



NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Date of Notice: 18 April 2025

Grantee: Friends of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences

Responsible Entity for Environmental Review: NC Museum of Natural Sciences (a Division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources)

Address:

Charles Yelton

Director of Regional Network | North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences

1626 MSC | Raleigh | NC 27699-1626

nepa.comments@naturalsciences.org

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Friends of the NC Museum of Natural Sciences.

On or about 13 May 2025 the NC Museum of Natural Sciences will authorize Friends of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences to submit a request to HUD for the release of Community Project funds under Grant number B-23-CP-NC-0953 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328) (the FY2023 Act), as amended, to undertake a project known as Education Center at the Prairie Ridge Ecostation for the purpose of providing \$750,000 toward the total project cost of \$2,362,093 to construct a \pm 2,600 SF Education Center building to house an office, restrooms for museum visitors, and a classroom space. Other site improvements include nine new parking spaces, a permeable plaza and walkway, and exterior lighting. Bid alternates include a cistern, permeable pavers rather than decomposed granite, and a wall for donor dedications.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The NC Museum of Natural Sciences has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at:

the office of Charles Yelton
Director of Regional Network | North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences
11 Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601

and may be examined or copied weekdays 10:00 A.M to 4:00 P.M.

You can also review the Environmental Review Record (ERR) at <https://cpd.hud.gov/cpd-public/environmental-reviews>

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to:

Charles Yelton
Director of Regional Network | North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences
1626 MSC | Raleigh | NC 27699-1626
nepa.comments@naturalsciences.org

All comments received by Monday, 12 May 2025 will be considered by the NC Museum of Natural Sciences prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The NC Museum of Natural Sciences certifies to HUD that Pamela Brewington Cashwell in her capacity as Secretary of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows Friends of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the NC Museum of Natural Sciences' certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the NC Museum of Natural Sciences; (b) the NC Museum of Natural Sciences has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred

costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be emailed to GFORROF@hud.gov (which is preferred) or addressed as follows:

Matthew King, PhD
Director
Office of Community Planning & Development
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Greensboro Field Office
Asheville Building
1500 Pinecroft Road, Suite 401
Greensboro, NC 27407-3838
P: (336) 851-8006

Potential objectors should contact Dr. Matthew King at HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

**Charles Yelton
Director of Regional Network | North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences**