

KENNEDY CENTER EXPANSION PROJECT
ANNUAL REPORT ON THE
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AMONG THE NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING
COMMISSION, THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, THE KENNEDY CENTER, AND
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
REPORTING PERIOD: JULY 2015 – JULY 2016

In accordance with the amended Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Kennedy Center Expansion Project, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) is providing an annual report for the period of July 2015 to July 2016 to the MOA signatories: the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DCSHPO), the National Park Service (NPS), the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Kennedy Center), and the Consulting Parties. This report summarizes the status of both the Kennedy Center Expansion Project and the required mitigation in the amended MOA including the preservation of a section of the historic marble wall and the incorporation of interpretative signage on the history of the Kennedy Center. The Kennedy Center assisted NCPC with preparation of this report.

NCPC approved the final site and building plans for the design of the Kennedy Center Expansion Project on July 9, 2015. Construction on the Kennedy Center expansion project started in earnest in October 2015 with the demolition of a portion of the south garage addition (built in 2001) and site clearing. This work was quickly followed by the installation of over 500 steel support piles, excavation, and site utility installations. The project is now approximately 10 months into a 30-month construction schedule. Adding to the complexity of the project has been the addition of a second major construction project to the site, and that is the DC Water Clean Rivers diversion structure project. This underground concrete diversion structure and large vertical shaft will eventually be connected to a tunnel bored from the Blue Plains sewage treatment plant, diverting excess combined storm and sanitary flows from the Potomac River to the new storage and conveyance tunnel. The DC Water project will delay completion of the expansion project landscaping by a number of months, however it should not adversely impact the construction of the expansion building itself.

Since construction on the expansion began, the Kennedy Center has been working with NCPC and NPS on completing an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Section 106 consultation for the Kennedy Center Connection Project (Connection Project) - a new pedestrian bridge and ramp connecting the Kennedy Center grounds to the Potomac Riverfront and the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway paved recreation trail. Following completion of the EA and execution of a separate MOA for the Connection Project, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts approved the project in June 2016 and NCPC approved the project in July 2016. Construction documents are currently being completed with an expectation of starting construction this winter.

With regard to the amended MOA for the expansion project, there are two mitigation activities required of the Kennedy Center. The first mitigation measure is the preservation of any marble

panels removed from the building for the projection room window. The second mitigation measure is to provide permanent outdoor interpretive signage on the history of the Kennedy Center. The Kennedy Center has included preservation and re-use of the marble in the scope of work for its construction manager. This work is not anticipated to occur until late 2017 or 2018. Regarding the signage, the Kennedy Center has retained Bruce Mau Design (BMD) to undertake a comprehensive Center-wide update of its branding, building signage and website. The interpretative signage required by the MOA will be considered in this effort. The design of the signage will either completed by BMD or the design work assigned to another firm after Center-wide design templates have been developed. The preliminary design documents will be provided to the signatories for review as required. Depending on the final location of the signage and if it is located in an area impacted by the DC Water Project, the signage may be installed in 2018 or early 2019.

Below are photographs of the construction site for the Kennedy Center Expansion Project. These photos were taken during the summer 2016.



