



# Newsletter

February 2026

Support DCPL's Legal Advocacy Fund

## Advocacy Update

### East Potomac Park and the Eisenhower Executive Office Building



Photos of East Potomac Park (left) and the Eisenhower Executive Office Building (right). Photos courtesy of the Library of Congress.

The DC Preservation League and two local residents are taking legal action to protect East Potomac Park and its golf course, challenging the Trump-Vance administration's unlawful and possibly hazardous dumping at the park as part of an effort to convert the public recreation space into an exclusive, high-end golf course.

East Potomac Park is seen as a model for public golf courses in America, and is still the most used public golf course in Washington, DC. Plaintiffs are represented by [Democracy Forward Foundation](#), [Lowell & Associates, PLLC](#), and Democracy Defenders Fund.

[Read More Here](#)

The February 6th court hearing on the Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB) case was largely procedural, but it clarified several important points.

Judge Dabney Friedrich focused on a recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in which the General Services Administration (GSA) purports to transfer decision-making authority over the EEOB to the President—despite earlier sworn statements that no such actions or other project planning would occur before mid-March.

At the Court's direction, the parties will now submit additional briefing focused specifically on the legality of the MOU.

Notably, in response to the Court's questions, government counsel confirmed on the record that no planning or implementation affecting the EEOB will occur before March 15th, whether by GSA or any other party in the MOU.

The Court directed Plaintiffs to amend their complaint to address these new developments. Cultural Heritage Partners will file that amended complaint on February 19th, at which point the Court will dismiss the government's earlier motion to dismiss and consider the updated legal issues raised by the MOU.

### Rebecca Miller, Executive Director of the DC Preservation League, Testifies at DC Council's Committee of the Whole Oversight Hearing on the Office of Planning

On February 12, 2026, Rebecca Miller, Executive Director of the DC Preservation League, testified at the DC Council's Committee of the Whole Oversight Hearing on the Office of Planning.

Miller stated DCPL's concerns about the DC Historic Preservation Office's financial support and the perennial issues of lack of enforcement and illegal construction. Additionally, in light of recent events related to the demolition of historic buildings at the Saint Elizabeths West Campus, Miller voiced concerns that city leaders are impeding the DC State Historic Preservation Office's role in reviewing and exercising its signatory authority of federally owned properties. The full testimony can be read at the below link.

[Read Full Testimony](#)

### White House East Wing Modernization Project Upcoming CFA and NCPC Meetings

The White House East Wing Modernization Project continues to move through the review process, with two upcoming meetings that allow for public participation.

The Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) is meeting on Thursday, February 19th at 9:00 am on Zoom to review the concept plan. **Advance registration is required to watch this meeting, and public comments must be submitted by February 18th at 4:00 pm. Please see the below links.**

The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPCC) is meeting on Thursday, March 5th at 10:00 am to review and potentially approve the preliminary and final site/building plans. Meeting details and public participation info can be found below.



[CFA Meeting Registration](#)

[CFA Public Comments Submission](#)



[NCPCC Meeting Details](#)

[NCPCC Public Participation Info](#)

## 2026 Preservation Initiatives Grant Application Deadline is March 20, 2026



The Preservation Initiatives Grant Program's 2026 application deadline is March 20, 2026. This grant program, administered by the DC Preservation League, provides matching grants to individuals and nonprofit organizations for preservation planning, research, outreach and education, and bricks and mortar projects related to historic and cultural sites. These grants are intended to help stimulate public discussion, introduce the public to preservation concepts and techniques, make technical expertise accessible, and encourage partnerships.

The program is supported by two separate funding sources and is focused on specific areas of the District: Brightwood Car Barn (Ward 4) and Virginia Avenue Tunnel (Area of Potential Effects in Southeast Washington).

