

# Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden Sculpture Garden Revitalization

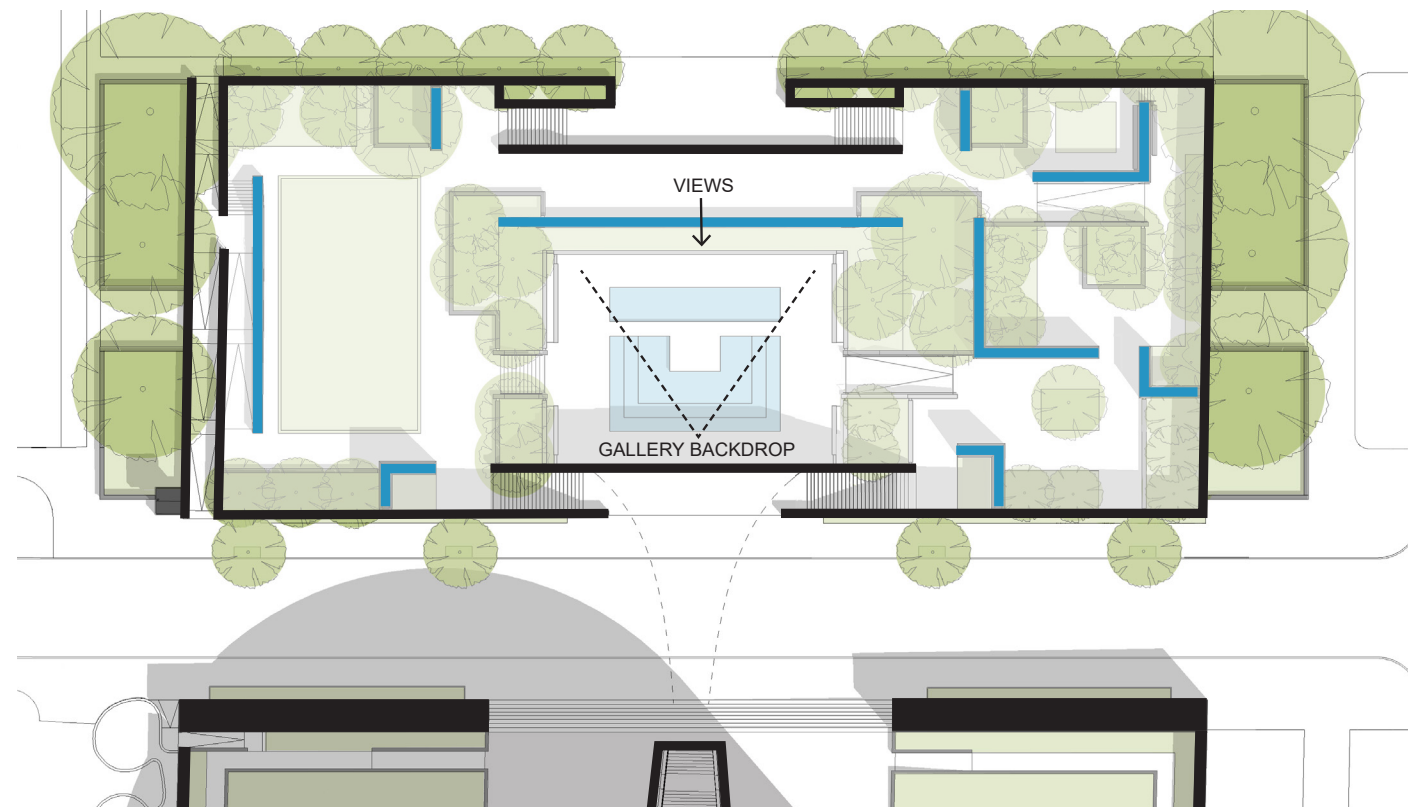
Section 106 Consulting Parties Wall Mock-Up Open House, July 7, 2021



Rendering of the East Gallery.

In April 2021, the Smithsonian completed a full-size mock-up in the Sculpture Garden featuring a stacked stone wall, Swenson Pink granite bench, reclaimed granite pavers, lighting, proposed groundcover plantings, and soil profile. The mock-up includes two sculptures to demonstrate compatibility with the stacked stone wall and aggregate concrete wall backdrops. The stacked stone height and reveal at the intersection with the concrete perimeter walls reflect the proposed design wall hierarchy of primary aggregate concrete perimeter walls and secondary stacked stone walls. The mock-up was constructed in collaboration between Japanese and American teams of stonemasons.

Hiroshi Sugimoto's use of stacked stone is thoughtfully conceived of and proposed with enormous respect for the needs of artworks, creating effective and enriching environments for their display. Created by master artisans, the stacked stone wall mock-up demonstrates the warm color tones and organic shapes visually complement the aggregate in the concrete walls as well as the sculpture. The composition of the stacked stone walls vary, following the natural arrangement in fitting stones together.



Key plan illustrating new stacked stone gallery walls (in blue) set within recessed grade of Sculpture Garden framed by concrete perimeter walls (in black). The inner partition wall is the unifying element between east and west galleries within this system of interior walls.

Please submit comments to [BondC@si.edu](mailto:BondC@si.edu) by July 21, 2021.



