

Environmental Assessment for the

**New York Avenue Public Art Project - National
Museum of Women in the Arts**



Applicant:

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Washington, DC 20009

Responsible Agency:

National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)
401 9th Street, NW
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June 2009

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
FOR THE NEW YORK AVENUE SCULPTURE PROJECT
WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

BASIS FOR FINDING

The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzing the environmental impacts from the construction of the NMWA New York Avenue Public Art Project. The EA was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508). The EA documents the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts for the build alternative.

The DC Office of Planning (the applicant) has proposed the project to NCPC – the lead agency for this Environmental Assessment. The environmental issues addressed in the EA were identified through scoping; through consultations with Federal and City agencies; and by the project team, which includes NCPC, the Downtown DC Business Improvement District, the DC Office of Planning, and contractor personnel who have had experience with projects of similar scope.

The EA is incorporated by reference into this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

I. PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the proposed action (New York Avenue Public Art Project) is the creation of an allée of contemporary sculptures within the median of New York Avenue, NW between 9th and 13th Streets. The proposed sculptures in Phase I of the project would consist of works by the artist Niki de St. Phalle. The National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) proposed to work with the Niki Charitable Art Foundation to select a grouping of outdoor sculptures for this project. Future installation of rotating public art will include works by other artists.

Over the past twenty years, the neighborhood around the NMWA has undergone a renaissance. The opening of the new Washington Convention Center four blocks from the museum has dramatically increased development of offices, hotels, apartments and retail spaces from 13th Street to Chinatown, especially between K and H Streets and along New York and Massachusetts Avenues.

Although traditional public sculpture is abundant in Washington, DC, the area around the NMWA has no such cultural monuments. Little of the District's sculpture is contemporary

and few are by women. NMWA proposes to redress this imbalance by creating the New York Avenue Public Art Project, a new public art program that will bring long-term loans and displays of important contemporary women artists.

The area around the NMWA is in need of an infusion of creative energy and contemporary beauty. The New York Avenue Public Art Project would complement and enhance the redevelopment and beautification of the downtown Washington as well as draw focus to the NMWA. The project would establish a new cultural identity for New York Avenue that would contribute to the visual enjoyment of its citizens, day workers, visitors and tourists.

II. DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

Two alternatives are analyzed in detail in this EA: the No-Action Alternative and the Build Alternative.

ALTERNATIVE 1 - NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No-Action Alternative, The New York Avenue Public Art Project would not be built. The current conditions would remain and there would be no changes to the median and streetscape of the proposed project site.

ALTERNATIVE 2 – NEW YORK AVENUE PUBLIC ART PROJECT (BUILD ALTERNATIVE)

Under Alternative 2, sculptures and associated landscaping would be installed within the median of New York Avenue between 9th and 13th Streets. The project would consist of 12 sculptures set upon concrete pads at regularly spaced intervals within the median. The first phase would consist of six works by Niki de St. Phalle; artwork for later phases will be selected by an advisory group formed by the National Museum of Women in the Arts. Additional streetscape improvements would consist of a renovated median landscape and a series of 12 signs, six on each side of New York Avenue.

Each of the sculptures will rest on one of 12 concrete pads centered within the raised median. Up to ten ground level, 2-watt LED spotlights will illuminate each sculpture pad. Sculptures will range in height from approximately 9-feet to 16-feet. Future public art to be selected will be of similar size and scale. Gravel will cover the base of each pad. Plantings will include Red Carpet Roses, Weeping Yew, Cherry Laurel, seasonal color, and Liriope. The median between 12th and 13th Streets will maintain two Metro vent shaft grates (See Figures 2:1-6).

III. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of all alternatives are analyzed in Chapter 4, Environmental Consequences, of the EA.

Alternative 2, Build Alternative, is the selected alternative and best meets the project need. No significant long-term adverse impacts to the human, natural, or cultural environment

would occur under the selected alternative. However, there would be minor impacts that would be mitigated as appropriate. No to negligible impacts to population and housing, community facilities and services, waste management, and land use and zoning would occur. Minor impacts to air quality, noise levels, cultural resources, utilities, and transportation resources are anticipated under the proposed action. In addition, moderate beneficial impacts to economy and employment, taxes and revenue, and aesthetic and visual resources are expected.

Please refer to Chapter 4 of the attached EA for more specific information on the impacts and mitigation measures.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)
FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE
NEW YORK AVENUE SCULPTURE PROJECT
NEW YORK AVENUE BETWEEN 12th AND 13th STREETS NW
WASHINGTON, DC**

LEAD AGENCY: National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)
401 9th Street, NW
North Lobby, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20004

ABSTRACT:

This document constitutes an Environmental Assessment prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended. Probable environmental impacts and mitigation measures have been identified and comments addressed for two alternatives to the New York Avenue Public Art Project in Washington, DC. The project would consist of the installation of 12 sculptures within the median of New York Avenue between 9th and 13th Streets, NW and the improvement of associated landscape features.

Construction of the proposed project is analyzed in this EA. In addition, as required by NEPA, the No-Action Alternative is studied in detail.

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1 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) has undertaken this Environmental Assessment (EA) to study the impacts of a proposed public art project on New York Avenue, NW in Washington, DC. NCPC has prepared this EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500-1508). NCPC is preparing this EA at this time as part of its due diligence efforts to ensure all environmental issues are identified and potential impacts are assessed before implementing the project.

The proposed action assessed in this document is whether the creation of a public art program proposed by the National Museum of Women in the Arts can be located within the median of New York Avenue between 9th and 13th Streets in Washington, DC. The NMWA proposes this project for this location based upon its proximity to the museum and its expected enhancement of the revitalization efforts taking place in the Mount Vernon Square area.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THE ACTION

The purpose of the proposed action (New York Avenue Sculpture Project) is the creation of an allée of contemporary sculptures within the median of New York Avenue, NW between 9th and 13th Streets. The first phase of proposed sculptures would consist of works by Niki de St. Phalle. The National Museum of Women in the Arts proposed to work with the Niki Charitable Art Foundation to select a grouping of outdoor sculptures for this project. Subsequent phases of the public art program would exhibit artwork selected by an advisory group formed by the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

1.3 NEED FOR THE ACTION

Over the past twenty years, the neighborhood around the NMWA has undergone a renaissance. The area has become the focus of a large revitalization effort which includes the Downtown Streetscape Enhancement Program. The opening of the new Washington Convention Center four blocks from the museum has dramatically increased development of offices, hotels, apartments and retail spaces from 13th Street to Chinatown, especially between K and H Streets and along New York and Massachusetts Avenues.

Although traditional public sculpture is abundant in Washington, DC, the area around the NMWA has no such cultural monuments. Little of the District's sculpture is contemporary and few are by women. NMWA proposes to redress this imbalance by creating the New York Avenue Sculpture Project, a new public art program that will bring long-term loans and displays of important contemporary women artists.

The area around the NMWA is in need of an infusion of creative energy and contemporary beauty. The New York Avenue Sculpture Project would complement and enhance the redevelopment and beautification of the downtown Washington as well as draw focus to the

NMWA. The project would establish a new cultural identity for New York Avenue that would contribute to the visual enjoyment of its citizens, day workers, visitors and tourists.

1.4 SCOPING

In accordance with the NEPA, a scoping process was conducted in February 2009 to aid in determining the scope of issues to be addressed and to identify the significant issues related to this action.

The CEQ defines scoping as an early and open process for determining the significant issues related to the proposed action (40 CFR 1501.7). Scoping is usually the first direct contact between proponents of a proposed action and the public. It is an ongoing process that occurs during planning for preparation of an environmental document, which may consist of meetings, telephone conversations, and written comments. Scoping has the following specific, but limited objectives:

- to identify the affected public or agency concerns;
- to facilitate an efficient environmental document preparation process through assembling cooperating agencies, assigning data collection and analysis tasks, and scheduling appropriate reviews;
- to define the issues and alternatives that will be examined in detail in the environmental document while simultaneously devoting less attention and time to issues which cause no concern; and
- to save time in the overall process by helping to ensure that the environmental document adequately addresses relevant issues.

NCPC is conducting consultation with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), DC Office of Planning, and the DC Office of Historic Preservation as part of the project in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978 (D.C. Law 2-144, as amended through March 2, 2007). In addition, consultation has been ongoing with the District Department of Transportation, DC Water and Sewer Authority (WASA), and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts. Agency correspondence can be found in Appendix A.

1.5 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS, PROCEDURES, AND SCHEDULE

NEPA is intended to help public officials make decisions based on an understanding of environmental consequences, and to take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment. Decisions should be made based on accurate scientific analysis, expert agency comments, and public scrutiny of readily available environmental information. Federal agencies are obligated to follow the provisions of NEPA to identify and assess reasonable alternatives to the proposed action that will avoid or minimize any adverse effects upon the quality of the human environment before proceeding with the proposed action.

The level of NEPA analysis undertaken by an agency for a proposed action depends on the probable impacts.

In order to determine the level of NEPA analysis to be performed for the proposed public art project, NMWA and NCPC examined potential impacts on the natural and human environment. The impacts considered were based on reasonably foreseeable changes resulting from implementation of the proposed action. Issues that could affect the environment and/or the proposed project were identified, including:

- potential visual impacts including the lighting scheme, number and density of sculptures, and size of the art;
- appropriateness of the art for a public space;
- potential impacts to historic resources including the L'Enfant Plan and other resources within the Area of Potential Effects (APE);
- availability and capacity of utilities;
- effects of the project on transportation facilities and traffic;
- associated plantings and final design/construction

Based on a review of these issues and because significant impacts are not anticipated, NCPC elected to prepare an EA for the proposed NMWA public art project. This EA assesses the probable impacts based on the reasonably foreseeable consequences of the proposed action and recommends measures to mitigate impacts, as appropriate.

2 ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

This section describes alternatives for meeting the purpose and need of the proposed action. The location of the proposed Public Art Project is the median of New York Avenue, NW between 9th and 13th Streets. The existing environment associated with this site is described in **Chapter 3, Affected Environment**, and potential impacts associated with construction on the site are described in **Chapter 4, Environmental Consequences**.

2.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action, the New York Avenue Public Art Project would be constructed within the median of New York Avenue between 9th and 13th Streets (Figure 2-1). Twelve lighted pads containing artwork will be constructed in the project area. The first phase of the project would consist of sculptures by Niki de St. Phalle. Additional sculptures will be chosen by an advisory group formed by the NMWA.

The sculptures would be set upon concrete pads at regularly spaced intervals within the median. Additional streetscape improvements would consist of a renovated median landscape and a series of 12 signs, six on each side of New York Avenue.

Each of the sculptures will rest on one of 12 concrete pads centered within the raised median. Sculptures will range in height from 9-feet to 16 feet in height. Up to ten ground level, 2-watt LED spotlights will illuminate the artwork on each pad. Gravel will cover the base of each pad. Plantings will include Red Carpet Roses, Weeping Yew, Cherry Laurel, seasonal color, and Liriope. Construction will be done by a private contractor and is expected to have a duration of approximately 2 months. Installation of the sculptures is expected to take about one week. Maintenance of the sculpture exhibit will be provided the NMWA and the Downtown Business Improvement District, and a contract landscaping firm will maintain the landscaping. The median between 12th and 13th Streets will maintain two Metro vent shaft grates (Figures 2:2-7).

The main features of NMWA's New York Avenue Public Art Project planning will involve:

- Creating a sculpture plan that removes the current plantings from the median along New York Avenue in front of the museum and replacing them with a series of sculptures on specially designed concrete pads, along with integrated streetscape improvements including renovated median landscaping, installation of signs, and other improvements to the streetscape (see Figure 2-2);
- Working with the Niki Charitable Art Foundation as part of Phase I to select the initial group of outdoor sculpture that will be on public view for at least one (1) and not more than five (5) years;
- Presenting the initial design to the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, the Neighborhood Advisory Commission, and the Downtown Business Improvement District (BID) and finally, the DC Office of Planning;
- Developing a project team to work with the DC Department of Transportation and aforementioned agencies on an implementation plan for the design;
- Establishing a budget and applying to governmental and private sources for funding.

2.2 ALTERNATIVES GIVEN DETAILED CONSIDERATION

Two alternatives are analyzed in detail in this EA: the No-Action Alternative and the Build Alternative.

