

POSITIVE DECLARATION
NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PROJECT: Metropolitan Museum of Art—Tang Wing CEQR: 25DPR007M	LEAD AGENCY: New York City Department of Parks & Recreation The Arsenal, Central Park 830 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10065
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DATE ISSUED: February 25, 2025

TYPE OF ACTION: Type I

PROJECT NAME AND LOCATION

The Metropolitan Museum of Art (the Met or the Museum) is seeking discretionary actions in connection with the proposed replacement of one wing in the Museum's existing building complex on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, within Central Park. The proposed Oscar L. Tang and H.M. Agnes Hsu-Tang Wing (the Tang Wing) for Modern and Contemporary Art would be integrated into the southwest corner of the Museum's existing building complex, replacing the existing Lila Acheson Wallace (LAW) Wing at this location. The Museum is located within Central Park on the west side of Fifth Avenue between 80th and 84th Streets (1000 Fifth Avenue, Block 1111, portion of Lot 1).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Tang Wing would replace the existing deteriorating building envelope of the LAW Wing and provide the Met with appropriately scaled gallery space designed for exhibiting modern and contemporary art of different scales, forms, and themes while also establishing physical and visual connections to nearby galleries. This Proposed Project would provide for improved accessibility for visitors of all abilities throughout the Tang Wing and would remediate significant sustainability challenges resulting from the design of the LAW Wing. The LAW Wing is 180,400-gross square foot (gsf) (123,100 gsf above grade), while the Tang Wing is planned to be approximately 163,100 gsf (124,900 gsf above grade), resulting in an addition of approximately 1,800 gsf above grade. The Proposed Project includes landscape reconstruction and improvements in the approximately 144,850 sf area of Central Park surrounding the Tang Wing. The proposed landscape reconstruction and improvements have been designed by the Central Park Conservancy in coordination with NYC Parks and the Met. The Proposed Project is expected to be constructed over a period of 40 months, starting in 2026. The Tang Wing construction—including enabling work within the Museum to facilitate the demolition of the LAW Wing and construction of the Tang Wing—is expected to be complete and operational in 2029, with the landscaping reconstruction and improvements completed and Tang Wing opening to the public in 2030.

REQUIRED APPROVALS

The Proposed Project will require discretionary actions in connection with the proposed replacement of the LAW Wing with the Tang Wing. The proposed discretionary actions

required to facilitate the Proposed Project that are subject to the City Environmental Quality Review Act (CEQR) are currently anticipated to consist of approval by NYC Parks and authorization of potential funding by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA). The Proposed Project would also include various ministerial actions, including approval and a report from the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), as well as design approval of the landscape restoration and improvements by the New York City Public Design Commission (PDC). The Museum is a National Historic Landmark (NHL), is listed on the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places (S/NR), and is a New York City Landmark (NYCL) (exterior and portions of the interior). Central Park is also a NHL, S/NR-listed, and is a New York City Scenic Landmark (NYCSL).

The actions necessary to implement the Proposed Project require environmental review in accordance with City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR). As detailed above, NYC Parks is the Lead Agency for the environmental review of the proposed actions.

In 1876, the New York State legislature set land aside for the Museum in what was then the new Central Park, pursuant to a New York State statute which authorized the City's then Department of Public Parks to enter into a contract (the Museum's lease) granting the Museum exclusive use of the buildings erected or to be erected within the authorized lease boundaries. Thus, the Museum is a permitted use in the Park, and no further legislative action or disposition of property is required for the Proposed Project. Since Central Park is City-owned mapped parkland, the Project Site does not bear a zoning designation and is not subject to the New York City Zoning Resolution.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT EFFECT

An Environmental Assessment Statement for the Proposed Project was completed on February 25, 2025 and is expressly incorporated herein. In accordance with Executive Order 91 of 1977, as amended, and the Rules of Procedure for City Environmental Quality Review, found at Title 62, Chapter 5 of the Rules of the City of New York, NYC Parks, as the lead agency for the referenced project, has determined that the Proposed Project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, an Environmental Impact Statement is required to evaluate and disclose the extent to which impacts may occur and will be prepared before NYC Parks determines whether to approve the project. Aspects of the Proposed Project that may require evaluation of potential environmental impacts include:

- (1) Changes to existing open space in Central Park;
- (2) Incremental shadows that may affect Central Park or any other publicly accessible open spaces, or any sunlight-sensitive architectural and/or natural resources in the area;
- (3) Changes related to historic and cultural resources, including the Museum's existing building complex;
- (4) Changes related to urban design and visual resources, including the pedestrian's experience of public space;
- (5) Changes related to natural resources, including removal of trees;
- (6) Impacts related to potential pathways for human exposure from hazardous materials;
- (7) Changes related to transportation, due an incremental decrease in spaces at the Museum's public parking facility;
- (8) Construction impacts related to open space and park users, traffic and transportation, air quality, noise and vibration, hazardous materials, natural resources, and historic resources.

Accordingly, NYC Parks directs that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) be prepared in accordance with 6 NYCRR 617.9(b) and Sections 6-08 and 6-09 of Executive Order No. 91 of 1977, as amended.

PUBLIC SCOPING

Public Scoping is a process whereby the public is invited to comment on the proposed scope of analysis planned for the DEIS. A Draft Scope of Work has been prepared outlining the proposed content of the DEIS.

A Public Scoping Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2025 from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM to provide a forum for public comments on this Draft Scope of Work. To allow for broad public participation options, the meeting will be held remotely.

NYC Parks requests public comments on the Draft Scope of Work, including issues and analysis topics to be included in the scope of work; methodologies for analysis (such as the size of a study area, the type of data to be gathered, or the type of analysis to be conducted); alternatives to the Proposed Project; and special conditions or concerns that NYC Parks should consider.

Oral and written comments on the Draft Scope of Work can be submitted at the Public Scoping Meeting. Guidelines for public participation will be available at the meeting. Written comments will also be accepted by NYC Parks at the address or email address below until 5:00 PM on Friday, April 18, 2025.

Copies the Draft Scope of Work, Environmental Assessment Statement and Positive Declaration are available for public inspection at the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, The Arsenal in Central Park, and at Yorkville Library, 222 East 79th Street; and can be obtained online at <https://www.nycgovparks.org/park-features/central-park/met-tang-wing> or by contacting NYC Parks at the address below:

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The Positive Declaration has been prepared in accordance with Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law.



Emily Humes
Director of Environmental Review and Program Delivery
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation