

THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM ACT FACT SHEET



WOMEN'S HISTORY
DESERVES A HOME IN
WASHINGTON, DC

Legislation allows land adjacent to the National Mall in Washington, D.C. to be purchased as a new home for a comprehensive museum dedicated to preserving and celebrating women's lives in society.

- Legislation will allow the National Women's History Museum (NWHM), a nonprofit and nonpartisan institution, to purchase land at 12th Street and Independence Avenue S.W. in Washington, D.C. at fair-market value. Since it is federal property, Congress must pass legislation authorizing the purchase of this land.
- The NWHM currently has an award-winning, web-based Museum (www.nwhm.org) as well as a permanent "preview" exhibit in its temporary offices. In addition, NWHM sponsors Online Exhibits, permanent and traveling exhibitions and classroom curricula that celebrate legendary female heroes as well as preserve the stories of women whose lives have too often been lost to history.
- On March 30, 2011, HR 1269, the National Women's History Museum Act, was introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) with 22 cosponsors: Representatives Sandy Adams (R-FL), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Karen Bass (D-CA), Judy Biggert (R-IL), Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU), Susan A. Davis (D-CA), Barney Frank (D-MA), Raul M. Grijalva (D-AZ), Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL), Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA), Jesse L. Jackson Jr. (D-IL), Barbara Lee (D-CA), Cynthia M. Lummis (R-WY), Doris O. Matsui (D-CA), Gwen Moore (D-WI), James P. Moran (D-VA), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Janice D. Schakowsky (D-IL), Jean Schmidt (R-OH), Jackie Speier (D-CA), and Fortney Pete Stark (D-CA).
- The Senate companion, S 680, was introduced by Senator Susan Collins also on March 30, 2011 with 19 cosponsors: Senators Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Mark Begich (D-AK), Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Kay Hagan (D-NC), Kay Bailey Hutchinson (R-TX), Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Joe Lieberman (I-CT), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Patty Murray (D-WA), Mark Pryor (D-AR), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Olympia Snowe (R-ME), and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI).

12th Street and Independence Avenue S.W. is the Right Place for the National Women's History Museum.

- NWHM has been working since 1998 to find a physical location to house the collections that it plans to use. Legislation offers a viable opportunity for NWHM to secure a physical space close to several of the nation's most iconic museums, such as the National Air and Space Museum, National American History Museum and the National Gallery of Art.
- The 12th and Independence location will allow for the building size to be comparable to other major national museums. This space will provide ample room for exhibits and educational activities.
- NWHM plans to build one of the first green museums in the nation's capital. 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. Energy-efficiencies built-in to the design of the building will greatly reduce operating costs and the District of Columbia's power usage.

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The NWHM has launched the Right Here, Right Now campaign to encourage Congress to pass legislation.

- Members of Congress have the opportunity for bipartisan activity to recognize women's successes, build on their accomplishments and empower future generations by passing The National Women's History Museum Act.
- Once the legislation is enacted, the Museum will have to raise private funds to purchase the vacant lot at fair market value within three years.
- The NWHM has widespread, bipartisan support. The President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History called for the creation of a women's history museum, recognizing NWHM, in Washington, D.C. in 1999. The Senate twice passed a bill in 2004 and 2007 on unanimous consent that would have allowed the NWHM to lease space in the Old Post Office Building. The bill did not come up before the House. In October 2009, the House passed HR 1700 to allow the purchase of a site at 12th Street and Independence Avenue S.W. The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works passed HR 1700 and S 2129. Time ran out to get the bill passed on the Senate floor.

About the National Women's History Museum

- The NWHM, incorporated in 1996 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational institution, features Online Exhibits such as *Rights for Women*, *Women With a Deadline: Female Printers, Publishers and Journalists* and *Women Olympians*. The Museum funds and produces temporary exhibitions including the traveling *Rights for Women*, *Clandestine Women: The Untold Stories of Women in Espionage* and *Partners in Winning the War—American Women in World War II*.
- NWHM recently launched *Chinese American Women: A History of Resilience and Resistance*, *Young and Brave: Girls Changing History* and will soon launch *Profiles in Motherhood*.
- Joan Bradley Wages, President & CEO of NWHM, is a founding board member and helped lead the effort to move the Suffrage Statue depicting founders of the U.S. suffrage movement from the U.S. Capitol Crypt upstairs into the Rotunda where it now stands.
- NWHM is made up of a diverse group of supporters including its charter membership of more than 40,000 individuals, as well as a number of corporations, foundations and organizations. In addition, the NWHM National Coalition represents a growing number of national women's professional and service organizations committed to supporting its mission.