2.2.1 ALTERNATIVE 1 - NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No-Action Alternative, the New York Avenue median would not be utilized for the proposed NMWA public art program. The existing median and streetscape would remain.

2.2.2 ALTERNATIVE 2 – NMWA PUBLIC ART PROJECT (BUILD ALTERNATIVE)

Under the Build Alternative, the applicant proposes to work with the NMWA to place a rotating series of up to 12 sculptures on concrete pads within the median of New York Avenue, NW between 9th and 13th Streets. The proposed sculptures that would be installed in the first phase of the public art project would be a loan negotiated with the Niki Charitable Art Foundation and would include a grouping of outdoor sculptures by Niki de St. Phalle (see Figure 2-5). Future installations will be selected by the advisory board and permitted by the District as part of a public process. The area around the museum is very much in need of the infusion of creative energy and contemporary beauty that St. Phalle’s sculptures would bring. The intent is to create a new cultural identity for New York Avenue that would contribute to the visual enjoyment of its citizens, day workers, visitors and tourists.

The selection of sculptures for the New York Avenue Public Art Project will be chosen through an advisory group established by the NMWA and will include members representing the following stakeholder groups:

- DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities;
- DC Department of Transportation;
- DC Office of Planning;
- Downtown BID;
- Commission of Fine Arts;
- Local ANC;
- National Museum of Women in the Arts;
- NWMA Public Art Program Consultant/Landscape Architect;
- Two contemporary art experts from museums with outdoor sculpture programs; and,
- Two public art experts.

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Figure 2-1: Proposed Public Art Project: Site Location Map

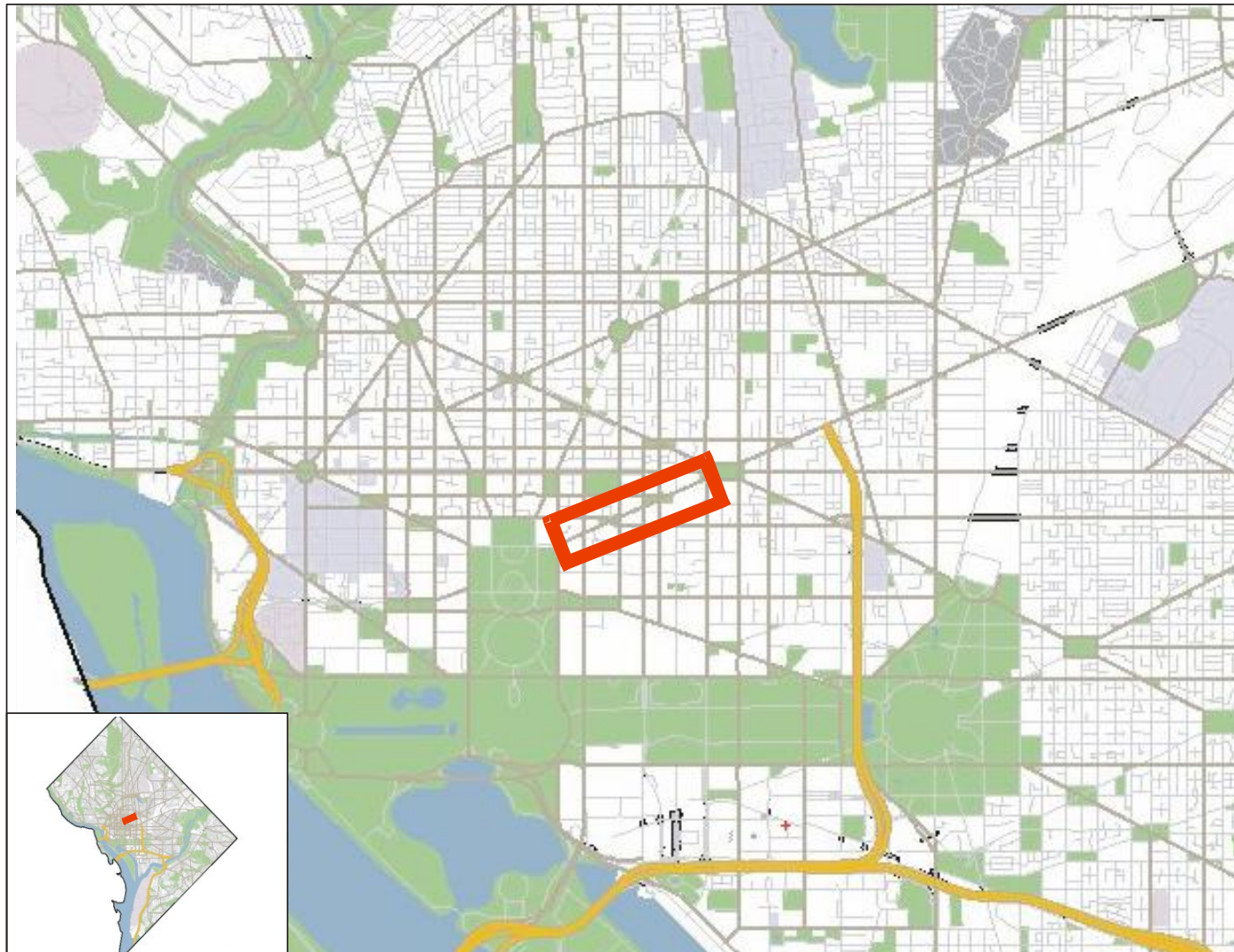
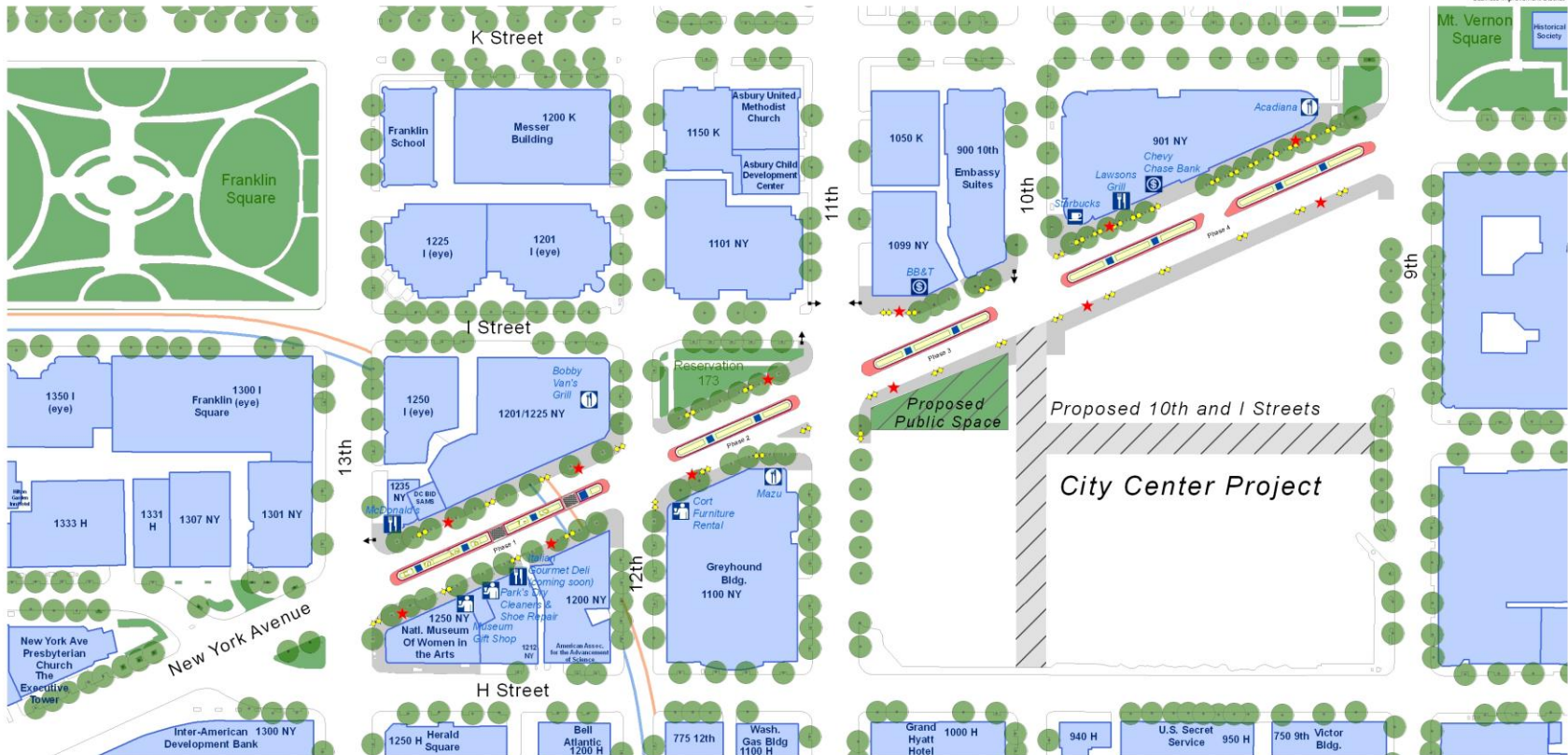


Figure 2-2 NMWA Sculpture Project Plan

NMWA - Sculpture Project



- Sculpture Pad
- Planting
- Project Sign
- Street Tree
- Twin 20
- Pendant Pole (Cobra or Teardrop)
- Median Vegetation Concrete Boundary
- Metro Vent Shaft
- Metro Blue Line
- Metro Orange Line

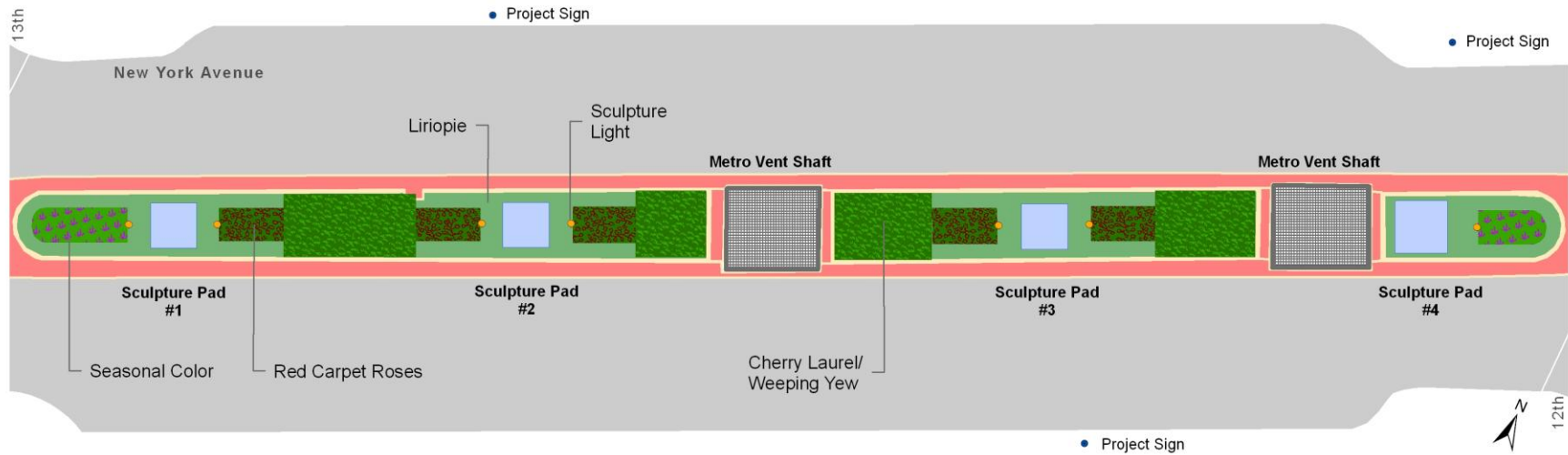
Master Plan Phase 1-4
May, 2009



1 " equals 143 '
Sheet 1 of 6

Figure 2-3 Planting Plan

NMWA - Sculpture Project
Phase 1 - Planting Plan



Liriope



'Otto Lukyen' Cherry Laurel



Weeping Yew



Seasonal Color



'Red Carpet' Roses



Preliminary Planting Design

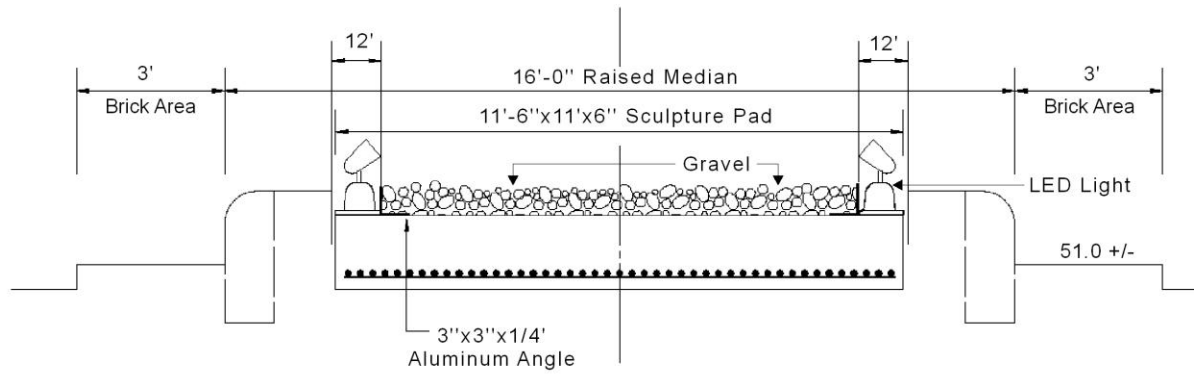
May, 2009

1" equals 20'

Sheet 2 of 6

Figure 2-4 Sculpture Pad

NMWA - Sculpture Project



Typical Pad Section



3/4" Blue Stone



Delaware River Gravel



Mexican Beach Pebbles



Pea Gravel

Sculpture Pad

May, 2009

Sheet 3 of 6

Figure 2-5 Sculpture Photos – Phase I

NMWA - Sculpture Project
Niki De Saint Phalle



#23 Basketball Player - (H) 16.0 Ft.



