

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 10, 2018

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FACT SHEET: COMMUNITY INPUT'S IMPACT ON THE DESIGN FOR THE OBAMA PRESIDENTIAL CENTER

Since announcing initial plans in May, the Obama Foundation has made several changes to the design of the Center to reflect input received by the community. These changes are the result of the Obama Foundation participating in numerous stakeholder meetings, seven public meetings with over 2,000 attendees, and a dozen fairs and festivals on the South Side. This is in addition to countless small group meetings and one-on-one conversations throughout the community. Below is a detailed summary of key themes from public input, and the corresponding changes made to the design of the OPC.

Landscape

What We Heard	Changes We Made
<p>We heard from some who wanted to see more landscaping, a protection of green space across the campus, and a commitment to quiet, restorative space. Some people were concerned about turning Jackson Park into "another Millennium Park".</p>	<p>We have created an extensive network of landscaped paths and unprogrammed park zones, including developing a scenic and generous "promenade" along the Lagoon to honor the original carriage walk designed by Olmsted and Vaux and which is currently a 6-lane roadway. This promenade connects the OPC site to the Museum of Science and Industry and active recreation to the south within Jackson Park.</p> <p>We added a berm to the east side of the campus to further protect the lagoon area and provide noise reduction to the Wooded Isle and Japanese Garden.</p> <p>We prioritized protection of green space by minimizing the footprint of the tower, providing space for exhibits vertically rather than expanding the footprint of the building and taking up more parkland.</p> <p>We've created additional gardens and ponds around the existing Women's Garden, which</p>

	<p>will provide shelter to this important area from vehicles and the noise they produce.</p> <p>We've increased the amount of space that we are constructing underground, to reduce the total amount of above-grade square footage built. We've also designed the campus buildings so that almost two-thirds of the building's total footprints are covered by park surface that will roll up and act as the "roofs" to two of the campus' structures.</p>
<p>Community members want to see inviting and welcoming entrances to the OPC.</p>	<p>We added a more prominent entry to the site at the southeast corner.</p> <p>We removed the pedestrian bridge from the parking facility to the museum building.</p> <p>The base of the Museum Building has been opened up more and its interior made more visible as visitors approach the OPC from the plaza and from the south.</p> <p>On the north face of the Museum Building, an enormous "window" has been added to allow passersby on foot, bike, train, bus or car to look into the OPC and sense the vitality and lift of seeing visitors ascending through the museum.</p>

Parking

What We Heard	Changes We Made
<p>We received feedback from some who preferred to see parking on-site at Jackson Park rather than at the Midway.</p>	<p>We moved the parking facility from an above-ground location on the Midway to an underground location within our site boundaries at Jackson Park.</p>

Design

What We Heard	Changes We Made
<p>Some raised concerns about the design of the tower structure.</p>	<p>The initial design was merely conceptual. Since May, we have refined the design, creating a proportioned tower more</p>

	<p>emblematic of the OPC's message of hope and inspiration.</p> <p>In creating a more slender structure, the height changed from 178 feet to 235 feet.</p> <p>We've added courtyards at the base of the Museum Building and in the Plaza to increase greenery and provide additional shaded outdoor spaces for visitors to the OPC's public lower level.</p>
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Environment & Ecology

What We Heard	Changes We Made
<p>We received many comments about the need for trees across the landscape.</p>	<p>Our proposed landscape design includes planting over 400 new trees, more than we estimate exist today, within the project site area.</p>
<p>Bird-watchers noted Jackson Park's significance for bird watching and wanted to see their pastime protected.</p>	<p>Our design team includes professionals experienced with bird habitats, and they have helped advise us on plantings that will attract a variety of birds and help us ensure we are protecting the natural habitat of birds.</p> <p>They've also helped us think about the design of the Museum Building, and the shape and opacity of that building is partially inspired by our desire to ensure that this building will not unnecessarily endanger birds in flight.</p>

Historic Preservation

What We Heard	Changes We Made
<p>We received feedback from some about the importance of protecting the historic landmarks on our site.</p>	<p>While the initial concept featured a water basin at the Women's Garden, the new design commits to preserving the location of the Women's Garden and elevating the importance and accessibility of this important park feature by removing the high-speed roads currently encircling it.</p> <p>We have committed to retaining the historic</p>

	comfort station.
Some were concerned about too much activity in the Wooded Island.	The new design removes the pedestrian bridge to the Wooded Island.

Youth & Play

What We Heard	Changes We Made
<p>Many people want to ensure the space is engaging for young people.</p>	<p>The OPC design is not limited to what the buildings look like. A vast majority of our campus will be open, revitalized parkland.</p> <p>Outside:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children’s play areas are dispersed throughout the site - as opposed to consolidated in a single location. ● The sledding hill has been lengthened by combining with the Lawn. ● We intend to have educational programs associated with the Community Garden. <p>Inside:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spaces like the Athletic Center, recording studio, and auditorium will feature youth-oriented programming. ● We are exploring a partnership with the Chicago Public Libraries.

Traffic

What We Heard	Changes We Made
<p>Residents want to be sure that increased congestion in the area is minimal.</p>	<p>CDOT has proposed road improvements along Lake Shore Drive and Stony Island that will allow traffic times to remain consistent with what they are today after Cornell Drive has been eliminated. Removing Cornell allows us to provide greater connectivity within the park and to the lake, and create a safer and more enjoyable park experience for families and OPC visitors.</p> <p>In conjunction with the move of parking from the Midway to the underground site:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We eliminated bus staging at the park at the Midway. • The proposed curve in Stony Island has been removed.
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Surrounding Cultural Institutions

What We Heard	Changes We Made
<p>Residents want the OPC to join the network of the surrounding cultural institutions.</p>	<p>We've strengthened connections between the OPC and Museum of Science and Industry by creating new landscaped pathways.</p>

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