



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 15, 2015

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Kennedy Center Expansion Proposed Connection to Rock Creek Multi-Use Trail

Public Scoping News Release

(WASHINGTON)— 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 a proposed connection between the Kennedy Center and the Rock Creek Multi-Use Trail. The purpose of the proposed connection is to improve greater pedestrian and bicycle access to and from the Kennedy Center, the National Mall and Memorial Parks (NAMA), the Rock Creek Multi-Use Trail, the Potomac River waterfront, and surrounding vicinity. The project is needed because there is no direct connection to and from the Kennedy Center to the east, or southeastward towards the Rock Creek Multi-Use Trail, NAMA, and the Potomac River. 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 create a pedestrian and bicycle bridge from the south of the Kennedy Center. The project would create a public waterfront connection and provide safe pedestrian and bicycle access between the Kennedy Center and the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Multi-Use 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: Tuesday, September 29, 2016
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 Kathy Kruse, at least four days in advance of the meeting at kkruise@kennedy-center.org or by phone at (202) 416-8000. These services will be provided free of charge.

A 30-day public scoping period will be opened from September 15, 2015 through October 15, 2015. 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/KennedyCenter>). Written comments may be mailed to:

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

Mailed comments must be postmarked by **October 15, 2015** 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 30-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.

ABOUT THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is America's living memorial to President Kennedy, and the nation's cultural center. Under the leadership of Chairman David M. Rubenstein and President Deborah F. Rutter, the nine theaters and stages of the nation's busiest performing arts facility attract audiences and visitors totaling 3 million people annually; Center-related touring productions, television, and radio broadcasts welcome 40 million more.

Opening its doors on September 8, 1971, the Center presents the greatest performances of music, dance, and theater; supports artists in the creation of new work; and serves the nation as a leader in arts education. With its artistic affiliates, the National Symphony Orchestra and Washington National Opera, the Center's achievements as a commissioner, producer, and nurturer of developing artists have resulted in more than 300 theatrical productions, and dozens of new ballets, operas, and musical works.

Each year, millions of people nationwide take part in innovative, inclusive, and effective education programs initiated by the Center, including school- and community-based residencies and consultancies; age-appropriate performances and events for young people; career development for young actors, dancers, singers, and instrumentalists; and professional learning opportunities for teachers, teaching artists, and school administrators. These programs have become models for communities across the country. The Center's *Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child* program works with selected local school districts and seeks to provide a comprehensive arts education to children

K-8. The Center also has been at the forefront of making the performing arts accessible to persons with disabilities, highlighted by the work accomplished with its affiliate, VSA.

As part of the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts for Everyone outreach program, the Center stages more than 400 free performances of music, dance, and theater by artists from throughout the world each year on the Center's main stages, and every evening at 6 p.m. on the Millennium Stage. The *Rubenstein Arts Access Program* expands the Center's efforts to make the arts accessible to children, young adults, and to people who have little or limited ability to attend and enjoy the performing arts, enabling audiences to engage in more ways, at more times, and in more places than ever before.

**For more information about the Kennedy Center expansion project,
please visit www.kennedy-center.org/expansionproject.**

Discover the Kennedy Center on social media:



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