The Three Graces - (H) 10.0 Ft.



Nana on a Dolphin - (H) 12.5 Ft.



Arbre Serpents - (H) 9.0 Ft.

Sculpture Photos

May, 2009

Sheet 4 of 6

NMWA - Sculpture Project

THORN North Star Lighting

Milo
Innovative beam adjustment and image projection with outdoor LED spotlights

Figure 2-6 Lighting



MILO 1
LED White 5500K
96220421 1x2,4W 1LED WHI/5500K

THORN

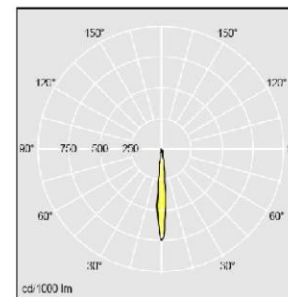
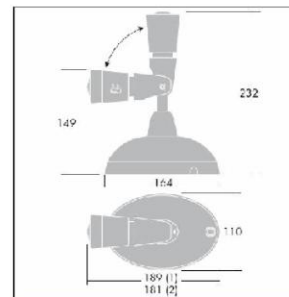
Milo 1



Milo 1, the complete version with the gear integrated in the base, is a compact and fully sealed IP65 rated spotlight made from grey aluminium, employing a white, 2W LED. Due to the superior optical system, which is similar to camera optics, additional accessories are not needed to provide your desired beam control. Adjustment is simple using an Allen key. It projects up to 10m, the optical system rotates 350° or inclines 130°. Milo 1 can be combined with the Gobo support accessory

Dimensions : 189 x 110 x 149 mm
Weight: 1.45 kg. □□

Lamp position: NW
Lamp: LED 2W
LOR: 0,04 ULOR: 0,00
DLOR: 0,04



2150 Parker Drive, Broadview, Illinois 60155 P: 708.681.4330 F: 708.681.4006 www.nights.com



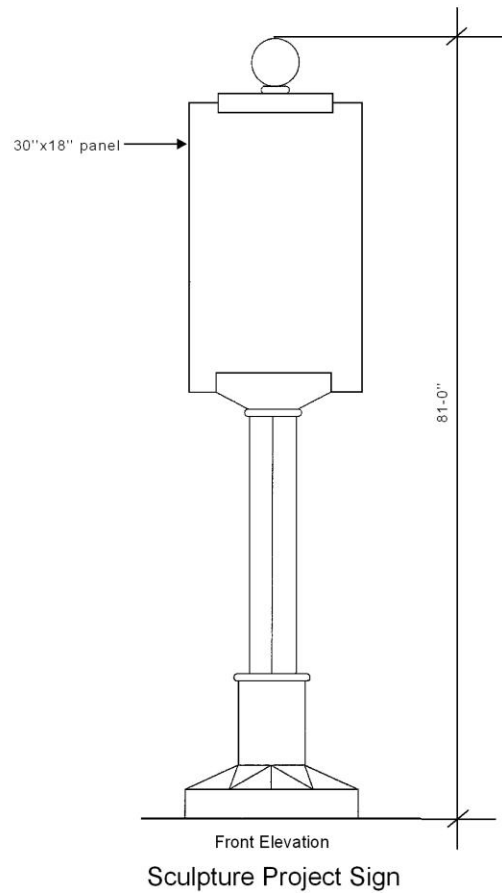
Lighting

May, 2009

Sheet 5 of 6

Figure 2-7: Project Signs

NMWA - Sculpture Project



Heritage Trail Sign (H2)

Project Signs

May, 2009

Sheet 6 of 6

Table 2-1: Comparison of Alternatives

Impact Topic	Alt. 1 No Action Alternative	Alt. 2 New York Avenue Public Art Project/Build Alternative
Air Quality	No impacts would occur at the existing site.	Construction would result in minor, adverse, short-term, direct impacts to air quality and no indirect or cumulative impacts.
Noise	No impacts would occur at the existing site.	Construction on the site would result in minor, adverse, short-term, direct noise impacts.
Population and Housing	No impacts would occur at the existing site.	No to negligible impacts would occur to population and housing.
Land Use Planning and Zoning	No impacts would occur at the existing site.	Construction of the New York Avenue Public Arts Project would be consistent with land use plans and zoning. No direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to land use planning or zoning would occur.
Community Facilities and Services	No impacts would occur at the existing site.	Construction of the New York Avenue Public Arts Project would not result in any direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to community facilities and services.
Economy and Employment	No impacts would occur at the existing site.	Alternative 2 would have minor, short-term, beneficial, direct, indirect, and cumulative impact on economy and employment.
Taxes and Revenue	No impacts would occur at the existing site.	Minor, short-term, direct, beneficial impacts to taxes and revenue are expected from increased sales transactions for the purchase of materials and supplies.
Aesthetics and Visual Resources	No impacts would occur at the existing site.	Minor, beneficial, long-term, direct, impacts to aesthetics and visual resources would occur.
Historic Resources	No impacts would occur at the existing site.	Minor, short and long-term, adverse impacts to historic resources are expected under the Build Alternative.

Impact Topic	Alt. 1 No Action Alternative	Alt. 2 New York Avenue Public Art Project/Build Alternative
Infrastructure	No impacts would occur at the existing site.	<p>Negligible, adverse, short-term, direct impacts to utilities are expected during construction. The increased demand for utilities would have a negligible, adverse, long-term, direct impacts.</p> <p>During construction within street rights of way or public utility easements, traffic delays may occur. This would cause a negligible, adverse, short-term, indirect impact.</p> <p>Past, present, and future development in the area would place additional demands on the existing utilities. While the utility companies plan for regional growth, each future project would have to prepare studies to determine if their supply is adequate. Therefore a minor, adverse, long-term, cumulative impact from increases in service demands on area utility providers would occur.</p>
Transportation	No impacts would occur at the existing site.	Minor, short-term, direct and indirect adverse impacts are expected during the construction phase of the project.
Waste Management	No impacts would occur at the existing site.	Minor, adverse, short-term, and long-term direct impacts to waste management are expected as a result of the proposed project.

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3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Chapter 3, Affected Environment, provides a description of the current natural, social, economic, and cultural environments at the proposed location of the New York Avenue Sculpture Project. The purpose of this section is to provide sufficient information on the existing conditions to evaluate the potential impact to the human environment from the proposed action.

This section is divided into two sections: 1) Impact Topics Dismissed from Further Analysis, and 2) Impact Topics Analyzed in Detail. Impact topics that have been dismissed from further consideration are topics that would either not be affected or would be affected negligibly by the alternatives evaluated in this document. Therefore, these topics are briefly discussed in this section of the EA and then dismissed from further consideration or evaluation. Negligible effects are effects that are localized and immeasurable at the lowest level of detection.

Impact topics analyzed in detail are divided into four sections:

- Section 3.1, Natural and Physical Environment
- Section 3.2, Social Environment
- Section 3.3, Cultural Environment
- Section 3.4, Infrastructure and Waste Management

Impact Topics Dismissed From Further Analysis

The non-controversial topics listed below would have no effect, a negligible effect or in some specific cases, a minor effect for each alternative evaluated in this document. For specific definitions of negligible and minor, please refer to the Environmental Consequences Section; however, in general, negligible effects are effects that are localized and immeasurable. Topics that are readily apparent to have either no, negligible, or minor effect are briefly discussed in this section of the Environmental Assessment and then dismissed from further consideration or evaluation.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Due to the nature of the proposed project location, a median on a major thoroughfare in the City of Washington, DC, no threatened or endangered species are likely to be within the project area. Neither are there any natural heritage resources in the project area. Therefore, Threatened and Endangered Species was dismissed as an impact topic.

Geology, Topography, and Soils

The proposed project site is located within a road median in an urban environment. Urban and built-up land and water areas are not classified as prime farmland. Due to the urban nature of the project area, geology, topography and soils was dismissed as an impact topic.

Water Resources

Water resources include groundwater and surface water. According to the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) map and to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) map there are no wetlands or water resources within the project area. Therefore, water resources was dismissed as an impact topic (USFWS 2009a).

Floodplains

Executive Order 11988 requires federal agencies to evaluate the potential effects of any actions it may take in a floodplain and to ensure that plans consider flood hazards and floodplain management needs.

The floodplain of concern is usually the 100-year floodplain, which is defined as the area subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year. For certain critical actions, which are those actions that even a slight chance of flooding would be too great, the 500-year floodplain is the area of concern. The 500-year floodplain is defined as an area subject to a 0.2 percent chance of flooding in a given year.

According to the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for Washington, DC (Panel Number 1100010020B), the proposed New York Avenue Sculpture Project is located entirely within Flood Zone C. Zone C refers to areas of minimal flooding. Therefore, Floodplains was dismissed from further consideration.

Vegetation and Wildlife

As the project area is an urban environment, Vegetation and Wildlife was dismissed from further consideration.

Hazardous Waste

No wastes are currently generated at the project site. The nature of the project, construction of concrete pads for sculptures and plantings will not generate any hazardous wastes. Such general wastes as those generated during construction of the project not regulated or defined as hazardous, special, or potentially dangerous and do not require special handling and disposal due to potential hazards it possesses to either personnel or the environment. Therefore, Hazardous Waste was dismissed from further consideration.

Population and Housing

The New York Avenue Sculpture Project will have no impact of populations or housing. Therefore, Population and Housing was dismissed from further consideration.

Water & Sewer

Water and Sewer are administered by the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority. As no impacts are anticipated to water and sewer, this topic was dismissed from further consideration.

