Museum with a Mission

- Informational Graphic: Design: National Museum of African American History and Culture
- Informational Graphic: Structure: National Museum of African American History and Culture
- Map: On the Mall
- Artifacts: Documenting History and Culture (Slavery Era, Underground Railroad, Civil Rights and The Arts)
- Student Activity: When Should Places and Items Be Preserved?
Corona
The most distinctive feature of the building will be an inverse truncated pyramid called the Corona. This structure will be covered with bronze-coated panels held by a mesh of trusses. The design of the panels is inspired by the African American-made ironwork grilles from Charleston and New Orleans.

South Plaza and water feature
The South entry is composed of the Porch, a central water feature and a sloped lawn and hedge area that forms the edge of the Madison Drive sidewalk. Overlaid onto this entry will be inscriptions that establish a stronger connection to the content of the museum. While the exact content and layout of these inscriptions still need to be worked out, the design of the water feature has been modified to incorporate them into the basin.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the last museum to be built on the Mall was held February 22, 2012. The museum is scheduled to open in 2015.
Structure: National Museum of African American History and Culture

Mostly underground

The National Museum of African American History and Culture, which will open in late 2015, has been designed as a seven-level structure that has most of its 374,000 square feet buried underground. The new museum was approved by Congress in 2003 and is the culmination of efforts begun by black Civil War veterans to get a monument. It is expected to draw 3 million to 3.5 million visitors each year.

The site for the National Museum of African American History and Culture (circled on the photo) is bordered by Constitution Ave. on the north, Madison Dr. on the south, 14th St. NW on the east and 15th St. NW on the west.

Physical and symbolic elements take form in artistic renderings of “Refined Pavilion Alternative.”
DOCUMENTING HISTORY AND CULTURE

Artifacts: Slavery Era

Top: Ankle shackles used on slave ships that crossed the Atlantic, similar to those found on the *Henrietta Marie*. Right: A Manumission (freed slave) document from Arkansas, 1827, is among curated items for the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Left:
DOCUMENTING HISTORY AND CULTURE

Artifacts: Underground Railroad

Far left: Harriet Tubman’s hymn book acquired from historian Charles L. Blockson. According to the museum, the book opens to Tubman’s favorite hymns. Above: A lace shawl owned and worn by Harriet Tubman, given to her by Queen Victoria c. 1897. Left: Photo postcard of Harriet Tubman’s funeral.

Below:
DOCUMENTING HISTORY AND CULTURE

Artifacts: Civil Rights

Top right: A segregation-era sign, undated, from the 1950s transit system in Nashville, Tenn.

Lower right: A Pullman Porter's white cap that was worn by one of the top-ranked train car attendents between the 1920s and 1940s.

Below:

The dress seamstress Rosa Parks was making shortly before she was arrested for not giving up her seat on a bus in 1955.
DOCUMENTING HISTORY AND CULTURE
Artifacts: The Arts

Entertainer James Brown’s cape

Top: Louis Armstrong’s Selmer trumpet; a Selmer trumpet was given as a gift by King George V of the United Kingdom to Louis Armstrong. Below: Jacob Lawrence’s print series, “The Legend of John Brown,” 1977.

Below:
When Should Places and Items Be Preserved?

You have been given a necklace, a first edition of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*, and a newspaper from the day you were born. You like all of these gifts, but wonder if any of them should be protected and treated in a special manner.

This is the question that people, communities and preservationists across the world consider. What criteria should be used to determine the value of places and items? Historic, scientific, economic, cultural and personal factors enter into the decision to conserve or to preserve.

1. What characteristics, qualities and associations do any of these places and items need to possess to qualify for preservation?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animals</th>
<th>Jewelry</th>
<th>Post office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>Prairie land</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coastline land</td>
<td>Literary-art magazine</td>
<td>Presidential papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer</td>
<td>Monument</td>
<td>River</td>
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<tr>
<td>Desert land</td>
<td>Needlework</td>
<td>Swamp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family recipe</td>
<td>Newspaper</td>
<td>Statue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm land</td>
<td>One-room schoolhouse</td>
<td>Weeds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest land</td>
<td>Photograph</td>
<td>Wetland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House (more than 100 years old)</td>
<td>Plants</td>
<td>Yearbook</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. In what ways do the following organizations conserve, preserve, showcase and enhance the American character, culture, environment and history? Provide examples of education, research, interaction with the public and collaboration with outside organizations.

- Library of Congress
- National Archives and Records Administration
- National Gallery of Art
- Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
- Smithsonian Institution
- Smithsonian National Zoological Park
- United States Botanical Garden
- United States National Arboretum
- United States National Park Service

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May 8, 2012