



WOMEN'S HISTORY
DESERVES A HOME IN
WASHINGTON, DC

THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM ACT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the National Women's History Museum?

The National Women's History Museum (NWHM), a nonprofit, nonpartisan institution dedicated to unearthing women's history and bringing it into our mainstream culture, currently operates as an award-winning, web-based Museum with a "preview" exhibit on display in its temporary offices. Several CyberExhibits and traveling exhibits bring legendary female heroes and courageous, but hidden, women to life. In addition to exhibits, NWHM provides valuable resources to educators and parents through materials available at www.nwhm.org, including lesson plans, quizzes, history guides and biographies.

Why does the National Women's History Museum need federal legislation to secure this site?

The National Women's History Museum would like to purchase a piece of federal property and build a privately-funded building. Since it is federal property in the heart of our nation's capital, Congress must pass legislation authorizing the purchase of this land.

Where is the proposed site in Washington, D.C.?

The proposed site is located at the corner of 12th Street and Independence Avenue S.W., in Washington, D.C. adjacent to the National Mall and close to other iconic national museums.

What is The National Women's History Museum Act? Who sponsored this legislation?

Representative Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY) introduced the House Resolution with bipartisan support. The legislation would allow NWHM to purchase a lot at 12th Street and Independence Avenue S.W. at fair-market value from the General Services Administration. On this site the NWHM will build the first major national repository of women's accomplishments and contributions in Washington, D.C. This legislation was co-sponsored by Congresswomen Rosa DeLauro, Marcy Kaptur, Deborah Pryce and Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton. Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) has agreed to introduce the Senate companion bill.

Why does Congress need to pass this legislation during this session?

It has been an historic, ground-breaking period for women, making it the perfect time for Congress to take action and pass this bill. The NWHM has been working for years to secure a site in Washington, D.C. to ensure it can continue its critical work educating and inspiring people of all generations. The bill's language has been previously vetted and approved, and the proposed site is currently vacant – making now the appropriate time for Congress to pass this legislation. The better question might be, "Why not?"

Under what terms will NWHM get the vacant lot at 12th and Independence?

The National Women's History Museum Act directs the General Services Administration to sell the lot at 12th Street and Independence Avenue S.W., in Washington, D.C. to the National Women's History Museum at fair-market value as determined by an appraiser. The bill allows three years to convey the lot and the Museum must begin construction within five years. If the lot is not used by the Museum, it reverts back to the federal inventory after 99 years.

What is the Right Here, Right Now initiative about?

The initiative is about giving women's history a home near the National Mall during a historic, ground-breaking period for women. The initiative is designed to raise awareness of The National Women's History Museum Act and the need for Congress to pass the legislation. Passage of this bill will allow the NWHM to begin raising private funds to purchase the land and to initiate the design process for what will be one of the first "green" museums in Washington, D.C.



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Who are the members of the National Women's History Museum?

NWHM is made up of a diverse group of supporters including its charter membership of 30,000 individuals, as well as a number of corporations, foundations and organizations. Under the leadership of President Joan Bradley Wages, NWHM has enjoyed support from 170 organizations serving as Museum sponsors and partners. In addition to those directly involved with advancing the growth of the Museum, volunteers have provided thousands of hours to support the Museum's mission and millions have accessed the free materials available online, making them members of the extended NWHM family.

Why does the National Women's History Museum need a site in Washington, D.C.?

The National Mall in Washington, D.C. is home to our nation's history and is visited by millions each year. It is only appropriate that the NWHM be housed near the National Mall, so that visitors can learn about women's vital role in history and feel empowered and inspired by the leadership role women have played in so many fields - from agriculture, medicine, science, and mathematics to religion, philosophy, literature, and the arts.

Is the National Women's History Museum affiliated with the Smithsonian?

The National Women's History Museum is a privately-funded organization and is not affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution.

Doesn't a national history museum for women already exist?

Although there are museums dedicated to different aspects of women and their history in the country, the National Women's History Museum will be the first major and comprehensive repository of women's history in Washington, D.C. Its location next to our nation's historic museum core is critical to ensuring that women have the proper place in history.

Why is this Museum necessary?

Women's history has been the "missing half" of our nation's heritage. The National Women's History Museum already plays a vital role documenting and preserving women's roles in history, but a permanent physical Museum will further highlight women's substantial contributions to the social, intellectual and scientific history. Archival materials and collections on women's history remain in storage, locked away from the public. The Museum will create a permanent and evolving institution dedicated to sharing and preserving the stories of women and inspiring future generations.

How much will it cost to build the Museum?

The National Women's History Museum is planning a "green" building estimated to cost between \$250 million to \$350 million. This estimate includes the complete planning, designing and building of the Museum and its exhibits, as well as a budget for the first two years of operation. Money will be raised through private sources. This Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified Museum will meet the U.S. Green Building Council's requirements, including sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

Where can I find additional information about the National Women's History Museum?

To learn more about the National Women's History Museum and to show your support for giving it a permanent home in Washington, D.C., please visit www.nwhm.org.