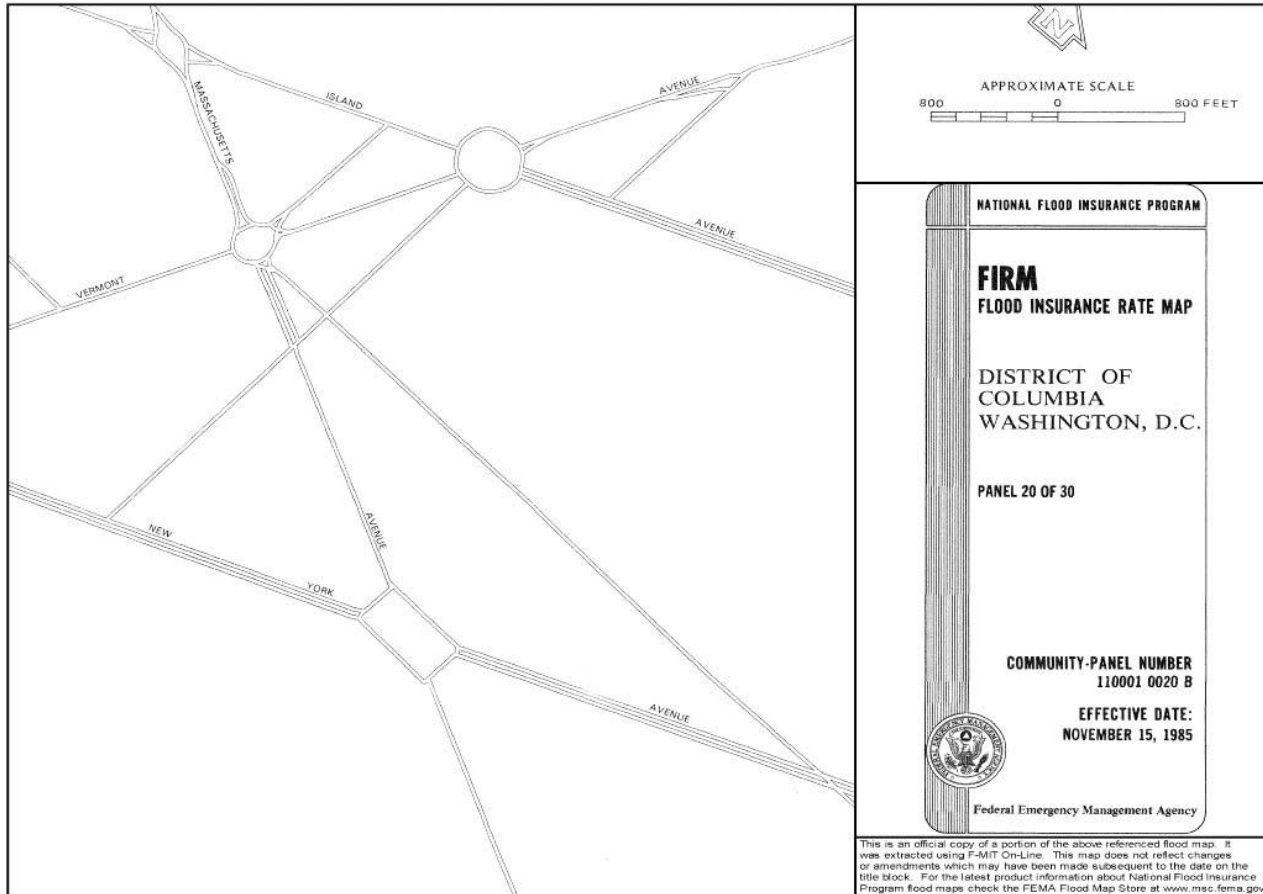


Figure 3-1: FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map

Telecommunications

A wide variety of telecommunications companies provide telecommunication services to the area. As no impacts are anticipated to telecommunications, this topic was dismissed from further consideration.

Archaeological Resources

No impacts to archaeological resources are expected as a result of the proposed action. The action will be restricted to disturbed soils in the median of an urban environment. Therefore, this topic was dismissed from further consideration.

3.1 IMPACT TOPICS ANALYZED IN DETAIL

3.1.1 NATURAL AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3.1.1.1 Air Quality

Air quality became a national concern in the mid-1960s, leading to the passage of the Air Quality Act in 1967. The Act (now referred to as the Clean Air Act) and subsequent amendments have established procedures for improving conditions, including a set of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is directed to set levels for pollutants in order to protect the public's health. The NAAQS have been adopted for six pollutants: carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, ozone, particulate matter, and lead. A system of monitoring stations has been established across the country to measure progress in meeting these goals. If an area is found to exceed the allowable concentrations, local officials are required to develop a plan for achieving air quality that meets the standards.

3.1.1.2 Noise

Noise is traditionally defined as any unwanted sound. Magnitudes of sound, whether wanted or unwanted, are usually described by sound, i.e., a dynamic variation in atmospheric pressure. The human auditory system is sensitive to fluctuations in air pressure above and below the barometric static pressure. These fluctuations are defined as sound when the human ear is able to detect pressure changes within the audible frequency range.

Noise regulations have been established at all levels of government, from local municipalities to Federal agencies. Although, there is great variation in the controls established by different municipalities, the Federal guidelines provide widely accepted standards, which are reasonably consistent among the various agencies.

Congress passed the Noise Control Act in 1972, specifically authorizing EPA to promulgate regulations establishing maximum permissible noise characteristics for products manufactured

for interstate commerce. In addition, EPA was directed to publish information about the kind and extent of effects of different qualities and quantities of noise, and to define acceptable levels under various conditions to protect public health and welfare. This information was then used by other Federal agencies in establishing criteria applicable to their programs.

Noise on the site comes primarily from traffic on New York Avenue and the Metrorail system that runs under a portion of the site.

3.2 SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

3.2.1 COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Community Facilities and Services

The following section describes community facilities and services in the vicinity of the site.

Parks, Recreation, Community Facilities, and Open Space

Parks are a prominent part of Pierre L'Enfant's 1791 plan for Washington. The intersection of Massachusetts and New York Avenues creates a diagonal crossroads with broad boulevards and parks. The park at Mount Vernon Square is the focal point of the area while four pairs of smaller "bowtie gateway parks" are found at each quadrant of the Mount Vernon Square district. Mount Vernon Square did not remain open space as originally intended in the L'Enfant Plan and is occupied by the former Carnegie Library building constructed in 1902 (Mount Vernon Square Design Workbook). The parks, also known as "reservations" in the L'Enfant Plan, are formal spaces and most are administered by the National Park Service. Reservation 174, at the southeast quadrant of the intersection of 11th Street NW and New York Avenue NW was transferred to the District in 1980 as part of the construction of the old convention center. Jurisdiction of Mount Vernon Square was transferred to the District in 2006.

Franklin Park is a large park located between K and I streets and 12th and 13th Streets NW. Lafayette Square Park is located near the intersection of New York Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue across from the White House, approximately 0.25 mile from the project area.

The former Carnegie Library served for a short time from 2003 to 2004 as the Museum of the City of Washington. The building is expected to serve a permanent civic use in the future.

The new Washington Convention Center, located north of Mount Vernon Square Park is a work of contemporary architecture that reinforces Mount Vernon Square as the center of a district.

The City's Martin Luther King Jr. Library is located at 901 G Street, NW. It is the main branch of the District of Columbia Public Library.

The National Portrait Gallery is located at Eighth and F Streets, The National Museum of Women in the Arts is located adjacent to the project site at 1250 New York Avenue, N.W.

Churches

The Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church is located at 900 Massachusetts Ave., NW. The historic building was constructed in 1917. It is located 0.03 miles from the project site. The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, constructed in 1860, is located less than 0.01 mile west of the project site.

Schools

Schools located within one-half mile of the project area include the Thomson Elementary School at 1200 L Street, NW, the Pre-K Incentive Program at 717 14th Street, NW, the Sunrise Academy at 1130 6th Street, NW, and the School for Arts in Learning at 1100 16th Street, NW.

Emergency Services

Fire and EMS Stations

Engine Company 16
1018 13th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

DC Fire and Emergency Medical Service Headquarters
Office of the Fire Chief
1923 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 201
Washington, DC 20001

Police Stations

Metropolitan Police Department Headquarters
300 Indiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001
Station 2, 500 F St., NW
Station 3, 439 New Jersey Ave., NW
Station 16, 1018 13th St., NW

First District Station
101 M Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

First District Substation
500 E Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Second District Station
3320 Idaho Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20016

Metro Police

501 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Medical Care Facilities

Washington Hospital Center
110 Irving St. NW
Washington, DC 20010

George Washington University Hospital
2131 K St NW
Washington, DC 20037

Howard University Hospital
2041 Georgia Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20060

Neighborhood Associations

Mt. Vernon Square Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 50526
Washington, D.C. 20091

3.2.2 LAND USE PLANNING AND ZONING

The entire project area is within a Downtown Development Overlay District. The overlay district permits incentives and requirements for Downtown sub-areas to a maximum FAR of 6.0 to 10.0, and a maximum height of one hundred-thirty (130) feet. This district is mapped in combination with other districts.

Chapter 17 of Title II of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations defines the significant purposes of the Downtown Development Overlay District:

(a)

To create a balanced mixture of uses by means of incentives and requirements for critically important land uses identified in the Comprehensive Plan, including retail, hotel, residential, entertainment, arts, and cultural uses;

(b)

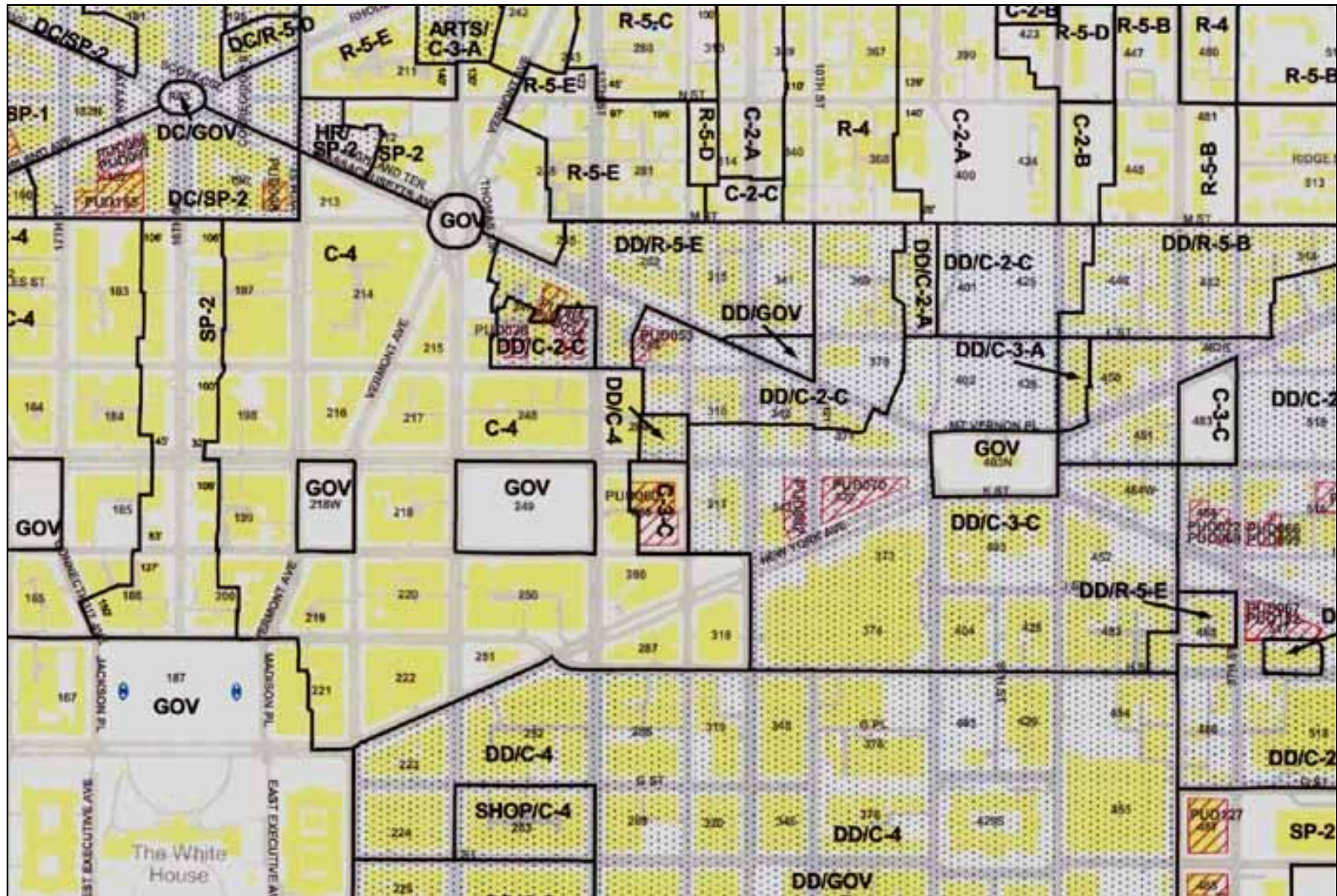
To guide and regulate office development, which is generally favored by market forces over the other desired uses, so as to further the land use objectives for retail, hotel, residential, entertainment, arts, and cultural uses;

Wherever there are conflicts between the DD Overlay District and the underlying zoning, the provisions of the DD Overlay District shall govern (District of Columbia, Office of Zoning: http://dcoz.dc.gov/info/reg/chapter7_pdf.shtm).

