



TO: Hilary Semel, Director  
New York City Mayor's Office of Environmental Coordination  
and  
Distribution List

FROM: Emily Humes  
Director of Environmental Review and Program Delivery  
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

DATE: February 25, 2025

RE: **Notice of Lead Agency Designation**  
**The Metropolitan Museum of Art – Tang Wing**  
CEQR No. 25DPR007M  
Project area: Upper East Side, Manhattan  
Community Districts #5, 7, 8, 10, 11

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In accordance with Executive Order 91 of 1977, as amended, and the Rules of Procedure for City Environmental Quality Review, found at Title 62, Chapter 5 (CEQR) and the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and its implementing regulations as set forth in 6 NYCRR Part 617, the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC Parks) proposes to assume the role of lead agency for the environmental review of the project as described below.

The assumption of lead agency status is consistent with the underlying mandate of CEQR that the appropriate lead agency should be the agency “primarily responsible for carrying out, funding or approving an action,” as well as with the criteria listed in Sections 5-03 (h) and 5-05 of the Rules of Procedure for CEQR. The affected property is park land under the control or jurisdiction of NYC Parks.

NYC Parks is conducting a coordinated environmental review for the proposed project. Your agency has been identified as a potentially involved or interested agency for the review and approval of the proposed action. If you have questions or issues concerning this agency's assuming lead agency status for this project, please contact us by Wednesday, March 26, 2025. If we do not hear from you by this time, we will assume that you have no objections.

**Project Description:**

The Metropolitan Museum of Art (the Met or the Museum) is seeking discretionary actions in connection with the proposed replacement of one wing in the Museum's existing building complex on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, within Central Park. The Met has prepared Parts 1 and 2 of the Environmental Assessment Form (EAF). Per 6 N.Y.C.R.R. § 617.6(b)(3)(i), a copy of that document is enclosed with this letter.

According to the EAF, the proposed Oscar L. Tang and H.M. Agnes Hsu-Tang Wing (the Tang Wing) for Modern and Contemporary Art would be a five-story, approximately 163,100 gross square foot (gsf) structure (approximately 124,900 gsf above grade) integrated into the southwest corner of the Museum's existing building complex, replacing the existing Lila Acheson Wallace (LAW) Wing at this location. According to the EAF, the Tang Wing would replace the existing deteriorating building envelope of the

LAW Wing and provide the Met with appropriately scaled gallery space designed for exhibiting modern and contemporary art of different scales, forms, and themes while also establishing physical and visual connections to nearby galleries. According to the EAF, the proposed project would provide for improved accessibility for visitors of all abilities throughout the Tang Wing and would remediate significant sustainability challenges resulting from the design of the LAW Wing. According to the EAF, the LAW Wing is 180,400 gsf (123,100 gsf above grade), while the Tang Wing is planned to be approximately 163,100 gsf (124,900 gsf above grade), resulting in an addition of approximately 1,800 gsf above grade. Landscape reconstruction and improvements would be made in the approximately 144,850 sf area of Central Park surrounding the Tang Wing.

The proposed discretionary actions required to facilitate the proposed project that are subject to CEQR are currently anticipated to consist of approval by NYC Parks and authorization of potential funding by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA). The proposed project would also include various ministerial actions, including approval and a report from the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), as well as design approval of the landscape restoration and improvements by the New York City Public Design Commission (PDC).

Questions or comments regarding the lead agency designation or the proposed project should be directed to:

Emily Humes  
Director of Environmental Review and Program Delivery  
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation  
The Arsenal, Central Park  
830 Fifth Avenue, Room 203  
New York, New York 10065  
Email: [MetTang@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:MetTang@parks.nyc.gov)

Attachments: Parts 1 and 2 of the EAF  
Distribution List

Sincerely,



Emily Humes  
Director of Environmental Review and Program Delivery

Manhattan Borough President Mark D. Levine

Gale A. Brewer, NYC Council District 6

Manhattan Community Board 5, District Manager Marisa Mack

Manhattan Community Board 7, District Manager Maxwell Vandervliet

Manhattan Community Board 8, District Manager Will Brightbill

Manhattan Community Board 10, District Manager Shatic Mitchell

Manhattan Community Board 11, District Manager Angel D. Mescain

Office of the Mayor:

Maria Torres-Springer, First Deputy Mayor

Camille Joseph Varlack, Chief of Staff

New York City Department of Cultural Affairs:

Laurie Cumbo, Commissioner

Andrew Burmeister, Assistant Commissioner, Capital Projects

Lance Polivy, General Counsel

Angela Blocker, Director of Capital Projects

New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission:

Sarah Carroll, Chair & Commissioner

Mark A. Silberman, General Counsel

Gina Santucci, Director of Environmental Review

New York City Department of City Planning:

Dan Garodnick, Chair

Stephanie Shellooe, Director, Environmental Assessment and Review Division

New York City Department of Transportation:

Ydanis Rodriguez, Commissioner

Shakil Ahmed, Director of OPA/CEQR

New York City Department of Environmental Protection:

Rohit T. Aggarwala, Commissioner

Terrell Estes, Director, Wastewater Review and Special Projects

Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation:

Stephen Watts, Regional Permit Administrator