



CALL TO ACTION

April 2016

Oppose Smithsonian Proposal to Destroy the Haupt Garden

The Smithsonian Institution seeks to demolish the Enid A. Haupt Garden and the other structures in the Quadrangle behind the Smithsonian's Castle as part of a complex, multi-year Master Plan.



Haupt Garden as it is today.

The Haupt Garden—along with the Ripley and Folger Gardens—is nestled between the Arts and Industries Building and the Freer Gallery of Art. This garden area includes such beloved features as the Haupt Victorian parterre, Renwick Gates (adapted from the 1849 design by Smithsonian Castle architect James Renwick), Moon Gate, Persian water features, and the remarkable pavilion entrances to the underground Sackler Gallery, the Museum of African Art, and the Ripley Visitors Center.

- The proposed master plan, while it includes the restoration of the Smithsonian Castle Building and the repair of the roof of the galleries under the Haupt Garden, calls for the destruction of the garden itself.
- Noted Washington architectural historian and author James M. Goode, in an [opinion piece](#) published in the *Washington Post* on March 20, 2016, called the garden, gates, and pavilions “no less worthy of preservation for future generations than the Castle itself.” He describes the proposed replacement “a wasteland of skylights reminiscent of a regional shopping mall.”



What was once the Haupt Garden as depicted in a rendering from the SI's South Mall Campus Master Plan.

The Smithsonian is currently conducting a series of public consultation meetings with a number of organizations and individuals who are deeply concerned about the proposal, including the [Committee of 100 on the Federal City](#), the [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#), and the [DC Preservation League](#).

The Smithsonian Secretary publicly states that the Haupt Garden’s “final design is not part of the master plan currently under consideration.” However, the Smithsonian’s “preferred plan” for the demolition of the gardens, as posted on its [website](#) and as expressed to interested parties in public consultation meetings, is very much under consideration.

TAKE ACTION NOW BY:

1. Expressing your opposition and/or concerns about this ill-conceived proposal to the Secretary of the Smithsonian and its key Regent:

Dr. David J. Skorton
 Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution
 P.O. Box 37012

Washington, DC 20013-7012
Email address is: skortond@si.edu

Mr. Robert P. Kogod
Regent of the Smithsonian Institution
Charles E. Smith Co.
2345 Crystal Drive - Suite 1101
Arlington, VA 22202
E-mail: robert.kogod@charlesEsmith.org

2. Expressing your concern about any potential use of Federal taxpayer dollars to Congress to:

Congressman Ken Calvert
United States House of Representatives
2205 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515
Fax: [202-225-2004](tel:202-225-2004)

Calvert (R-CA-42) sits on the Committee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies which oversees the Smithsonian and appropriates 2/3rds of its annual operating budget.

3. Signing the Online Petition:

Sign the online [iPetition](#) urging the Institution's Secretary to re-consider the South Mall Campus Plan so that the Haupt Garden and surrounding architectural and landscape features are retained.

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Founded in 1923, The Committee of 100 on the Federal City is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to safeguarding and advancing Washington's historic distinction, natural beauty, and overall livability

External links referenced in this document:

- Smithsonian Institution – South Mall Campus Master Plan: <http://www.southmallcampus.si.edu/>
- Committee of 100 on the Federal City. Historic Preservation Subcommittee information and documents related to the SI South Mall Campus Master Plan: [http://committeeof100.net/what-we-do/historic-preservation/smithsonian-south-mall-campus-master-plan/ of100.net](http://committeeof100.net/what-we-do/historic-preservation/smithsonian-south-mall-campus-master-plan/of100.net)
- National Trust for Historic Preservation: <http://www.preservationnation.org>
- DC Preservation League: <http://www.dcpreservation.org>

- James Goode's *Washington Post* opinion piece of March 18, 2016:
https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/dont-destroy-the-smithsonians-beloved-haupt-garden/2016/03/18/caf0f1e2-eae8-11e5-bc08-3e03a5b41910_story.html
- iPetition: Save the Smithsonian's Enid Haupt Garden!
<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/save-the-smithsonians-enid-haupt-garden>