



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

February 24, 2021

Marnique Heath, Chair
Historic Preservation Review Board
Office of Planning
1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650
Washington, DC 20024
historic.preservation@dc.gov

RE: 1600 M Street NW (HPRB #19-460)

Dear Chair Heath:

At its regular meeting on February 10, 2021, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 9 of 9 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (8-0-1):

Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2B has supported the renovation of National Geographic’s headquarters several times, including in July of 2019 in a resolution to the Historic Preservation Review Board (Attachment A).

ANC 2B reminds the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) that in July of 2019, the Board reviewed the concept for a new entrance pavilion addition and renovation of the ground floor public space and the 1600 M Street NW building with the following action:

“The Board approved the concept as compatible with the character of the 16th Street Historic District with the condition that the first-floor canopy projection on the 1963 building be retained. Final approval was delegated to staff. Vote: 7-0”

Subsequent to this approval, ANC 2B was surprised to learn that the Board did not delegate final approval to staff in regards to a portion of the approved plans: the Marabar sculpture, which was constructed in 1984, nearly 25 years after the end of the period of significance for the 16th Street Historic District, a period which ranges from 1815 to 1959.

Based on the particulars of this case, ANC 2B urges the Historic Preservation Review Board to not overturn its decisions as it can create a burden for applicants and chill development processes by increasing the uncertainty of entitlements. In addition, ANC 2B requests that the Board restricts its review to projects and elements of projects under which it has a statutory authority under the Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978, which does not

contemplate review of noncontributing sculptures in front of a noncontributing building in a historic district.

Commissioner Daniel Warwick (2B02@anc.dc.gov) is the Commission's representative in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Warwick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel Warwick
Chair

Attachment A

**ANC 2B's July 2019 Resolution
Regarding National Geographic's
Historic Preservation Review Board
Application**



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

July 24, 2019

Marnique Heath, Chair
Historic Preservation Review Board
Office of Planning
1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650
Washington, DC 20024
historic.preservation@dc.gov

RE: 1145 17th Street NW (HPRB #19-460)

Dear Chair Heath:

At its special meeting on July 23, 2019, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 8 of 9 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (7-1-0):

WHEREAS, the proposed project falls within ANC 2B and the Sixteenth Street Historic District,

WHEREAS, the project proposes a renovation of the National Geographic campus that currently consists of three buildings fronting both 17th Street and 16th Street NW,

WHEREAS, the project proposes a two-story with roof terrace glass building that, due to elevations, rises to an equivalent of a five-story addition, with an internal media wall that will connect two existing National Geographic buildings along with a renovation of the U-shaped driveway and fountain that would become a plaza and visitor entrance, and

WHEREAS, the project also proposes a slight renovation on the exterior façade of the building on 16th Street NW to accommodate an interior elevator that will serve as a handicapped entrance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B believes that the project is compatible with the Sixteenth Street Historic District and supports the project as proposed.

Commissioners Randy Downs (2B05@anc.dc.gov) and Daniel Warwick (2B02@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Warwick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Daniel Warwick
Chair