **EXHIBIT E – List of Consulting Parties**

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3 Review Agencies

4 National Capital Planning Commission

5 U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

6

7 State Historic Preservation Office

8 DC State Historic Preservation Office

9

10 Public Agencies

11 National Park Service

12 Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

13 General Services Administration

14 National Gallery of Art

15 Department of Agriculture

16 Architect of the Capitol

17 District Department of Transportation

18 National Archives and Records Administration

19 Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

20 Federal Aviation Administration

21 Department of Education

22

23 Interested Parties

24 National Trust for Historic Preservation

25 Committee of 100 on the Federal City

26 U.S. Capitol Historical Society

27 DC Preservation League

28 National Mall Coalition

29 Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum

30 Southwest Business Improvement District

31 Wharf DC

32 Docomomo US/DC

33 Brutalist DC

34 American Institute of Architects – DC Chapter

35 Cultural Tourism DC

36 Trust for the National Mall

37

38 Local Elected Representatives

39 Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

40 Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6D

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42 \* Names of private individuals that participated in Section 106 consultation are not included for privacy  
43 concerns.

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1 EXHIBIT F – NASM East End Existing Site Plan  
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