The project area from 9th to 11th Streets NW along New York Avenue is within the DD/C-3-C zoning district. The C-3-C zoning permits matter-of-right development for major business and employment centers of medium/high density development, including office, retail, housing, and mixed uses to a maximum lot occupancy of 100%, a maximum FAR of 6.5 for residential and for other permitted uses, and a maximum height of ninety (90) feet.

The project area from 11th to 13th Streets NW along New York Avenue is within the DD/C-4 zoning district. This zoning is the downtown core comprising the retail and office centers for the District of Columbia and the metropolitan area, and allows office, retail, housing and mixed uses to a maximum lot occupancy of 100%, a maximum FAR of 8.5 to 10.0, a maximum height of 110 feet and 130 on 110-foot adjoining streets. (Maximum height and FAR depend on width of adjoining streets.) (District of Columbia, Office of Zoning: <http://dcoz.dc.gov/info/overlay.shtm>).

Figure 3-2: Zoning



Source: DC Department of Planning

3.2.3 ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

Washington DC is generally prosperous, with a strong employment base, high education levels, and high wages. Despite the current recession, the District has a steady base of federal jobs and associated industries and many high-wage, high-skill occupations. However, the unemployment rate in the city of Washington, DC is higher than the national rate. Jobs in professional/technical services and the federal government, which are well-paying jobs, make up almost one-quarter of the region’s jobs, compared to 8 percent of national jobs. Median household income in the region is \$83,000, compared to \$51,000 nationally. Census data for the project area (Census Tracts 51 and 58) show that the unemployment rate for the area was considerably lower than the average for the District in the year 2000.

Table 3-1: 2000 Census Data (Employment)		
	District of Columbia	Census Tract 51/58,
Unemployment Rate	11. %	4.3 % / 4.2%
Average Household Income	\$ 78,192	\$ 53,685 / \$ 88,452

http://www.neighborhoodinfodc.org/censustract/nbr_prof_trct74.html

The proposed project is located in the Downtown Business Improvement District (BID) area that covers approximately 140 blocks from Massachusetts Avenue on the north to the National Mall on the south, from Louisiana Avenue on the east to the White House on the west (Downtown DC BID). The BID assists and encourages programs to improve safety, economic development, transit improvement, public space improvements and marketing of the downtown area.

3.2.4 TAXES AND REVENUE

The District of Columbia levies a 9.975 percent corporate tax on businesses; personal income tax for income over \$40,000 \$2,200 + 8.5% of excess above \$40,000; and a 57.5 percent retail sales tax (on non-food items). The District’s property tax rate is \$0.85 per assessed \$100 on real estate property. The first \$67,500 of real property is exempt (District of Columbia, Office of the Chief Financial Officer: <http://cfo.dc.gov/cfo/cwp/view,a,1324,q,612006.asp>)

3.2.5 AESTHETICS AND VISUAL RESOURCES

The project area is an urban environment in downtown Washington, DC. Visual Resources include the L’Enfant Plan elements of radiating street intersections, parks and squares including Mount Vernon Square at the eastern end of the project site and Franklin Square Park just north of the west end of the project area. The L’Enfant Plan is also a significant historical resource and a source of civic identity since the earliest days of the city’s development. The Mount Vernon Square area has been undergoing a revitalization that has recently resulted in the construction of the new Washington Convention Center north of Mount Vernon Square and revitalization of streetscapes.

3.3 CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

Historic Resources

Section 101(b)(4) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190), as amended, requires the Federal government to coordinate and plan its actions to, among other goals, "preserve important historic, cultural and natural aspects of our national heritage..." Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) implementing regulations require that Federal impacts to historic and cultural resources be included as part of the NEPA process.

Cultural resources (historic properties) for the purposes of this Environmental Assessment are further characterized as historic structures/sites, archeological resources.

"Historic properties," as defined by the implementing regulations of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800), are defined as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places. This term includes artifacts, records, and the remains that are related to and located within such properties, as well as traditional and culturally significant Native American sites and historic landscapes. The term "eligible for inclusion in the National Register" includes both properties formally determined eligible and all other properties that meet National Register listing criteria.

The significance of historic properties is generally judged against a property's ability to meet the four criteria for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (36 CFR 60):

- Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- Association with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- 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, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- That has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Properties may be eligible for the National Register for contributions at the national, state, or local level. Ordinarily, properties achieving significance within the last 50 years are not considered eligible unless they are integral parts of historic districts or unless they are of exceptional importance. The most common types of properties less than 50 years old listed on the National Register are works of modern architecture or scientific facilities. Additionally, in order for a structure or building to be listed in the National Register, it must possess historic integrity of those features necessary to convey its significance (i.e., location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association see National Register Bulletin #15, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (NPS, 1990).

Area of Potential Effect

For the purposes of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, through the map review and site visit, the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for standing historic structures was determined to be approximately 1000 feet beyond the project area along the New York Avenue corridor to the west, approximately 500 feet beyond the project area along the New York Avenue corridor to the east, and approximately 150 feet north and south of New York Avenue due to the presence of existing structures (Figure 3-3).

Methodology

Methodology for historic resources included a field survey of existing buildings within the Area of Potential Effects (APE). Each building within the APE was described, mapped and photographed. The entire survey results may be found in Appendix C: Historic Survey Results. Resources within the APE were researched at the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Offices and associated website. There are a number of historic resources located on the DC Inventory of Historic Places within the vicinity of the New York Avenue Sculpture Project. These include the L'Enfant Plan, the Carnegie Library, the Greyhound Bus Terminal, the Masonic Temple, the Bond Building, and the Fifteenth Street Financial Historic District. All but the Greyhound Bus Terminal are also listed in the National Register of Historic Places. There are also a number of historic buildings that are not on the DC Inventory of Historic Places within the general vicinity of the New York Avenue Project. These include the current American Association of State Colleges and Universities building, the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, and 1420 New York Avenue.

3.3.1 THE PLAN OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON (L'ENFANT PLAN; L'ENFANT-MCMILLAN PLAN)

The 1791 Plan featured ceremonial spaces and grand radial avenues, respecting natural contours of the land. The result was a system of intersecting diagonal avenues superimposed over a grid system. L'Enfant's geometries set the stage for urban design conditions that define almost every new development in the historic city center today. L'Enfant's avenues were to be grand, tree-lined boulevards, situated in a manner that would visually connect topographical features throughout the city. Large open spaces, known as 'reservations,' were created at the intersections of these avenues.

"The Plan of Washington is the sole American example of a comprehensive Baroque city plan with a coordinated system of radiating avenues, parks, and vistas overlaid upon an orthogonal grid of streets. It defines the physical character of the national capital, through a symbolic and commemorative arrangement of buildings, structures, and views."

"It was magnified and expanded through the urban improvements of the Senate Park Commission of 1901 (the McMillan Commission), resulting in the most elegant example of City Beautiful tenets in the nation. The plan is the acknowledged masterpiece of architect-engineer Pierre (Peter) Charles L'Enfant and the McMillan Commission" (DC Landmark, NR).

The following park reservations that relate to the plan of the city are within the project area: 172, 172A, 172B, 173, 174, 175, and Mount Vernon Square (Reservation 8). Reservation 174 and Mount Vernon Square are administered by the District of Columbia. The remaining reservations are administered by the National Park Service.

3.3.2 CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY (CARNEGIE LIBRARY)

Mount Vernon Square, NW

Built 1899-1902

Ackerman & Ross, architects (selected after a national design competition)

DC listing November 8, 1964

NR listing December 3, 1969

3.3.3 GREYHOUND BUS TERMINAL

1100 New York Avenue, NW

Built 1939-40

William S. Arrasmith, architect

Restoration and addition 1989-90

DC designation March 4, 1987

3.3.4 MASONIC TEMPLE (MUSEUM OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS)

1250 New York Avenue, NW

Built 1907-08

Wood, Donn & Deming, architects

Renovated 1985-86

DC designation May 16, 1984

NR listing February 18, 1987

3.3.5 BOND BUILDING

1404 New York Avenue, NW

Built 1901

George S. Cooper, architect

Facade incorporated in new building 1985-86

DC designation September 18, 1980

NR listing September 15, 1983

3.3.6 FIFTEENTH STREET FINANCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

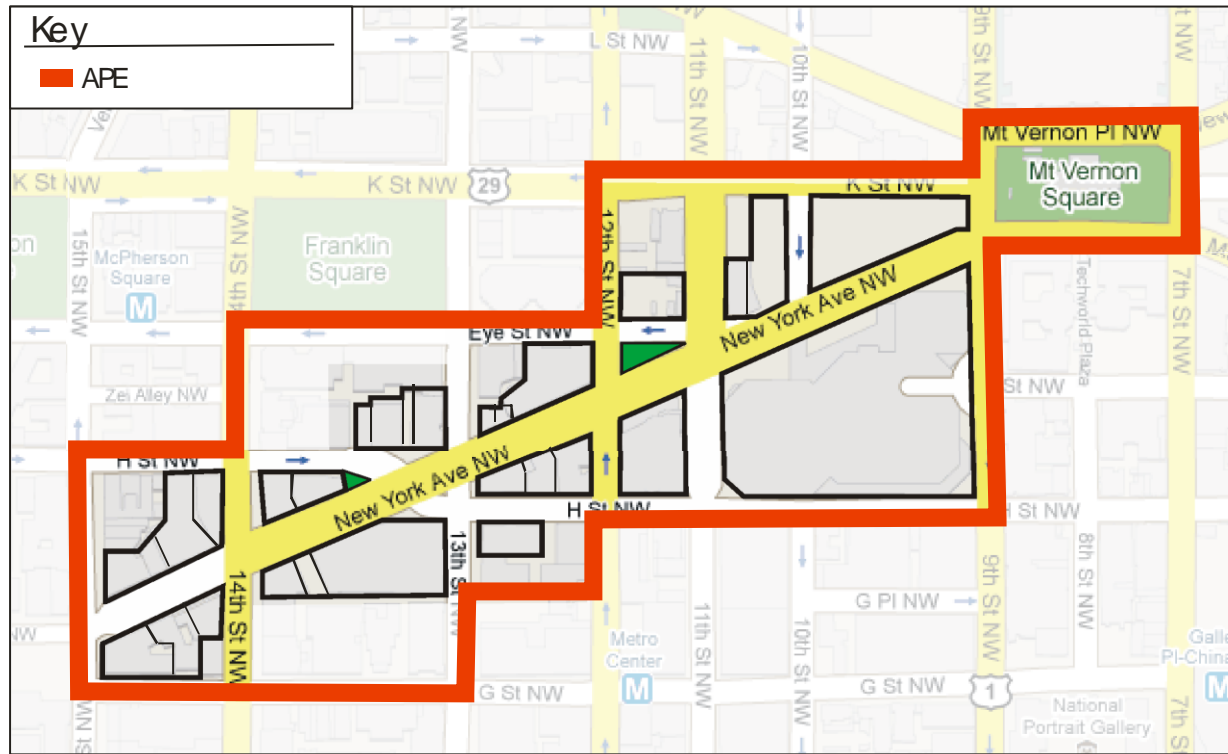
1445 New York Avenue, NW (National Savings and Trust Company)

Built 1888
James T. Windrim, architect
Addition 1916, addition 1925
Restoration and Addition 1985
DC designation November 8, 1964
NR listing March 16, 1972
Within the Fifteenth Street HD 2006

1440 New York Avenue, NW (The Washington Building)

Built 1934
Within the Fifteenth Street HD 2006

Figure 3-3: Area of Potential Effects (APE)



3.4 INFRASTRUCTURE AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

The following sections describe the infrastructure, including utilities, transportation, and waste management, at the site.

3.4.1 TRANSPORTATION

The project area is serviced by numerous transportation alternatives. The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority operates bus service throughout the District and links with commuter bus services and MARC commuter rail system as well as operating the Metro Rail system. Local Metro rail stops include Metro Center, at 12th and G Streets, NW, Mount Vernon Square rail station, and Gallery Place – Chinatown.

Local bus service also includes the DC Circulator which serves Washington DC's center city. It links cultural, entertainment and business destinations within the city's central core. The DC Circulator is the product of a public/private partnership between the District Department of Transportation, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, and DC Surface Transit, Inc.

