



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

OFFICE OF CHALLENGE GRANTS

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### **Regarding the Initiation of Section 106 Review of The Studio Museum in Harlem Expansion Project**

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has offered The Studio Museum in Harlem (Studio Museum) a grant for facility expansion. NEH is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. This public notice is issued as part of NEH's responsibilities under 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the regulations which implement Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, 16 U.S.C. § 470. NEH, as a funding agency, is required by regulation to identify and assess the effects of any proposed actions on historic properties. If any proposed action will have an adverse effect on historic resources, NEH works with the appropriate parties to seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects. Additionally, the Section 106 regulations require NEH to consider the views of the public on preservation issues when making final decisions that affect historic properties.

The Studio Museum's project proposes to expand its facility using an adjacent lot that currently holds its atrium, sculpture court and lower level gallery. The vacant lot occupies space between the Studio Museum's 144 West 125th Street space and the building known as H.F.C. Koch Department Store (Koch Store) at 132 West 125th Street. The Studio's Museum existing facility is not eligible for listing on the National Register but the Koch Store building is eligible for listing. The New York State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), through a letter to the Studio Museum dated March 12, 2015, has determined that Studio Museum's proposed construction will have No Adverse Effect upon historic resources provided a construction protection plan is put in place for all historic resources within 90 feet of the proposed construction.

In this initial public notice, NEH is providing information about the Studio Museum's expansion project and its possible effects on historic properties. We are also seeking public input on the project, and would appreciate comments on any knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the proposed project area, and issues relating to the project's potential effects on historic properties by **June 30, 2016**. Comments may be submitted to the NEH via e-mail at [fpo@neh.gov](mailto:fpo@neh.gov) or by regular mail to: Attn: FPO, National Endowment for the Humanities, Office of Challenge Grants, 400 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Room 4007, Washington, DC 20506.