



Smithsonian Institution

Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan Programmatic Agreement – Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a Programmatic Agreement?

- A Programmatic Agreement (PA) is a legally binding document negotiated pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act to govern the implementation of a particular program, to resolve adverse effects on historic properties from certain complex project situations or multiple undertakings, and/or when effects on historic properties cannot be fully determined prior to the approval of an undertaking.
- The purpose of this PA is to ensure that the Smithsonian Institution (SI) complies with Section 106, and to clarify how consultation will be conducted in the future for the implementation and design of each project under the South Mall Campus Master Plan.

2. Who are the Signatories on the PA?

- The draft PA has been collaboratively developed amongst Signatories to the document which include the SI, the DC State Historic Preservation Officer, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Park Service, and the National Capital Planning Commission. Once the draft PA is finalized an official from each agency will sign the document.
- The Signatories have the sole authority to execute, amend, or terminate the PA.
- The SI and the Signatories invite any interested Consulting Party to be a Concurring Party on the PA. Becoming a concurring party simply means that you and your organization agree with the terms of the PA and support its implementation. It does not provide any special status or assign any responsibility. Please contact the SI at BondC@si.edu if your organization or group would be interested in signing the PA as a Concurring Party, or for more information about Concurring Parties.

3. Why am I being asked to comment on the draft PA? Will my comments be shared publicly?

- As a Consulting Party, you have indicated an interest in following the development of the South Mall Campus Master Plan and participate in the resolution of adverse effects. This is your opportunity to provide comments to the SI and Signatories on the draft PA.
- Comments may address the identification of provisions with conflicting information, unclear language, substance and content, difficulty in reading tables and graphics, or any other topic related to historic preservation. Any comments submitted will assist the SI and the Signatories in clarifying and revising the PA before the document is finalized and executed.
- Comments from Consulting Parties will not be shared publicly, but may be discussed publicly if you choose to attend the May 9, 2018, Consulting Parties meeting.

4. How much time do I have to comment?

- There is a timeframe of thirty (30) days for public review and comment. Written comments should be sent to BondC@si.edu. Please be sure to list the page and line number that pertains to the section(s) of the draft PA upon which you are commenting. Comments are also welcome at the public meeting which will be held on May 9, 2018, at the National Capital Planning Commission. This meeting will include time for questions and answers, and collaborative discussion. The SI and the Signatories will consider all comments submitted.
- The draft PA has been formatted with page and line numbers for each line of text. Please be sure to note the page and line number when preparing your comments.

5. When will the PA be finalized and signed?



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- The draft PA will be finalized and executed by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation after the May 9, 2018, Consulting Parties meeting has occurred, and the Signatories have had time to consider comments received, and collaboratively revise the PA, as appropriate. The PA will be signed before the final South Mall Campus Master Plan is submitted to the National Capital Planning Commission. Execution of the PA means that Section 106 consultation regarding the development of the Master Plan itself has concluded, but future Section 106 consultation will be carried out for each project proposed in the Master Plan.

6. What does the draft PA say in summary?

- The draft PA contains language for how the SI will initiate and conduct Section 106 consultation as each Master Plan project is designed in the future. The PA includes specific language, timeframes, and consultation for determinations of “no historic properties affected”, “no adverse effect”, and “adverse effect.”
- The draft PA includes specific language for how the SI will continue to involve Consulting Parties and the public. This language includes, for example, how parties will be notified of future consultation via the South Mall Campus website and provided opportunities to review and comment on project plans. .
- The draft PA includes mitigation measures that will serve as starting points for future consultation involving adverse effects that cannot be avoided. Potential mitigation measures include Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Landscape Survey documentation, and updates to National Register nominations and National Historic Landmark documentation.
- The draft PA includes language for specific requirements for project implementation, including project phasing, excavation monitoring, and construction related signage.

7. What if I don’t agree with how the Master Plan affects the buildings in the Campus, or how the Master Plan is depicted in renderings?

- The South Mall Campus Master Plan provides the framework for the planning and design decisions that will be made in the future as each project is designed. Many of the images that were prepared in completing the development of the Master Plan are informational, and while they may look designed, the Master Plan actually lays out the framework of each project, such as placement and/or size.
- Each project will be designed in the future, and each project will have a separate public consultation and Section 106 review under the framework of the Master Plan. The SI welcomes your continuing participation in the design development of the future projects.

8. Who will monitor the progress of the Master Plan and implementation in accordance with the PA?

- The SI will be responsible for providing annual reports to the Signatories regarding completed activities and upcoming projects. The PA includes language for dispute resolution for Signatories and Consulting Parties if there are objections to actions proposed or the manner in which the terms of the PA are being implemented.

9. When will I be able to participate in Section 106 consultation on the first projects under the Master Plan?

- The SI is currently engaged in studies in preparation for the Castle restoration, which is expected to be the first project implemented under the Master Plan. We would expect for public consultation to begin on this project sometime in the next 3-5 years.

10. When will the PA expire?

- The PA will be in effect for 25 years. Due to this extended timeframe, the PA includes language for preparing amendments to the Master Plan or the PA, as appropriate.