



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Mall and Memorial Parks



April 19, 2016

The Honorable Chief Robert Gray
191 Lay Landing Road
Pamunkey Indian Reservation
King William, Virginia 23086

Subject: Invitation for Tribal Consultation for the Kennedy Center Expansion Connection Project,
Washington, DC

Dear Honorable Chief Gray:

In accordance with your federal recognition, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and National Park Service (NPS), acting as co-lead agencies in cooperation with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Kennedy Center), are writing to invite the Pamunkey Indian Tribe to consult on the Kennedy Center Expansion Connection Project in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800.3).

The Kennedy Center, located on the Potomac River at the western edge of the District's monumental core, is a Congressionally designated national showcase for the performing arts and a living memorial to President Kennedy. It was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places on February 13, 2012, for its association with President Kennedy and as the work of master architect Edward Durell Stone. The center presents musical, dance, and theatrical performances, supports artists in the creation of new work, and serves the nation as a leader in arts and arts management education.


Currently, there is no direct connection between the Kennedy Center and the Rock Creek Multi-Use Trail along the Potomac River waterfront. The purpose of the proposed project is to provide a safe pedestrian and bicycle connection that would create a public waterfront link and would improve 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 the surrounding vicinity. A graphic illustrating the project is enclosed to provide preliminary information on the project area.

The National Capital Planning Commission and National Park Service understand that the Pamunkey has an interest in the preservation of American Indian cultural resources of significance in Virginia. We look forward to consulting with the Pamunkey Indian tribe and other consulting parties to evaluate the alternatives and identify ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects on the historic resources within the APE. No impact on archeology is anticipated due to the fact that Phase 1A archaeological investigations for the Kennedy Center Expansion Project (Kreisa and McDowell, 2014) determined that no known American Indian traditional cultural properties exist within the project area. However, your input will allow us to comprehensively address all potential impacts as the planning process moves forward.

Once again on behalf of the National Capital Planning Commission and the National Park Service, congratulations on achieving federal recognition. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to

contact Kathy Kruse, Vice President for Institutional Affairs, at kkrusc@kennedy-center.org or by phone at (202) 416-8703.

Sincerely,



Gay Vietzke
Superintendent
National Mall and Memorial Parks



Marcel Acosta
Executive Director
National Capital Planning Commission

Enclosure(s): Project Area Map

ATTACHMENT A: PROJECT AREA

