



Association of Professional
GENEALOGISTS

3 June 2025

Mayor Muriel Bowser
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mayor Bowser:

The Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) writes to express its dismay at the proposed elimination of funding in the FY2026 budget for the District of Columbia State Archives building at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) campus. APG urges you to collaborate with the District of Columbia Council to reinstate the funding and allow this essential project to continue.

APG is a not-for-profit 501(c)(6) professional organization dedicated to the growth and enhancement of professional genealogy. Founded in 1979, APG is the world's largest association for professional genealogists, representing more than 2,000 members in forty countries around the world. The majority of our members are sole practitioners or operate small businesses. The previously-planned DC State Archives building will not only preserve DC's cultural heritage and history, but it will provide additional opportunities for APG's many members' small businesses to research and work in the facility.

In the past, APG and its members have enthusiastically supported the construction of the new DC State Archives building. This year, progress felt tangible with the goal of a building in sight, the architectural plans completed, an MOU with UDC signed, zoning and permits approved, and the demolition and preparation of the site begun. Pulling the plug at this point would leave a massive eyesore and unsafe structure on the UDC campus, while wasting millions of taxpayer dollars.

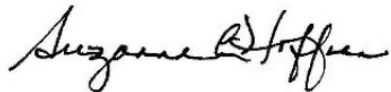
Under the stewardship of Dr. Lopez Matthews, DC Archives has digitized more than 20,000 birth and death records and more than 200,000 land record cards. Dr. Matthews implemented DC Archives' first collections management system, and a digital preservation system, all in anticipation of a move to a state-of-the-art facility complete with appropriate environmental

controls, loading dock, and research space to access and research textual records. The suggestion of displacing the Department of Education records and the museum at the Charles Sumner School is not a feasible solution. This puts the District's valuable collection at risk, and would ensure that the records of the history of DC remain inaccessible.

APG urges you to set a positive example and continue the completion of the DC State Archives building at the University of the District of Columbia campus. The project warrants full funding and no further delays, especially during a period in which access to history and archival records are under threat.

DC's records deserve to be in a world-class facility. APG and its members eagerly await a new DC Archives that is staffed with a full complement of professionals, so that the rich and complex history of the residents of the District of Columbia can be preserved, understood, and taught.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Suzanne L. Hoffman".

Suzanne L. Hoffman

President, Association of Professional Genealogists

president@apgen.org

CC:

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State Archivist and Public Records Administrator Dr. Lopez Matthews, lopez.matthews@dc.gov