

Kennedy Center Expansion Project

Public Scoping News Release

For Immediate Release: July 15, 2013
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The National Capital Planning commission (NCPC) and the National Park Service (NPS), acting as co-lead agencies in cooperation with the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts will hold a public scoping meeting to share information and invite comments on the proposed Kennedy Center expansion project. The purpose of the proposed expansion is to improve the facilities of the Kennedy Center by adding space for classrooms, rehearsal rooms, event spaces and offices in a dedicated area. The project is needed because the Kennedy Center, with the largest performing arts education initiative in the country, contains no dedicated classrooms, a limited number of rehearsal rooms, and no dedicated event space. The project partially falls within the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, which is under the jurisdiction of the NPS. NCPC will be reviewing the project under its authorities in the National Capital Planning Act.

Under the proposal, the Kennedy Center would expand the south side of the Kennedy Center. As proposed, the project would include three pavilions. Two of the pavilions would be located on the south side of the Kennedy Center and would connect with the existing building underground and at grade via the main plaza. The third pavilion would be located across Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, on a floating platform on the Potomac River. The third pavilion would provide space for an interactive family-oriented education facility for children to learn about and experience the performing arts. The project would also create a public waterfront connection and provide safe pedestrian access between the Kennedy Center and the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Trail along the riverfront.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the NPS and NCPC are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify alternatives and assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposal. Concurrently, the agencies will conduct consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). This informational scoping meeting will include an "open house" format. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. The location, time, and date are presented below:

WHEN: July 22, 2013
Open House: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

WHERE: The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
2700 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20566

Comment sheets will be provided at the meeting. If you need special accommodations or language assistance services (translation or interpretation) please contact Claudette Donlon, at least four days in advance of the meeting at cdonlon@kennedy-center.org or by phone at (202) 416-8000. These services will be provided free of charge.

A 45-day public scoping period will be opened from July 15, 2013 through August 30, 2013. During this time, the public is invited to comment on the proposed action, and identify potential issues or concerns for consideration in the EA. Interested parties are also invited to participate in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA.

You may submit comments electronically at the NPS's Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/NAMA>). Written comments may be mailed to:

Stantec Consulting Services
Attn: Elizabeth Estes
6110 Frost Place
Laurel, Maryland 20707.

Mailed comments must be postmarked by **August 30, 2013** to receive consideration.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Once the EA is developed, it will be made available on the project website and at public libraries for public review for a 45-day period. If you wish to be added to the project mailing list for this or other announcements, please be sure to indicate that in your response.