3.4.2 WASTE MANAGEMENT

No wastes are expected to be generated by the project except for those generated during project construction. The work will be performed by a contractor who will be required to comply with all waste management regulations. Wastes will consist of general waste during construction which are not regulated or defined as hazardous, special, or potentially dangerous and which do not require special handling and disposal due to potential hazards it possesses to either personnel or the environment. General waste typically includes a varying, non-homogeneous mixture of paper goods, corrugated items, plastics, food scraps, glassware, metal waste, and other miscellaneous organics and inorganics.

All waste generated during construction will be managed in accordance with applicable Federal, state, and local regulations. General waste will be collected and transported to compactors/dumpsters. This waste will be picked up on a regular basis by licensed waste haulers and disposed of either in local sanitary landfills or at incineration facilities.

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4 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND MITIGATION

This chapter contains a discussion of the environmental consequences, or impacts, associated with the No-Action Alternative and Build Alternative of the proposed New York Avenue Public Art Project.

Impact Assessment

This section includes an analysis of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts. Direct impacts are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place. Indirect impacts are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Cumulative impacts are the impacts on the environment, which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. (40 CFR 1508.7 – 1508.8)

Potential impacts are described in terms of:

- *intensity*, the effects are negligible, minor, moderate, or major;
- *type*, the effects are beneficial or adverse;
- *duration*, the effects are short-term, lasting through construction or less than one year, or long-term, lasting more than one year; and
- *context*, the effects are site-specific, local, or even regional.

The thresholds of change for the intensity of impacts are defined as follows:

- *negligible*, the impact is localized and not measurable or at the lowest level of detection;
- *minor*, the impact is localized and slight but detectable;
- *moderate*, the impact is readily apparent and appreciable; or
- *major*, the impact is severely adverse and highly noticeable.

This section also includes information on measures to mitigate the impacts at the end of each impact topic.

4.1 NATURAL AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4.1.1 AIR QUALITY

The following section discusses the impacts to air quality for the No-Action Alternative as well as the Build Alternative.

Explanation of Impacts Affecting this Impact Topic

Direct Impacts – Direct impacts from a project on ambient air quality can be caused by construction activities and the operation of additional motor vehicles on and in the vicinity of the project site. Air quality pollutants can also be generated by the operation of stationary water and space heating equipment, and facility maintenance activities.

Indirect Impacts – Indirect impacts on air quality would occur from traffic generated by the facility.

4.1.1.1 Alternative 1 - No-Action Alternative

Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Impacts

Under the No-Action Alternative, the New York Avenue Public Art Project would not be constructed. Under this alternative, there would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to air quality at the existing location.

4.1.1.2 Alternative 2 – Build Alternative

Direct Impacts

Construction Activities

Construction activities are expected to have little impact, with emissions limited in both magnitude and duration. According to EPA, these operations are of greater significance in areas that are non-attainment for particulates, which does not include the District of Columbia.

Mobile Sources

Motor vehicles traveling to and from the proposed facility would generate emissions. However, there would not be an increase from the emissions associated with current commuting patterns.

Under the build alternative, the New York Avenue Public Art Project would be constructed. Impacts to air quality would be limited to the period of construction and would be less than one year in duration and thus be classified as short-term. Therefore, impacts to air quality are expected to be adverse, short-term, and minor.

Indirect Impacts

No indirect impacts to air quality are anticipated under the Build Alternative. The project will not result in any changes in traffic patterns or other conditions that may affect air quality.

Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts to air quality are not expected to result from the project. No foliage will be removed and traffic volumes will not increase as a result of the project.

Mitigation Measures for Air Quality

As no significant impact to air quality will result from the proposed project, no mitigation measures are proposed.

4.1.2 NOISE

This section analyzes the potential for increased noise levels under the No-Action Alternative and the Build Alternative. Noise modeling was not conducted as part of this study.

Explanation of Impacts Affecting this Impact Topic

Direct Impacts - Direct impacts can occur as a result of construction noise during site development and permanent site-induced noise during operations.

Indirect Impacts - Indirect impacts may result from the incremental noise from area roadways due to the additional traffic generated by the proposed action.

4.1.2.1 Alternative 1 - No-Action Alternative

Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Impacts

Under the No-Action Alternative, No construction would take place. No appreciable change in the site's noise levels would occur as a result of this alternative. Therefore, no direct, indirect, or cumulative noise impacts would occur.

4.1.2.2 Alternative 2 – Build Alternative

Direct Impacts

Temporary increases in noise levels within the immediate vicinity of the site would occur during construction. The magnitude of the impact would depend on the specific types of equipment used, the construction methods employed, and the scheduling of work. Therefore, a minor, adverse, short-term, direct impact would occur to residents and businesses along New York Avenue.

Indirect Impacts

No indirect impacts are expected to noise levels as a result of the proposed project.

Cumulative Impacts

The construction of the project will add to the cumulative noise level of the streetscape. This will be short-term and minor. Therefore, minor, adverse, short-term cumulative impacts are expected.

4.1.2.3 Mitigation Measures for Noise Impacts

The following mitigation measures could be implemented at the site:

- Construction noise impacts may be reduced by avoiding times of day or days of the week when noise exposures would be more objectionable (i.e., nights or weekend mornings).
- Equipment could be operated with manufacturer noise control features in working order (for example, exhaust mufflers in good repair and engine enclosure panels fitted and properly secured). If additional quieting is necessary, installation of noise controls to equipment can further reduce their noise emission, primarily through the fitting of additional or enhanced engine exhaust silencers.

4.2 SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

4.2.1 POPULATION AND HOUSING

The following section discusses the impacts to Population and Housing for the No-Action Alternative and the Build Alternative.

Explanation of Impacts Affecting this Impact Topic

Direct Impacts - Direct impacts can occur if the proposed action directly causes a change in the population of a community or in its housing.

Indirect Impacts - Indirect impacts may result if the proposed action leads to situation which causes a change in population or housing.

4.2.1.1 Alternative 1 - No-Action Alternative

Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Impacts

Under the No-Action Alternative, no changes in population or housing will occur, therefore, no impacts will occur to population and housing under the No-Action Alternative.

4.2.1.2 Alternative 2 – Build Alternative

Direct Impacts

No populations are expected to relocate because of the project. No direct impacts would occur under the Build Alternative.

Indirect Impacts

No indirect impacts are expected to populations as a result of the Build Alternative.

Cumulative Impacts

The proposed action and alternatives were evaluated in accordance with EO 12898 and the GSA NEPA Desk Guide. While there are minority and low-income populations in the study area, the proposed action would not adversely affect these groups.

The construction of the project may add to the cumulative impact of “gentrification” of the New York Avenue corridor. The cumulative impact, however, is not expected to be significant. Any cumulative adverse impact to populations would be negligible.

4.2.1.3 Mitigation Measures for Population and Housing

Mitigation measures are not warranted for impacts to population and housing.

4.2.2 COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

The following section discusses the impacts to Community Facilities and Services for the No-Action Alternative and the Build Alternative.

4.2.2.1 Alternative 1 - No-Action Alternative

Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Impacts

Under the No-Action Alternative, no changes in community facilities and services will occur, therefore, no direct, indirect or cumulative impacts will occur to community facilities and services under the No-Action Alternative.

4.2.2.2 Alternative 2 – Build Alternative

Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Impacts

Construction of the New York Avenue Public Art Project would not result in impacts to community facilities and services. In addition, the project would not impact the school systems or emergency services of the District of Columbia. Therefore, no direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to community facilities and services are expected.

4.2.2.3 Mitigation Measures for Community Facilities and Services

Mitigation measures are not warranted for impacts to Community Facilities and Services.

4.2.3 LAND USE PLANNING AND ZONING

Land use and zoning impacts attributable to a project are determined by changes to the site and the surrounding area, including changes in density and use, induced development, spurred revitalization, or increased vacancy. Such changes are typically a function of the scale of the proposed development, proximity of other uses to the project site, existing zoning, the

availability of vacant or underutilized land, the condition of surrounding buildings, and outside development forces.

The following section discusses the impacts to Land Use and Zoning for the No-Action Alternative as well as the Build Alternative.

Explanation of Impacts Affecting this Impact Topic

Direct Impacts – Direct land use impacts associated with the proposed action are determined based on physical changes to the development site.

Indirect Impacts – Indirect land use impacts generally include commercial, retail, and residential land use changes within adjacent parcels or a larger study area that result from the proposed action.

4.2.3.1 Alternative 1 - No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative there would be no changes to land use or zoning at the existing area. Therefore, there would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to land use planning or zoning.

4.2.3.2 Alternative 2 – Build Alternative

The proposed project is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the area as it is the intent of the plan to “create a balanced mixture of uses by means of incentives and requirements for critically important land uses identified in the Comprehensive Plan, including retail, hotel, residential, entertainment, arts, and cultural uses” (District of Columbia, Office of Planning, DC Comprehensive Plan: <http://www.planning.dc.gov/planning/cwp/view,a,1354,q,639789,PM.asp>).

The proposal is also consistent with the *Downtown Streetscape Regulations* which regulate the standards for trees and landscaping within the District (District of Columbia, 2000), as well as the *Downtown D.C. Business Improvement District Streetscape Enhancement Notebook* (EDAW, 1999).

Comprehensive Plan (2007)

The Arts and Culture Element of the Comprehensive Plan provides policies and actions dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the arts in the District of Columbia. Its focus is on strengthening the role of the arts in shaping the physical form of our city, promoting the development of cultural amenities, and developing partnerships with non-government organizations to support the arts.

The Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital emphasizes building a stronger constituency for the arts by engaging the local arts community and organizations, such as The National Museum of Women in the Arts, more effectively in local planning. The efforts of the NMWA to increase the involvement of the arts community in the design of the physical environment, as well as to include artistic considerations in local planning and redevelopment initiatives, has a direct correlation to policies in the Arts and Cultural Elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

Emphasizing important places with art is another Comprehensive Plan goal. New York Avenue between 9th and 13th Streets is one of these important places. Locating public art in the median of the prominent boulevard will strengthen the District's identity as a local cultural and arts center. The sculpture allée will be developed in coordination with landscaping, lighting, paving, and signage to create a gateway to the future “catalytic” City Center project, the downtown neighborhood, and adjoining Central Washington communities. The Comprehensive Plan Arts & Cultural Element maintains that we must continue to include public art as our city evolves—not only in “federal” Washington but also in our neighborhoods.

There are several specific Comprehensive Plan policies that are relevant to this project:

Policy AC-2.1.1: Emphasizing Important Places with Art

Use public art to strengthen the District's identity as a local cultural and arts center. Public art should accent locations such as Metro stations, sidewalks, streets, parks and building lobbies. It should be used in coordination with landscaping, lighting, paving and signage to create gateways for neighborhoods and communities.

Policy AC-2.2.1: Using Art to Create Identity

Use art as a way to help neighborhoods express unique and diverse identities, promoting each community's individual character and sense of place.

Policy AC-3.2.1: Promoting Cultural Amenities

Promote the development of cultural amenities “beyond the Mall” in an effort to more fully capitalize on the economic benefits of tourism for District residents, businesses, and neighborhoods.

Policy AC-4.2.1: Private Sector Partnerships

Develop partnerships with the private sector to encourage monetary and non-monetary support for the arts, as well as sponsorships of arts organizations and events.

Policy AC-4.3.1: Engaging Our Arts Community

Increase the involvement of the arts community in the design of the physical environment, and include artistic considerations in local planning and redevelopment initiatives.

In addition to the Comprehensive Plan, there are two other relevant planning initiatives that support the development of the NMWA sculpture project:

Mount Vernon Square Design Workbook (2004)

The Workbook outlines a vision for the Mount Vernon Square District, defines the area using an urban design framework, and proposes tools to implement the strategies that will help to make the District a dynamic, unique, destination for DC residents, workers and visitors alike. It emphasizes the importance of connecting Mount Vernon Square to its surrounding

neighborhoods. Creating a diverse mix of uses and attractions is another goal that specifically cites cultural amenities as an important component. And finally, the use of roadways leading to the square is highlighted as a way to create gateways to the square.

There are specific recommendations in the document that relate to developing New York Avenue as a signature, unified corridor and gateway, and that support implementation of the NMWA sculpture project:

1. Emphasize the Grandeur of the L'Enfant Plan's Formal Vehicular Avenues, New York and Massachusetts
 - + Implement a dramatic evening lighting strategy for streets and significant buildings and monuments, particularly in the stretches between gateway bowtie parks and Mount Vernon Square.
 - + Implement a consistent streetscape design, incorporating abundant planting, light fixtures, banners, etc.