If you have any questions, please contact Zachary Burt, DCPL's Community Outreach and Grants Manager, at [zach@dcpreservation.org](mailto:zach@dcpreservation.org)

[Grant Program Info](#)

[2026 Grant Application](#)

## In Case You Missed It!

Webinar: Exploring Black Built Modernist Buildings Along Benning Road



Photo courtesy of the DC Historic Preservation Office

The webinar Exploring Black Built Modernist Buildings Along Benning Road is now available for viewing on the DC Preservation League's YouTube channel. In this webinar, Imania Price, Historic Preservation Specialist at the DC Historic Preservation Office, presents a virtual walking tour of Benning Road NE, from the Benning Road Metro Station to the Minnesota Avenue Metro Station. Price discusses the roadway's historical development and how Black architects and builders shaped the neighborhood's built environment.

[Watch Webinar](#)

## Happening Next Week

### Virtual Book Talk: Model Schools in the Model City

Tuesday, February 24th | 7:00 - 8:30 pm ET  
Online via Zoom

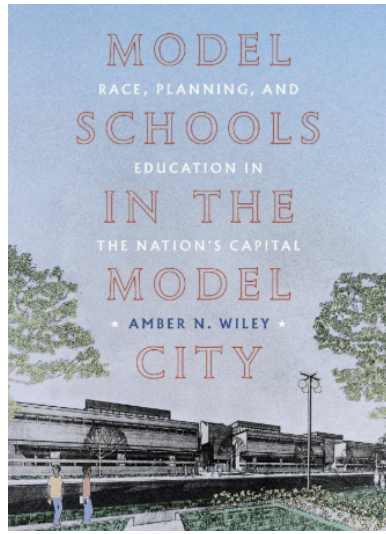


Photo Courtesy of Amber Wiley

Please join the DC Preservation League for this online event exploring [\*Model Schools in the Model City: Race, Planning and Education in the Nation's Capital\*](#) with its author, Amber N. Wiley.

The book examines how Black Washintonians used public education, specifically school architecture, to fight for racial equality from the post-Civil War era to the 1970s. It highlights how, despite systematic, white-led opposition, Black communities created schools as a symbol of liberation and community strength.

The book was recently named **one of ten finalists** for the 2026 ASALH Book Prize for Best New Book in African American History and Culture.

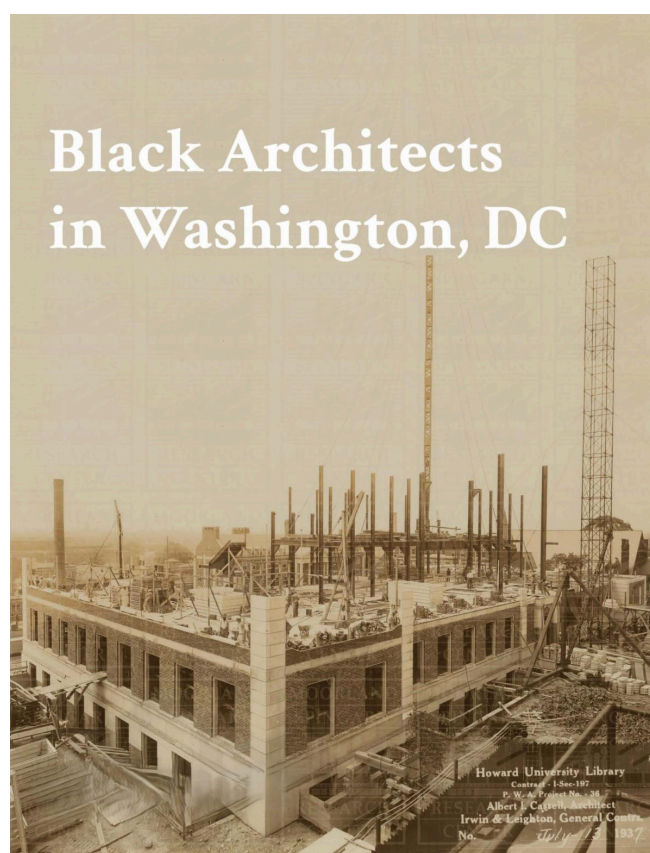
***This webinar is \$10 for DCPL Members and \$20 for General Public. Zoom link will be shared closer to the event date.***

[Register Here](#)

## Happening Next Week

### Webinar: Black Architects in Washington, DC

Thursday, February 26th | 7:00 - 8:30 pm ET  
Online via Zoom



Join the DC Preservation League for a presentation that will highlight the consultants' initial findings from the Black Architects in Washington, DC project, which will establish a historic context statement and identify a list of Black architects who had a significant impact on the built environment of Washington, DC. This event aims to offer insights and encourage discussion about the significant work being conducted in this area. It is a great opportunity to engage with the consultants regarding their findings and contribute to the ongoing conversation about the role of Black architects in our community.