# Inner Partition Wall



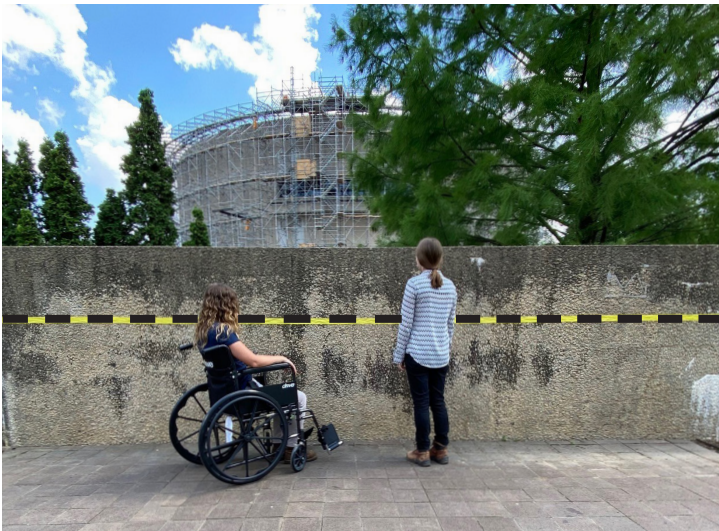
Views of the proposed stacked stone inner partition wall from the Central Gallery (top) and Allée (bottom).



Views of the inner partition wall reconstructed as it exists today from the Central Gallery (top) and Allée (bottom).



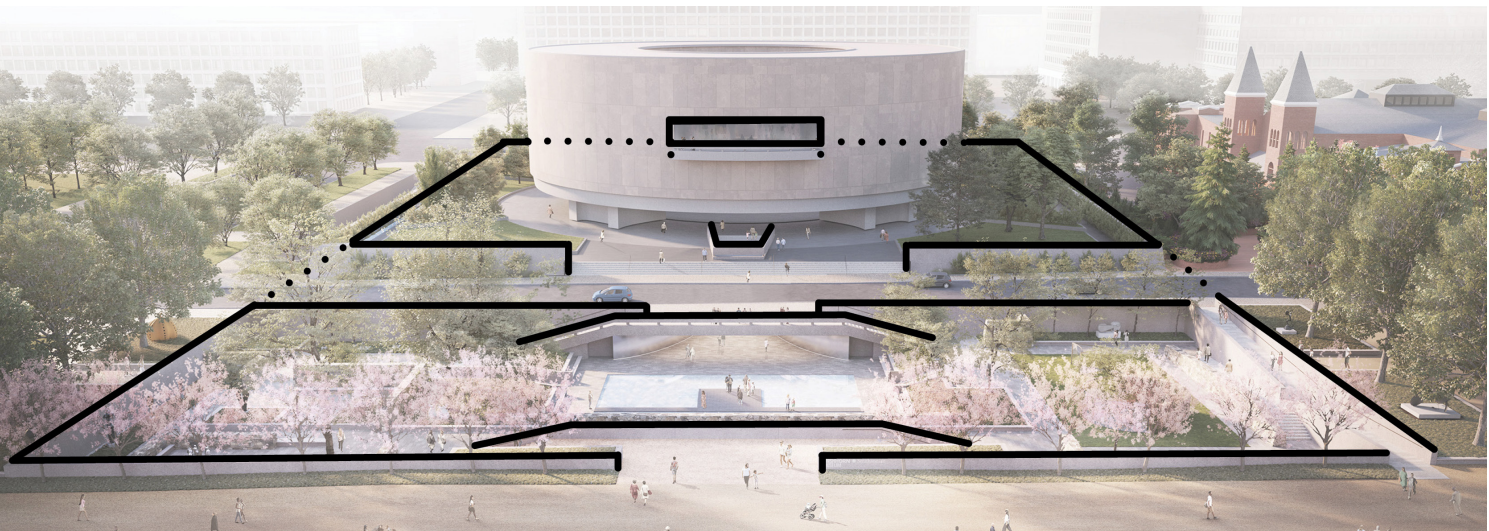
View of the inner partition wall from the Central Gallery illustrating the proposed reduction in height.



View of the inner partition wall from the Allée illustrating the proposed reduction in height from 5'-3" to 3'-6".



Rendering of the proposed Central Gallery,



Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden campus illustrating the aggregate concrete perimeter walls in black.

The stacked stone inner partition wall anchors the design's overall integrity, knitting together the Sculpture Garden's east, central, and west interior galleries. It serves as a rich and dynamically textured focal point to the reopened underground passage and as a backdrop to the Central Gallery. As an inner gallery wall, it serves the curatorial vision for the Hirshhorn, providing flexibility in sculptural backdrops for the Central Gallery and Allée.

As a distinctive setting for performance art, the stacked stone wall adds visual interest and emphasis, similar to the articulated walls of many of the best historic and modern performance venues. The stacked stone material and wall profile provide improved acoustics for performance art by reducing acoustical echo. The lowered height provides equitable views to and from the Allée to improve visitor wayfinding and strengthen the connection between the National Mall and Hirshhorn.

Reconstructing the inner partition wall in concrete would result in an oppressive and monolithic condition. Use of concrete for the inner partition wall diminishes curatorial flexibility, programming, and acoustical performance of the Central Gallery. The existing height of the wall blocks views to the Museum for many visitors. In its existing form and material, the inner partition wall does not support the Hirshhorn program nor visitor experience to its full potential.

To recall its original construction, the inner partition wall will feature Swenson Pink granite. It will not be directly visible from the National Mall, minimizing adverse effects on the Hirshhorn's relationship with the National Mall Historic District. The north overlook and raised perimeter wall along the north edge will create a strong sense of enclosure and cohesion. Visitors will continue to identify the Hirshhorn campus with the consistent use of concrete perimeter walls.