



Request for Proposal

Historic Context Study

Women's Suffrage Movement in Washington, DC (1848 -1973)

DC Preservation League | December 2020



Background: The fight for women's equality has roots all across America, but many of its most important moments have taken place in Washington, DC. In addition to local activists who fought not only for women's suffrage but for suffrage for all DC residents, women came from all over the country to DC to campaign for their rights. National organizations such as the National American Woman Suffrage Association and the National Woman's Party, and later organizations like the National Council for Negro Women, have worked out of DC while lobbying the federal government for their rights and gathering resources and supporters.

Many sites throughout the city attest to this long, rich history of activism. Landmarks such as the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument and the homes of suffragists Mary Church Terrell and Charlotte Forten Grimké offer a look into some of the key figures who promoted women's suffrage and equal rights in DC. However, the suffragist sites listed in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites and the National Register are limited in number and do not tell the full story of how women's suffrage advocates in Washington, DC came to win their fight for political representation.

There is no doubt that other historic sites throughout DC can help flesh out the complex story of the campaign for women's equality—including the untold stories of many underrepresented female activists. The development of a context study will identify critical themes in the movement within the District of Columbia; organize a timeline of events; name critical players; and establish a preliminary list of places that define this time in history. Once the study is complete, a framework is set for nominating sites to the DC Inventory and National Register—a significant step towards honoring the contributions of generations of women throughout American history.

About Us: The DC Preservation League (DCPL) is Washington's citywide nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of the historic resources of our nation's capital. DCPL's mission to preserve, protect, and enhance Washington's historic and built environment is carried out through education, community outreach, landmark designation, and advocacy. In 2020, the DC State Historic Preservation Office (DCSHPO) received an Underrepresented Communities grant from the National Park Service (NPS) to underwrite development of a context study focused on the Women's Suffrage Movement in Washington, DC. This project will catalyze nominations to both the DC Inventory of Historic Sites and the National Register of Historic Places.

Purpose: DCPL seeks proposals from qualified consultants (Consultant) interested in undertaking research to identify and document historic resources associated with the Women's Suffrage Movement in Washington, DC. The selected Consultant will produce a context study to thematically address the Women's Suffrage Movement in Washington, DC from 1848-1973 and present the study to the public and to the DC Historic Preservation Review Board.

Scope of Work:

1. Complete a historic context study that explicates the history of the Women's Suffrage Movement and related efforts of women to gain equal rights in Washington, DC. The study will identify themes, establish associated property types, and create a preliminary inventory of significant sites eligible for designation at the state and national level.
2. Consultant must verify the integrity of the cultural resources associated with the developed historic context in Task 1. A complete list of identified resources should be completed in a

separate excel spreadsheet that can be sorted by theme. Spreadsheet should include at a minimum: resource name, address, ward, ownership, condition, designation status, associated theme, and current and historic photographs (where possible).

3. Consultant will provide an excel spreadsheet identifying historic photos related to the context study that includes name, address, ward, repository and associated theme(s).
4. To ensure final acceptance of the context study, the Consultant must conduct ongoing consultations with DCPL and the DCSHPO (with a mutually agreeable schedule to be determined) in order to solicit feedback on the research and documentation to be delivered.
5. Consultant will participate in a series of community outreach events to raise awareness of the findings of the context study, receive feedback, and garner support for inclusion of resources related to women's suffrage and overall fight for equal rights in the DC Inventory and National Register.
6. Consultant will present the completed context study to the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB).

Timeline: Estimated start date for the project is March 1, 2021. Research and documentation must be completed no later than February 28, 2022.

Proposal Requirements: Experience preparing historic context statements or National Register of Historic Places documentation is encouraged. All Consultant responses must include resumes of all staff to be assigned to the project and demonstration that the project manager and applicable staff meet 36CFR61 Appendix A *Historic Preservation Professional Qualifications Standards*.

Budget proposal should not exceed \$37,500. Please include a proposed timeline with start/end dates for each task and an example of a historic context study, National Register Multiple Property Document or National Register Landmark Nomination the Consultant has produced in the past. If the Consultant has not produced one of the documents noted above, please provide commensurate writing sample(s).

Deadline to Submit Proposals: Please submit electronically to Rebecca Miller (rebecca@dcpreservation.org) by 11:59pm January 31, 2021. Subject line should read "Proposal for Women's Suffrage Context Study Project."

Acknowledgements:

This project has been funded in part by U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service Underrepresented Community Grants funds, administered by the District of Columbia's Historic Preservation Office.

This project has received Federal financial assistance for the identification, protection, and/or rehabilitation of historic properties and cultural resources in the District of Columbia. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or disability in its federally assisted programs. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

This project has been financed in part with Federal funds from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. However, the contents and opinions contained in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Cover Photos:

Top - Marquis de Lafayette Suffragette Demonstration, 1918, Harris & Ewing, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Collection.

Bottom - Nine African-American women posed, standing, full length, with Nannie Burroughs holding banner reading, "Banner State Woman's National Baptist Convention" 1905-1918, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Collection.