



Museums & Heritage // News

Smithsonian selects preferred sites for long-awaited Latino and women's museums

The site selections must be approved or rejected by the US Congress by the end of the year

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The National Mall in Washington, DC.
Photo: Matti Blume/Wikimedia Commons.

The Smithsonian Institution has announced that it has selected two locations on the National Mall in Washington DC for its forthcoming museums, the National Museum of the American Latino and the American Women’s History Museum.

The recommended sites proposed for the long-awaited museums are a plot dubbed the “south monument site” on Jefferson Drive Southwest, an undeveloped parcel of land across the National Mall from the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and the “tidal basin site”, another undeveloped plot of land west of the United States Holocaust Memorial Basin that borders Raoul Wallenberg Place Southwest, Maine Avenue Southwest and Independence Avenue Southwest.

The [search for appropriate sites](#) for the museums follows decades-long campaigns for their creation, which Congress [approved in December 2020](#). The recommended locations are “considered the two optimal sites with the greatest potential based on site-selection evaluative criteria with stakeholder input”, according to a Smithsonian [statement](#) [↗](#).

The selection process, which has been overseen by the Baltimore-based architecture and engineering firm Ayers Saint Gross, has been complicated primarily due to the prestige placed on each museum’s proximity to the National Mall, and the scarcity of acreage along the two-mile promenade from the Lincoln Memorial to the US Capitol.

The museums will be realised with funds provided by the federal government and private sources. Projections related to budgeting have not been disclosed but are expected to surpass the \$540m designated to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, another long-anticipated institution that [opened in 2016](#), more than a decade after it was approved by Congress.

In addition to the forthcoming Latino and women's museums, campaigns are underway to creation national museums in Washington, DC devoted to [LGBTQ+](#) and [Asian Pacific American](#) history and culture.

Museums & Heritage	Smithsonian Institution	National Museum of the American Latino
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