Mount Vernon Square District Project (Underway)

This project was initiated in May, 2009 and will be a 7-8 month process, wrapping up in early 2010. It is a project designed to generate implementation-driven solutions for specific transportation, public realm and real estate challenges and opportunities in the blocks, streets, and reservations surrounding Mount Vernon Square. The project will include an analysis of Mount Vernon Square District with the following goals that support the NMWA sculpture project:

- *Creating a destination that attracts visitors from the Convention Center, Downtown, the National Mall and other neighborhoods in the city.*
- *Enhancing the rich physical and cultural heritage of the surrounding neighborhoods,*
- *Building a compelling "great place" through unique public space design, programming and adaptive re-use.*

Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Impacts

Under the Build Alternative there would be no changes to land use or zoning at the existing area. The proposed public art project is consistent for all planning and zoning for the area. Therefore, there would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to land use planning or zoning.

4.2.3.3 Mitigation Measures for Land Use and Zoning

Mitigation measures are not warranted for impacts to land use or zoning.

4.2.4 ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

This section analyzes the potential for impacts to Economy and Employment for the No-Action Alternative and the Build Alternative.

Explanation of Impacts Affecting this Impact Topic

Direct Impacts - Direct economic and employment impacts occur when there is a change in the number of jobs in an area or a change in the number of businesses in an area.

Indirect Impacts - Indirect impacts occur when daily spending changes in an area due to the increase or decrease of jobs or businesses. These expenditures commonly include gasoline, automobile servicing, food and beverages, laundry, and other retail purchases undertaken in the immediate area because of convenience and access during the course of the business day.

4.2.4.1 Alternative 1 - No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, the New York Avenue Public Art Project would not be constructed. Under this alternative, there would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to economic or employment conditions.

4.2.4.2 Alternative 2 – Build Alternative

Direct Impacts

Regional economic activity would temporarily increase as local construction workers are hired for the project. The purchase of building materials, construction supplies and construction equipment, as well as spending by the construction workers, would add income to the economy. The proposed action would have a minor, beneficial, short-term direct impact on the regional economy.

Minor, short-term, beneficial, direct impacts to employment may occur from jobs related to the construction of the project.

Indirect Impacts

Daily spending by the local community may increase in the project area as a result of the construction. Therefore, a minor, beneficial, short-term, indirect impact would occur.

Cumulative Impacts

Past, present, and future development in the vicinity of the site would result in a minor beneficial, long-term cumulative impact on the economy, employment, and revenues of the region.

4.2.5 TAXES AND REVENUE

The following section discusses the impacts to taxes and revenue for the No-Action Alternative and the Build Alternative.

Explanation of Impacts Affecting this Impact Topic

Direct Impacts – Direct impacts to taxes and revenues occur when site improvements or new buildings increase a property’s value and hence increase the taxes levied on it. Direct impacts may also occur if a property’s ownership status changes from public to private or vice versa, as publicly owned properties are tax exempt. Finally, direct impacts can also occur from new job creation or relocation of employees to an area.

Indirect Impacts – Indirect impacts can occur if a development spurs additional development. Indirect impacts can also occur from spending by employees.

4.2.5.1 Alternative 1 - No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, the project would not be constructed. Under this alternative, there would be no changes to state and local taxes and revenues. Therefore, there would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to taxes and revenues.

4.2.5.2 Alternative 2 – Build Alternative

Direct Impacts

Due to the nature of the project, no changes to state or local taxes and revenues would occur. Increased sales transactions for the purchase of materials and supplies would generate some additional revenues for local and state governments, which would have a minor, short-term, positive impact on taxes and revenue.

Indirect Impacts

Little indirect impacts are expected to taxes and revenue. The increased spending during construction may result in some additional retail services and business employment through a multiplier effect, yielding additional sales and income tax revenues for local and state governments. This would likely have a negligible impact on taxes and revenue.

Cumulative Impacts

Past, present, and future development in the New York Avenue corridor has and will continue to create revenue for the state, county, and local governments. There will be minor, beneficial cumulative impacts.

4.2.6 AESTHETICS AND VISUAL RESOURCES

The area of visual influence or viewshed provides the context for assessing aesthetic and visual resource impacts. Impacts to identified views and vistas were determined based on an analysis of the existing quality of the landscape views, the sensitivity of the view, and the anticipated relationship of the scale and massing of the proposed buildings to the existing visual environment.

The following section discusses the impacts to Aesthetics and Visual Resources for the No-Action Alternative and the Build Alternative.

Explanation of Impacts Affecting this Impact Topic

Direct Impacts - Direct impacts occur when the proposed development is visible as a background element of a view that includes buildings of a similar mass and scale. Direct impacts occur when the proposed development is visible as a contrasting or dominant element that interferes with views from the representative viewpoint and substantially changes the existing view. Conversely, the development could improve a view or the visual appearance of an area.

Indirect Impact - Indirect impacts may occur if, because of the project, additional development occurs that affects viewsheds.

4.2.6.1 Alternative 1 - No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, the proposed New York Avenue Public Art Project will not be constructed. Under this alternative, there would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to aesthetics or visual resources at the existing facility.

4.2.6.2 Alternative 2 – Build Alternative

Direct Impacts

Construction of the New York Avenue Public Art Project would change the aesthetics of the site by removing current plantings in the median and replacing them with sculptures and new plantings. Signage would also be introduced on each side of the street. This change would be most notable at eye-level on New York Avenue. The sculptures range in height from 9-feet to 16-feet and would have some impact on visual landscape. However, the setting is an urban environment with tall buildings so this impact is minor. The sculptures are placed in an appropriate density over four blocks from 9th to 13th Streets. The closest sculptures are proposed in the first phase of the project, and would be approximately 85-feet apart with four sculptures between 12th and 13th Streets. Smaller blocks, including the areas between 10 and 11th Streets and 11th and 12th Streets would have two sculptures each approximately 140 feet apart. The four sculptures between 9th and 10th Streets would be approximately 150 feet apart. The selection process for art will be governed by an advisory group established by the NMWA. Its members, as well as the public permitting process, will ensure that future art selected will be appropriate as sculpture in public space. Impacts to the historic views of Mount Vernon Square, the Carnegie Library and L'Enfant reservations are discussed under section 4.3: Cultural Environment.

Lighting for the sculptures would be very low, consisting of up to ten 2-watt LED, focused light fixtures at ground level.

The appeal of the project is also subjective in nature and would probably be seen as having a beneficial impact on the visual character of this corridor. The sculptures are humorous and playful and are appropriate for public spaces where they can be enjoyed by all. The sculptures would help create an atmosphere of culture and vibrancy in the community and provide a focus on the National Museum of Women in the Arts. Should the project be terminated and the sculptures removed, the remaining concrete pads will be well screened by the accompanying landscaping and is unlikely to have any impact on visual resources. Therefore, a minor, beneficial, long-term, direct impact to aesthetics and visual resources would occur.

Indirect Impacts

Indirect visual impact may occur if additional development takes place as a result of the proposed action. Projects that increase redevelopment of the area would probably be regarded as a positive change for the community. Therefore, a minor, beneficial, indirect impact would occur under this alternative.

Cumulative Impacts

Continued development of the area surrounding the site would contribute to improvements in the urban environment. Therefore, a minor, beneficial cumulative indirect impact would occur under this alternative.

4.2.6.3 Mitigation Measures for Aesthetics and Visual Resources

- No mitigation measures are proposed for Aesthetics and Visual Resources.

4.3 CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

In this Environmental Assessment, impacts to historic structures are described in terms of type, context, duration, and intensity, which is consistent with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act. These impact analyses are intended, however, to comply with the requirements of both the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. In accordance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations implementing Section 106 (36 CFR Part 800, *Protection of Historic Properties*), impacts to historic structures, cultural landscapes, and archeological resources were identified and evaluated by: (1) determining the area of potential effects; (2) identifying cultural resources present in the area of potential effects that are either listed in or eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places; (3) applying the criteria of adverse effect to affected cultural resources either listed in or eligible to be listed in the National Register; and (4) considering ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects.

Under the Advisory Council's regulations, a determination of either *adverse effect* or *no adverse effect* must be made for affected National Register eligible cultural resources. An *adverse effect* occurs whenever an impact alters, directly or indirectly, any characteristic of a cultural resource that qualifies it for inclusion in the National Register (e.g., diminishing the integrity of the resource's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association). Adverse effects also include reasonably foreseeable effects caused by the preferred alternative that would occur later in time, be farther removed in distance, or be cumulative (36 CFR 800.5, *Assessment of Adverse Effects*). A determination of *no adverse effect* means there is an effect, but the effect would not diminish in any way the characteristics of the cultural resource that qualify it for inclusion in the National Register.

A Section 106 summary is included in the impact analysis sections for historic structures/sites. The Section 106 summary is intended to meet the requirements of Section 106 and is an assessment of the effect of the undertaking (implementation of the alternative) on cultural resources, based upon the criterion of effect and criteria of adverse effect found in the Advisory Council's regulations.

4.3.1.1 Definition of Intensity Levels

In order for a structure or building to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it must meet one or more of the following criteria of significance: associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. In addition, the structure or building must possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association (*National Register Bulletin, How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*). For purposes of analyzing potential impacts to historic structures/sites, the thresholds of change for the intensity of an impact are defined as follows:

- *negligible*: Impact(s) is at the lowest levels of detection - barely measurable with no perceptible consequences, either adverse or beneficial. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.
- *minor*: Adverse impact - impact would alter a feature(s) of a structure or building, but would not diminish the overall integrity of the resource. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*. Beneficial impact - stabilization/preservation of features in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.
- *moderate*: Adverse impact - impact would alter a feature(s) of the structure or building, diminishing the overall integrity of the resource. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *adverse effect*. A Memorandum of Agreement is executed among the National Park Service and applicable state or tribal historic preservation officer and, if necessary, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in

accordance with 36 CFR 800.6(b). The mitigation measures identified in the Memorandum of Agreement reduce the intensity of impact from major to moderate. Beneficial impact - rehabilitation of a structure or building in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

- *major*: Adverse impact - impact would alter a feature(s) of the structure or building, diminishing the overall integrity of the resource. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *adverse effect*. The National Park Service and applicable state or tribal historic preservation officer are unable to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Agreement in accordance with 36 CFR 800.6(b). Beneficial impact – restoration of a structure or building in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be *no adverse effect*.

Duration: Short-term – Effects lasting for the duration of the construction activities (less than 1 year); Long-term – Effects lasting longer than the duration of the construction (longer than 1 year).

4.3.2 HISTORIC RESOURCES

The following section describes impacts to Historic Resources, for the No-Action Alternative and the Build Alternative.

4.3.2.1 Alternative 1 - No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, The New York Avenue Public Art Project would not be built. The current conditions would remain and there would be no changes to the median and streetscape of the proposed project site. Under this alternative, there would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to historic resources at the existing facility.

4.3.2.2 Alternative 2 – Build Alternative

Under Alternative 2, the New York Avenue Public Art Project would be constructed within the median of New York Avenue between 9th and 13th Streets. Phase I of the project would consist of 4 sculptures by Niki de St. Phalle: future phases could include as many as 12 sculptures created by various artists. The sculptures would be set upon concrete pads at regularly spaced intervals within the median. Additional streetscape improvements would consist of a renovated median landscape. Other proposed amenities would include trash receptacles and benches.

Direct Impacts

Given the nature and scale of the project, the New York Avenue Public Art Project is more likely to have an impact on visual aspects of the historic streetscape than any one particular historic building or resource. Direct impacts to historic buildings and structures along New York Avenue would be negligible. There will be minor impacts to the historic views of Mount Vernon Square

and the Carnegie Library. The historic L'Enfant Plan reservations, of which Mount Vernon Square is one example, are open-space elements that were designed as focal points at the intersections of main streets. The introduction of the sculptures within the New York Avenue right of way will introduce a new visual element to this viewshed. The artwork will not, however create significant visual obstructions to the views of either Mount Vernon Square or the Carnegie Library.

