



WOMEN'S HISTORY
DESERVES A HOME IN
WASHINGTON, DC

Contact:

Joan Wages
703-461-1920
jwages@nwhm.org

THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM ACT FACT SHEET

The National Women's History Museum Act allows land adjacent to the National Mall in Washington, D.C. to be purchased as a new home for a comprehensive museum dedicated to preserving and celebrating women's roles in society.

- The National Women's History Museum Act will allow the National Women's History Museum (NWHM), a nonprofit and nonpartisan institution, to purchase land at 12th Street and Independence Avenue S.W. in Washington, D.C. at fair-market value. Since it is federal property, Congress must pass legislation authorizing the purchase of this land.
- The NWHM currently has an award-winning, web-based Museum (www.nwhm.org) as well as a permanent "preview" exhibit in its temporary offices. In addition, NWHM sponsors CyberExhibits, permanent and traveling exhibitions and classroom curricula that celebrate legendary female heroes as well as preserve the stories of women whose lives have too often been lost to history.
- Representative Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY) re-introduced the National Women's History Museum Act (H.R. 1700) with bipartisan support on March 25, 2009. Other original co-sponsors include Representatives Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Mary Fallin (R-OK), Mazie K. Hirono (D-HI), Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), Carolyn C. Kilpatrick (D-MI), James P. Moran (D-VA), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC At-Large), Janice D. Schakowsky (D-IL), and Diane E. Watson (D-CA). Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) will re-introduce the Senate companion bill shortly.

12th Street and Independence Avenue S.W. is the Right Place for the National Women's History Museum.

- NWHM has been working since 1998 to find a physical location to house the collections that it plans to use. The National Women's History Museum Act offers a viable opportunity for NWHM to secure a physical space close to several of the nation's most iconic museums, such as the National Air and Space Museum, National American History Museum and the National Gallery of Art.
- The 12th and Independence location will allow for building size comparable to other major national museums. This space will provide ample room for exhibits and educational activities.
- NWHM plans to build one of the first green museums in the nation's capital. This Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified Museum will meet the U.S. Green Building Council's requirements, including sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality. Energy-efficiencies built-in to the design of the building will greatly reduce operating costs and the District of Columbia's power usage.



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The NWHM has launched the Right Here, Right Now campaign to encourage Congress to pass The National Women's History Museum Act.

- Members of Congress have the opportunity for bipartisan activity to recognize women's successes, build on their accomplishments and empower future generations by passing The National Women's History Museum Act.
- Once the legislation is enacted, the Museum will have to raise private funds to purchase the vacant lot at market value within three years.
- The National Women's History Museum Act is ready for Congress to act on immediately. The bill is the exact vetted and cleared language previously introduced in earlier congresses for the National Health Museum. Once the health museum chose to move to Atlanta, the legislation was re-introduced with only a name change to quickly facilitate Congress' action.
- The NWHM has widespread, bipartisan support. The President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History called for the creation of a women's history museum, recognizing NWHM, in Washington, D.C. in 1999. The Senate twice passed a bill in 2004 and 2007 on unanimous consent that would have allowed the NWHM to lease space in the Old Post Office Building. The bill did not come up before the House.

About the National Women's History Museum

- The NWHM, incorporated in 1996 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational institution, features CyberExhibits such as *Rights for Women*, *Women With a Deadline: Female Printers, Publishers and Journalists* and *Women Olympians*. The Museum funds and produces temporary exhibitions including the traveling *Rights for Women*, *Clandestine Women: The Untold Stories of Women in Espionage* and *Partners in Winning the War—American Women in World War II*.
- NWHM recently launched *Chinese American Women: A History of Resilience and Resistance* and *Young and Brave: Girls Changing History*.
- Joan Bradley Wages, President of NWHM, is a founding board member and helped lead the effort to move the Suffrage Statue depicting founders of the U.S. suffrage movement from the U.S. Capitol Crypt upstairs into the Rotunda where it now stands.
- NWHM is made up of a diverse group of supporters including its charter membership of 30,000 individuals, as well as a number of corporations, foundations and organizations. In addition, the NWHM National Coalition represents a growing number of national women's professional and service organizations committed to supporting its mission.