

**National Endowment of the Humanities
Public Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental
Assessment
for the
Georgia O’Keeffe Museum Construction Project:
Building a New Campus for the 21st Century**

To: All Interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum (GOKM), has been conditionally awarded a Challenge Infrastructure and Capacity Building Grant (CHA-268762-20) from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The Georgia O’Keeffe Museum will create a new museum campus in downtown Sante Fe, New Mexico.

The intent of the new GOKM is to create a welcoming and accessible campus for visitors and communities through innovative presentations of Georgia O’Keeffe’s art, the northern New Mexican landscape, and the lived experiences of Georgia O’Keeffe within the region. The new GOKM building will augment the functions of the existing ~12,000-square-foot, one-story, commercial structure at 217 Johnson Street, Santa Fe.

GOKM proposes to demolish an existing 19,000-square-foot commercial structure (originally built as a Safeway grocery store) and construct a new 56,288-square-foot building to house exhibition galleries, education facilities, visitor amenities, and collections storage and care spaces on two adjacent privately owned lots at 123 and 135 Grant Avenue in downtown Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87501. The lots are adjacent to the Marcy Street Offices, which serve as administrative offices for GOKM and the historic Otero-Bergere House, the location of the GOKM Research Center, Library, and Archives. The project location is in a highly disturbed urban area in the heart of downtown Santa Fe and surrounded by local businesses.

Demolition activities consist of removal of the existing Safeway building, parking lot, and parking kiosk, the removal of 21 feet of the existing white picket fence, and removal of a stuccoed block wall to create a campus-type plan with an unimpeded flow between the two structures and establish a public garden space that will connect Grant and Sheridan Avenues.

The proposed action includes excavation for the ground floor and basement. The below ground construction will include spaces for a collections vault, a conservation lab, a digital imaging lab, workspaces, and other storage. The total depth of excavation will be 20 feet deep (6 meters) with a width of ~201 feet (61 meters) by ~179 feet (55 meters). The building includes an elevator shaft and will include a ramped construction entry from Grant Avenue.

The proposed landscaping will consist of refurbishing, maintaining, and adding and replacing multiple trees and gardens. New gates and pathways will be constructed for the public to walk on and through, throughout the GOKM campus. Temporary facilities for the construction activities will be located in the southeast corner of the lot at 123 Grant Avenue and include the field office, storage areas, sheds, and fencing, project identification sign, access routes, temporary utility routes and connections (including temporary electricity and lighting), sanitary facilities, trash receptacles, barriers for sediment and erosion control, and protection.

NEH Challenge funds will be used for excavation and archaeological recovery activities.

This public notice invites public comments on the proposed project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and NEH's implementing guidance. An Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed alternatives on the human and natural environments. This public notice invites public comments on the proposed project in accordance with NEPA.

Separately, a Memorandum of Agreement under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. §306108) and its implementing regulations (36 C.F.R. Part 800) to address adverse effects to historic properties from the ground disturbance and archaeological activity. The draft MOA is being prepared and a draft is included in the draft EA. The MOA will be executed before the final EA is issued.

NEH posts its NEPA documents at [Environmental Assessments and Public Notices \(https://www.neh.gov/our-work/historic-preservation-environmental\)](https://www.neh.gov/our-work/historic-preservation-environmental). The draft EA and draft Finding of No Significant Impact are available online for review and comment at:

- [Draft EA CHA-268762 Georgia O'Keeffe Museum \(https://www.neh.gov/sites/default/files/inline-files/Draft%20EA%20CHA-268762%20Georgia%20O'Keeffe%20Museum.pdf\)](https://www.neh.gov/sites/default/files/inline-files/Draft%20EA%20CHA-268762%20Georgia%20O'Keeffe%20Museum.pdf)
- [Draft FONSI CHA-268762 Georgia O'Keeffe Museum \(https://www.neh.gov/sites/default/files/inline-files/Draft%20FONSI%20CHA-268762%20Georgia%20O'Keeffe%20Museum.pdf\)](https://www.neh.gov/sites/default/files/inline-files/Draft%20FONSI%20CHA-268762%20Georgia%20O'Keeffe%20Museum.pdf)

Written comments regarding this action should be submitted no later than 5 pm on July 5, 2024, to Ann Piesen, NEH Federal Preservation and Environmental Officer at apiesen@neh.gov. If no substantive comments are received by this deadline, the draft EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and Section 106 determination of no adverse effect will become final and be published by NEH. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.