Other reservations within the project limits of the New York Avenue Public Art Project include two "bowtie parks" at the corner of New York Avenue NW and 11th Street NW (Reservations 173 and 174), and a small park (Reservation 175) at the corner of New York Avenue NW and 9th Street NW across from Mount Vernon Square. Historic views to these reservation parks will also be impacted. The sculptures will not, however, have a major impact upon the L'Enfant Plan as a whole as physical changes will be largely confined to the presence of the 12 sculptures and the 12 signs to be placed along the sidewalks on both sides of New York Avenue. The overall scale of these impacts upon the open space corridors and viewsheds will be minor. Minor, short term, adverse impacts will result from construction activities at the site. Therefore, it is expected that the proposed action will have minor, short and long-term, direct impacts to historic resources. This would result in a finding of No Adverse Effect in terms of Section 106.

Indirect Impacts

Indirect impacts are anticipated from the visual intrusion of the sculptures within the historic streetscape. Given the scale of the built environment within the APE, indirect visual impacts to historic buildings are expected to be minor and long-term. Resulting in a finding of No Adverse Effect in terms of Section 106. Indirect impacts to the L'Enfant Plan include visual intrusions to the streetscape along the New York Avenue corridor and Mount Vernon Square. The indirect impact, however, is expected to be minor and long term, resulting in a finding of No Adverse Effect in terms of Section 106.

Cumulative Impacts.

Although the proposed project is individually minor in impact to the L'Enfant Plan, the cumulative impact of this project combined with past projects have the potential of collectively constituting a moderate or major impact over a period, however, no other actions are anticipated that when combined with the public art program appear to constitute a cumulative impact on historic resources. The duration of the public art program is anticipated to be 21 years. Should the project be terminated and the sculptures removed, the remaining concrete pads will be well screened by the accompanying landscaping and is unlikely to have any impact on historic views or vistas. Therefore, the project will have a negligible to minor cumulative impact on historic resources, resulting in a finding of No Adverse Effect in terms of Section 106.

4.3.2.3 Mitigation Measures for Historic Resources

As no moderate or major impacts are expected to historic resources, no mitigation measures are proposed.

4.4 INFRASTRUCTURE

The following section describes impacts to Infrastructure, including utilities, transportation, and waste management, for the No-Action Alternative and for the four Action Alternatives.

4.4.1 UTILITIES

The following section describes impacts to Utilities for the No-Action Alternative and for the Build Alternative.

Explanation of Impacts Affecting this Impact Topic

Direct Impacts - Direct impacts to utilities would occur when services are disrupted due to the relocation or extension of utility lines.

Indirect Impacts - Indirect impacts to utilities would occur when construction in rights of way of easements causes traffic delays or increased usage of utilities impacts the supply of these utilities.

4.4.1.1 Alternative 1 - No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, the New York Avenue Public Art Project would not be constructed. Under this alternative, there would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to utilities at the site.

4.4.1.2 Alternative 2 – Build Alternative

Direct Impacts

Existing utilities at the project site would not be impacted by the proposed action. The action involves the installation of concrete pads and lighting as well as plantings. This work is not expected to interfere with any utilities. Therefore, no impacts to utilities are expected during construction. The increased demand for utilities due to the surface lighting would have a negligible, adverse, long-term, direct impact on utilities.

Indirect Impacts

During construction within street rights of way or public utility easements, traffic delays may occur. This would cause a negligible, adverse, short-term, indirect impact.

Cumulative Impacts

Past, present, and future development in the area would place some additional demands on the existing utilities. Therefore a minor, adverse, long-term, cumulative impact from increases in service demands on area utility providers would occur.

4.4.1.3 Mitigation Measures for Utilities

The following mitigation measures may need to be conducted the site:

Water/Sewer

- Drought-tolerant plant materials and local indigenous plant material could be utilized in landscaped areas to reduce water usage.
- Landscape designs requiring irrigation could be minimized; automatic, low volume irrigation equipment would be installed to minimize overwatering.

Electrical Power and Gas

- No mitigation measures are proposed for electrical power and gas.

4.4.2 TRANSPORTATION

Explanation of Impacts Affecting this Impact Topic

Direct Impacts - Direct impacts to transportation would occur when traffic volumes increase and patterns change due to the construction of the project.

Indirect Impacts - Indirect impacts to transportation occur when a project spurs other development, which in turn increases traffic volumes.

4.4.2.1 Alternative 1 - No-Action Alternative

Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Impacts

No direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to traffic patterns will occur with the No-Action Alternative, as the project will not be constructed and there will be no increase or change in traffic patterns.

4.4.2.2 Alternative 2 – Build Alternative

Direct Impacts

Direct impacts to traffic patterns will occur due to the construction of the project. Automobile, bus, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic are expected to be briefly interrupted during construction activities. Traffic volumes from construction would only increase due to construction-related vehicles. Lane closings would occur during installation and other work in the median which would impact traffic. Pedestrian traffic would likely increase as a result of the public art project but would be minor and handled by existing infrastructure. Covered walkway regulations would be followed during construction. All artwork would be centered within the median and will be in excess of two feet from the curb. Sight lines to intersections have been maintained during planning through careful placement of the sculpture pads and will not be impacted. The art is designed to be viewed from the sides of the street and not the median. This has been

accomplished through appropriate placement of project signs and landscaping. Impact to traffic flow and safety would not last beyond construction and would therefore be minor, short-term, and adverse. No long-term impacts will occur. The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, in a letter dated April 7, 2009, has concurred that the proposed project will have no impact on Metrorail facilities. The Authority has requested that they be notified 10 days prior to commencement of construction (See Appendix A: Agency Correspondence).

Indirect Impacts

Indirect adverse impacts due to construction may occur in other areas due to local changes in traffic patterns. However, these indirect adverse impacts, if they occur, would be minor and short-term.

Cumulative Impacts

The proposed project will not add to past, present, and future impacts to transportation resources within the project area. Therefore no cumulative impacts to transportation are expected.

4.4.2.3 Mitigation Measures for Traffic

No mitigation measures are recommended for impacts to traffic.

4.4.3 WASTE MANAGEMENT

The following section describes impacts due to waste management issues for the No-Action Alternative and the Build Alternative.

Explanation of Impacts Affecting this Impact Topic

Direct Impacts - Direct impacts to waste management occur when there is an increase or decrease in waste generation.

Indirect Impacts - Indirect impacts to waste management occur when a project spurs other development, which in turn increases waste volumes.

4.4.3.1 Alternative 1 - No-Action Alternative

Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Impacts

Under the No-Action Alternative, the New York Avenue Public Art Project would not be constructed. Under this alternative, there would be no changes in waste management. Therefore, no direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to waste management would occur.

4.4.2.4 Alternative 2 – Build Alternative

Direct Impacts

Construction of the proposed New York Avenue Public Art Project would generate construction waste. Disposal of this waste would result in minor, adverse, short-term, direct impacts.

Under the proposed action, general waste would be generated at the NMC. General waste would be placed in receptacles. Waste would be removed from receptacles on a regular basis and transported to collection areas outside of the building. A licensed hauler would transport the general waste to county landfills. A minor, adverse, long-term, direct impact on county landfills from increased waste would occur.

Indirect Impacts

No indirect impacts to waste management are anticipated under the proposed action.

Cumulative Impacts

Past, present, and future development, along with the New York Avenue Public Art Project would generate general waste. This project would have a moderate, adverse, long-term, cumulative impact on waste management. However, the New York Avenue Public Art Project would contribute negligibly to these moderate, adverse, cumulative impacts.

4.4.3.2 Mitigation Measures for Waste Management

No mitigation measures are proposed for Waste Management.

5 REFERENCES

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6 LIST OF PREPARERS

LYLE C. TORP, RPA

Principal Investigator

Lyle C. Torp consults on issues related to compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), conducts environmental assessments under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and performs a variety of services related to archeological and historical assessments and historic preservation planning. He has extensive experience performing Phase I, Phase II and Phase III cultural resource investigations, and has served as Principal Investigator on numerous compliance-related projects throughout the United States. Mr. Torp is thoroughly familiar with all aspects of cultural resources/historic preservation legislation and regulation and he regularly consults on cultural resource issues under NEPA and NHPA. Lyle Torp holds a BA from Wake Forest University and an MA from the University of South Florida, and has completed doctoral work at The Catholic University of America. Mr. Torp is fully-qualified under the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation at 36 CFR 61, and is certified in archeology by ROPA.

Since 1998, Mr. Torp has directed the operations of a consulting firm with a staff of 17 cultural resource and environmental professionals. In this capacity, he has augmented his prior work experience in conducting Phase I and Phase II ESAs, natural resource planning, and other environmental services with a diverse professional staff serving clients throughout the eastern United States.

DAVID C. BERG

Senior Historic Preservation Specialist

Mr. Berg is a Senior Historic Preservation Specialist with more than 20 years of professional experience managing historic preservation projects. Mr. Berg has worked as an Associate with The Ottery Group since 2007. He has prepared National Register of Historic Places Nomination Forms, cultural resource reports identifying historic sites and documenting National Register of Historic Places eligibility, and reports evaluating potential effects to historic architectural properties in and adjacent to proposed project areas. He has also contributed to numerous Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Statements, Categorical Exclusion Checklists, Section 4(f) reports, and other regulatory documents. Mr. Berg has experience preparing Historic Preservation Master Plans, and was previously employed as a Historic Preservation Planner in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Mr. Berg has excellent writing and speaking skills, and has been called upon many times to conduct public meetings during the planning stages of many projects. He has prepared plans for the protection and maintenance of historic properties, and has conducted mitigation efforts for buildings and structures, including the delineation of measured drawings in accordance with HABS-HAER standards and large-format photography to HABS-HAER standards. Mr. Berg has a BA from Wheaton College and an MA in US History from the University of Maryland.

AMY BOLASKY SKINNER

Architectural Historian

Ms. Skinner is a graduate of the Historic Preservation graduate program at the University of Maryland with three years experience in historic preservation and architectural history. Ms. Skinner has experience in historical research and documentation, as well as experience in federal preservation laws including the National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. Ms. Skinner's responsibilities include planning and conducting architectural surveys and field investigations, completion of evaluations and Determination of Eligibility forms for historic properties, perform archival research, prepare historic structure reports and master plans, and prepare National Register nominations. Amy Skinner has a BA from Syracuse University and an MA in Architectural History from the University of Maryland. Ms. Skinner is fully-qualified under the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications in Architectural History (36 CFR 61).

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7 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DISTRIBUTION LIST

7.1 FEDERAL OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
 United States House of Representatives
 2136 Rayburn House Office Building
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National Park Service
 National Capital Region
 1100 Ohio Dr., SW
 Washington D.C. 20242

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Ecological Services
 6669 Short Lane
 Gloucester, VA 23061

Regional Administrator Region 3
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 841 Chestnut Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19107

U.S. Secret Service
 245 Murray Drive, Building 410
 Washington, DC 20223

U.S. Commission of Fine Arts
 401 F Street NW, Suite 312
 Washington, DC 20001-2728

7.2 STATE OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

DC Office of Planning
 2000 14th Street, NW 4th Floor
 Washington, DC 20009

Executive Office of the Mayor
 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 316
 Washington, DC 20004

DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
 1371 Harvard Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20009

District Department of Transportation
 2000 14th Street, NW, 6th Floor
 Washington, DC 20009

DC Historic Preservation Office
 2000 14th Street, NW 4th Floor
 Washington, DC 20009

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 5000 Overlook Avenue SW
 Washington, DC 20032

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit
 Authority
 600 5th Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20001

The Honorable Jack Evans
 Chair, Pro Tempore, Ward 2
 Council of the District of Columbia
 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20004

7.3 OTHER STAKEHOLDERS/PROPERTY OWNERS

DC Preservation League
 401 F Street, NW - Room 324
 Washington, D.C. 20001

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B
 9 Dupont Circle, NW
 Washington, DC 20036

National Museum of Women in the Arts
1250 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Jaguar Properties, LLC
1212 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005

American Association for the Advancement of
Science
1200 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Manufacturers Life Insurance
1100 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Archland Property I, LLC
1235 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Charles C. Gastrock
1231 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005

1201-1225 New York Ave SPE, LLC
1201/1225 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005

1101 New York Holdings, LLC
1101 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005

TST New York Avenue, LLC
1099 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005

1000 K, LLC
900 10th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

BP/CRF 901 New York Avenue, LLC
901 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005

District of Columbia Downtown Business
Improvement District (BID)
1250 H Street, NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005

APPENDIX A: AGENCY LETTERS

APPENDIX B: CONSTRUCTION PLANS

APPENDIX C: HISTORIC SURVEY RESULTS

APPENDIX D: VIEWSHED ANALYSIS