



18 April 2023

Chairman, Phil Mendelson  
At-Large Councilmember, Anita Bonds  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
Via Electronic Mail: [pmendelson@dccouncil.us](mailto:pmendelson@dccouncil.us); [abonds@dccouncil.us](mailto:abonds@dccouncil.us)

Dear Chairman Mendelson and Councilmember Bonds:

The Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) writes to enthusiastically support a supplementary budget appropriation of \$30 million to provide additional support necessary for the construction of the new District of Columbia Archives building. We also urge the Council to fully fund four new full-time employee positions for the District of Columbia Archives.

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, and the future DC Archives will draw APG members to research and work in the facility.

Genealogists know the District for its research institutions: National Archives, Library of Congress, the Washingtoniana Collection at the DC Public Library, and various university collections. The Archives of the District of Columbia is nearly impossible to access for research. By constructing a new Archives building, the District can leverage the concentration of scholars familiar with other DC resources, and draw in more visitors who seek access to records in order to study the city's diverse and under-appreciated history. A new Archives will not only preserve cultural heritage, but will provide additional opportunities for APG's many members' small businesses.

The documents and records of the District of Columbia have been neglected and inaccessible for decades. These priceless pieces of paper provide our members with access to long-sought-after answers to the lives and histories of DC residents. It is no secret that the collection of records requires comprehensive cataloging and preservation; however, without access, the stories cannot be told and the history cannot be understood.

DC's State Archivist and Public Records Administrator requires a full staff to accomplish the mission of the Office of Public Records and Archives, as well as participate in the planning, construction and operation of the new archival facility. Funding for four additional positions, to be filled as soon as possible, will assist the State Archivist in the mission of the office and the additional duties necessary as the building project moves forward.



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. With the help of the Council of the District of Columbia, and its support of the \$30 million in funding plus support of additional full-time positions, this can become a reality.

Sincerely,

Annette Burke Lyttle  
President  
Association of Professional Genealogists

CC:

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At-Large Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr., [rwhite@dccouncil.us](mailto:rwhite@dccouncil.us)

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State Archivist and Public Records Administrator Dr. Lopez Matthews, [lopez.matthews@dc.gov](mailto:lopez.matthews@dc.gov)