

**Draft Programmatic Agreement for Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Activities Arlington
National Cemetery
Consulting Party Meeting Minutes
7 July 2026
Virtual Meeting Hosted on Microsoft Teams**

AGENCY ATTENDEES:

Army National Military Cemeteries	Caitlin Smith	Cultural Resources Program Manager
	Becky Wardwell	Media Chief, Public Affairs Office
	Elizabeth Leonard	Outreach Specialist, Public Affairs Office
	Jennifer Van Vleck	Public Affairs Specialist and Historian (Contractor)

FEDERAL CONSULTING PARTIES

Air Force District of Washington	Darren Padilla	Air Force Memorial Strategic Advisor
Commission of Fine Arts	Sarah Batcheler	Assistant Secretary
	Daniel Fox	Senior Advisor
	Carlton Hart	Senior Urban Planner
National Capitol Planning Commission	Lee Webb	Federal Preservation Officer
National Park Service, George Washington Memorial Parkway	Megan Bailey	Cultural Resources Program Manager

OTHER CONSULTING PARTIES AND ATTENDEES

Arlington Department of Community Planning, Housing & Development	Mical Durak	Historic Preservation Associate Planner
Arlington House Descendants' Family Circle	Susan Vogel	Descendant & Family Circle Representative
National Trust for Historic Preservation	Robert Nieweg	Senior Vice President
Society for History in the Federal Government	Kenneth Felix	President
Virginia Department of Transportation	Burton, Robert	Land Use Area Manager, Permits
	Belcher, Timothy	Assistant District Location and Design Engineer
	Marc Cioffi	Transportation Land Use Development
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority	Catherine Jones	Senior Transportation Planner
Military Women's Memorial	Amy Sorvillo	Memorial Director
	Clare Tomasetti	Chief of Staff / COO
No affiliation provided	Stacy [No last name provided]	No title provided

1. Introductions

- a. Caitlin Smith, ANMC Cultural Resources Program Manager: Lead Presenter
- b. Consulting Parties in attendance

2. Welcome and Administrative Remarks

Caitlin Smith, ANMC Cultural Resources Program Manager, welcomed participants and reviewed meeting procedures, including the use of Microsoft Teams, participation protocols, recording of the meeting, preparation of a transcript, and procedures for submitting written comments. Participants were informed that the meeting transcript and minutes would become part of the project's administrative record and that written comments are requested by July 13, 2026.

3. Presentation Summary

- a. ANMC provided an overview of the proposed Programmatic Agreement, including:
 - i. The purpose of the Programmatic Agreement and its use as a Section 106 program alternative for recurring operation, maintenance, and repair activities.
 - ii. The role and responsibilities of consulting parties during the Section 106 consultation process.
 - iii. Background on Arlington National Cemetery, its operational mission, historic significance, and cultural resources.
 - iv. History of the existing 2014 Programmatic Agreement, subsequent bridge agreements, and development of the proposed 2026 Programmatic Agreement through consultation with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP).
 - v. The distinction between activities eligible for streamlined review under the Programmatic Agreement and undertakings requiring the standard Section 106 review process.
 - vi. Major revisions incorporated into the proposed Programmatic Agreement, including updated agency references, revised lists of covered undertakings and historic resources, updated archaeological survey information, emergency procedures, archaeological discovery protocols, curation provisions, and incorporation of the Millennium and Southern Expansion projects.
- b. No decisions were requested of the consulting parties during the presentation.

4. Consulting Party Comments

- a. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA)
 - i. Daniel Fox noted that execution of the Programmatic Agreement would not replace or supersede the Commission of Fine Arts' independent statutory review responsibilities. He requested additional clarification regarding the proposed emergency procedures, specifically recommending that the definition of an emergency be more clearly articulated to minimize the potential for differing interpretations.
 - ii. ANMC acknowledged the comment and stated that the emergency provisions would be reviewed further in coordination with DHR and ACHP to determine whether additional clarification or examples would be appropriate.

- b. National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)
 - i. Lee Webb stated that, while NCPC is not an entitled signatory to the Programmatic Agreement, projects at Arlington National Cemetery remain subject to NCPC review authorities where applicable. He recommended that the Programmatic Agreement include language acknowledging the continuing review responsibilities of both the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts. Mr. Webb indicated that proposed language would be submitted as part of the written comment period.
 - ii. ANMC thanked Mr. Webb and indicated that his proposed language would be considered during revision of the draft Programmatic Agreement.
- c. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA)
 - i. Sarah Batcheler requested additional clarification regarding the distinction between activities eligible for streamlined review and those requiring standard Section 106 review. She recommended providing additional examples and explanatory language to improve consistency in interpretation over the life of the Programmatic Agreement, particularly as agency personnel change.
 - ii. ANMC explained that Attachment E and the agency's internal streamlined Section 106 review form are used together to evaluate whether proposed activities qualify for streamlined review and whether they may affect adjacent historic resources. ANMC agreed to consider whether additional explanatory language would improve clarity in the final agreement.

5. Summary of Comments

- a. Consulting party comments focused primarily on:
 - iii. Clarifying the definition and application of emergency actions.
 - iv. Acknowledging the continuing independent review authorities of the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts.
 - v. Providing additional clarity regarding the scope of activities eligible for streamlined review and the distinction between exempt and non-exempt undertakings.
- b. No objections to the continued development of the Programmatic Agreement were raised during the meeting.

6. Next Steps

- a. ANMC outlined the following schedule:
 - vi. Written comments from consulting parties are requested by July 13, 2026.
 - vii. Meeting transcript and meeting minutes will be posted to the Arlington National Cemetery "Public Notices" webpage.
 - viii. ANMC will review and respond to comments received during the consultation period.
 - ix. A revised draft Programmatic Agreement will be developed in consultation with DHR and ACHP.

- x. Following agency review and concurrence, the final Programmatic Agreement will be circulated for execution by the entitled parties and any concurring parties.
- xi. ANMC intends to complete execution of the Programmatic Agreement prior to expiration of the current bridge agreement in February 2027.

7. Adjournment

With no additional comments or questions, the meeting concluded. ANMC thanked all participants for their attendance, participation, and continued involvement in the Section 106 consultation process.