***This webinar is free and open to the general public. Zoom link will be shared closer to the event date.***

[Register Here](#)

[Project Background](#)

## Identifying and Evaluating Sites Related to Black History



Youth Pride, Inc., 1536 U Street NW. This building was first identified through a historic context study documenting DC's Black Power Movement, 1966-1978, and is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.  
Photo courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University.

It can be difficult to determine which buildings and structures are the most historically significant to a community. Thus, historic context studies and multiple property documents are an important first step in nominating and designating historic landmarks. These documents provide a thematic context — typically focused on a specific period of time — related to a particular building type or ethnic group, and identify historic sites that may be eligible for historic landmark designation. These sites are then evaluated for potential nomination to the DC Inventory of Historic Sites and the National Register of Historic Places.

Through the efforts of the DC Preservation League, [many historic context studies and multiple property documents have been published](#), including *20th Century African American Civil Rights Sites in Washington, D.C., 1912-1974* and *The Black Power Movement in Washington, D.C., 1966-1978*. This documentation has led to new historic landmarks related to DC's Black history, including [Youth Pride, Inc.](#), pictured above.

Studies researching and documenting DC's Black Architects and the Black Women's Suffrage Movement are currently being produced and will soon be publicly accessible.

[African American Civil Rights Sites in DC](#)

[The Black Power Movement in DC](#)

## Additional Events in February

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
**PRESERVING AMERICA'S HISTORIC MUSIC VENUES**  
2026 WEBINAR SERIES  
FEBRUARY 25 @ 2P.M. ET

**DR. CHARLIE DAHAN, PROFESSOR**  
DEPARTMENT OF RECORDING INDUSTRY, MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY, MURFREESBORO, TN

**REBECCA MILLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
DC PRESERVATION LEAGUE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

**LJILJANA GRUBISIC, DIRECTOR OF ARCHIVES AND HOLLYWOOD BOWL MUSEUM**  
LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC, LOS ANGELES, CA

**Register Now**  
75 MINUTES  
VIA ZOOM  
[www.achp.gov/preservethepastbuildforthefuture](http://www.achp.gov/preservethepastbuildforthefuture)

### Preserve the Past, Build for the Future Webinar - Preserving America's Historic Music Venues

Wednesday, February 25th | 2:00 - 3:15 pm ET  
Online via Zoom

Join Rebecca Miller, Executive Director of the DC Preservation League, and other panelists for a webinar discussing the importance of historic music venues to our communities and how these cultural spaces are being actively preserved.

[Register Here](#)

### Combating Trump's Desecration of The White House and Other Federal Historic Buildings

Thursday, February 26th | 11:30 am - 2:00 pm ET  
Woman's National Democratic Club, 1526 New Hampshire Avenue NW

This event will feature a presentation by DC Preservation League Executive Director Rebecca Miller about recent executive actions, such as the demolition of the White House's East Wing and threats to other federal buildings, and current advocacy efforts by DCPL.

[Register Here](#)

## From Mind to Paper: Design Thinking Through Drawing Workshop

Thursday, February 26th | 4:00 - 5:30 pm ET  
AIA Global Campus for Architecture and Design, 1735 New York Avenue NW

This in-person workshop led by Bradford J. Prestbo, FAIA, and David Damon, AIA, will lead participants through sketching exercises of architectural elements, materials, spaces, and concepts.

[Register Here](#)

### Thank you to DCPL's Sponsors!



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