

**Subject:** Hirshhorn Sculpture Garden Revitalization - Consulting Parties Update  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 8:55:34 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Bond, Carly  
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**Attachments:** image001.jpg

Good morning,

The Smithsonian Institution received the following summary of comments from consulting parties following the public comment period after the March 10, 2021 meeting:

- “‘Revised Alternative’ which retains the original 1974 pool and augments it with a smaller pool to the south...is a meaningful step towards minimizing adverse effects on the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden.” – DC State Historic Preservation Office
- Integral nature of aggregate concrete walls...urge the Smithsonian to replace the central inner partition wall in-kind to further minimize adverse effects on this important Modernist landscape.” – DC State Historic Preservation Office
- “Stacked stone walls...material is historically inappropriate to the historic Hirshhorn Sculpture Garden.” – The Committee of 100 on the Federal City
- “The proposed design severs the harmonious link between the garden and the museum building as a complete modernist composition...introduction of a new material (stacked stone) speak a different language from the Bunshaft museum and the Bunshaft/Collins garden.” – Nancy Slade
- “We recommend the Smithsonian abandon the plans to expand and destroy historic fabric (reflecting pool) for an amenity available for a limited portion of the year that can be as equally engaging and successful with chairs on a flat plane.” – Docomomo US
- “We believe the desired programmatic and revitalization goals, along with increased accessibility and better circulation, can be achieved without the adverse effects on the resource by restoring or replacing the original pool and the inner partition wall in kind.” – Docomomo US
- “There remain two major adverse effects that merit attention: the expanded pool area and the introduction of stacked stone walls...We continue to believe that the Hirshhorn can address its ‘purpose and need’ without the adverse effects to the Central Gallery...” – The Cultural Landscape Foundation

The Smithsonian will move the Sculpture Garden Revitalization project forward using the “Revised Alternative” reflecting pool design and use of stacked stone at the reconstructed inner partition wall. The Smithsonian will begin drafting a Memorandum of Agreement with the following minimization and mitigation measures:

Minimization:

- Recessed grade, setting for sculpture, concrete perimeter wall footprint maintained
- Accessibility – East garden ramp in historic location
- Concrete perimeter walls replaced in-kind, primary wall feature preserving visual relationship to the Museum building and the National Mall setting
- New Stacked Stone Wall – Recessed below and with a reveal from the concrete perimeter
- Use of Swenson Pink granite – Salvaged 1974 stair treads, planter walls
- Inner partition wall – Only wall to feature Swenson Pink granite, reconstructed in the historic location in a shape consistent with the 1974 Plaza walls
- Reflecting pool – Black granite used for the pool basin, 1974 pool heated enabling year-round water presence
- Underground passage – Retention and restoration of historic fabric
- Plaza Access – Maintain setback from the Jefferson Drive plaza stairs, reconstructed balustrade using historic proportions and details

Mitigation:

- Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Landscape Survey Recordation
  - HALS History – Standard Format
- National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden
- Commission report on the significance and integrity of the Hirshhorn Plaza alterations
  - Report will be available to the public, and incorporated in the National Register nomination
- Compilation of Lester Collins accumulated Sculpture Garden records for Smithsonian Institution Archives
- Commission Collins and Bunshaft scholarship publications
- Book publication on the history of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden
- Smithsonian Gardens Plant Explorer Webpage – Cultural reference information added to accessioned plants in the Sculpture Garden
- Public symposium on sculpture gardens
- Sculpture Garden site tours
- Smithsonian Gardens Lectures/Panel discussions
- Permanent Sculpture Garden Revitalization webpage
- Public outreach
- Hirshhorn Eye – Connections with artwork and history
- Restore and conserve Bunshaft elm trees at the east and west Sculpture Garden aprons
- Replanting Collins tree species in historic locations within the Garden and Jefferson Drive
- Preserving and enhancing shade qualities introduced by Collins
- Collins inspired tree and plant palette adapted for climate change
- Interpretive educational and exhibit signage within the Sculpture Garden and at the Lerner Room museum balcony
- Improve perimeter security with a restored 8<sup>th</sup> street Plaza vista connection
- Restoration of the aggregate concrete Plaza perimeter walls
- Stacked stone wall building outreach and documentation

Please refer to the March 10, 2021, and October 7, 2020, presentation material available on the project webpage for further description of the proposed minimization and mitigation measures:

<https://hirshhorn.si.edu/sculpture-garden-revitalization/>

The Smithsonian plans to schedule the next consulting parties meeting to review to the draft Memorandum of Agreement for late May or June 2021. This meeting will be paired with an opportunity to review with Smithsonian staff the third stacked stone wall mock-up which will feature plantings, typical bench construction, and sculpture. The draft MOA will be provided in advance of the meeting for consulting parties review with a public comment period. The Smithsonian appreciates your continued participation in Section 106 consultation on the Hirshhorn Sculpture Garden Revitalization.

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Smithsonian Facilities