

**To:** See list, below  
**Fax #:** See list, below  
**Re:** Insectarium MOA  
**Date:** June 17, 1999  
**Pages:** 6

# FACSIMILE

Mr. Steve Kline  
Greater Southwest Region  
General Services Administration  
817-978-7098

Ms. Gerri Hobdy  
Louisiana SHPO  
225-342-8173

Ms. Elrhei Thibodaux  
Central Business District  
Historic District Landmarks Comm  
504-565-6269

Mr. Bob Becker  
Audubon Institute  
504-865-7332

Mr. Jean LaPlace  
Congressman William Jefferson  
202-225-1988

Ms. Elizabeth S. Merritt  
National Trust for Historic  
Preservation  
202-588-6038

Mr. Nathan Chapman  
Louisiana Landmarks Society  
504-525-7011

Mr. James R. Logan  
Louisiana Landmarks Society  
504-522-5998

Ms. Mary Wolbrette  
Louisiana Preservation Alliance  
225-344-7176

Mr. Daniel Carey  
National Trust for Historic  
Preservation  
803-722-8652

From the desk of...

**Ralston Cox**  
Historic Preservation Analyst  
Office of Planning and Review  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Room 803  
Washington DC 20004-2501

202-606-8528  
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eMail: rcox@achp.gov

# Advisory Council On Historic Preservation

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The Old Post Office Building  
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, #809  
Washington, DC 20004

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JUN 16 1999

Mr. John C. Pouland, Regional Administrator  
Greater Southwest Region  
General Services Administration  
819 Taylor Street  
Fort Worth TX 76102-6195

REF: New Orleans Customhouse National Historic Landmark  
Vieux Carre National Historic Landmark District  
New Orleans, Louisiana

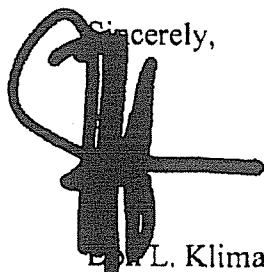
Dear Mr. Pouland:

Enclosed is your copy of the fully executed Memorandum of Agreement for the referenced project. By carrying out the terms of the Agreement, you will have fulfilled your responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Council's regulations. You should send a copy of the MOA to the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer and the other signatories; the original will remain on file at our office.

The successful conclusion of consultation in this case reflects well on GSA's diligence and creativity. While a project that affects such important historic properties as those at issue here calls on the skills and expertise of many members of your staff, the Regional Historic Preservation Officer, Steve Kline, has done exceptional work in resolving conflicts and guiding the development and execution of the MOA.

Should you have any questions, please contact Ralston Cox at (202) 606-8528.

Sincerely,



Ed L. Klima  
Director  
Office of Planning and Review

Enclosure

# Advisory Council On Historic Preservation

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The Old Post Office Building  
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, #809  
Washington, DC 20004

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JUN 16 1999

The Honorable William J. Jefferson  
Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1802


Dear Mr. Jefferson:

I am writing to advise you that after careful consideration of the questions and issues that you raised in your letter dated May 18, 1999, and the extensive record of the consultation process, I have decided not to ask for a report from the National Park Service pursuant to Section 213 of the National Historic Preservation Act and have executed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the General Services Administration for the Audubon Institute's "Insectarium" project at the U.S. Customhouse in New Orleans, Louisiana.

In making the decision not to request a report from the National Park Service or to further delay execution of the MOA, I gave great weight to the views of the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and New Orleans' Historic District Landmarks Commission (HDLC), both of whom had already signed the agreement. Under the terms of the MOA, your constituents and the public can help ensure that the project is carried out in a manner sensitive to the unique qualities of the U.S. Customhouse and the Vieux Carré through consultation with the HDLC and the Louisiana SHPO as they review and approve plans for the project.

If you have any questions, I trust that you will not hesitate to contact me or a member of the Council's professional staff.

Respectfully,



Cathryn B. Slater  
Chairman



General Services Administration  
Greater Southwest Region  
819 Taylor Street  
Fort Worth, TX 76102

## MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the General Services Administration(GSA) has determined that the lease of approximately 30,000 square feet of space to the Audubon Institute for the construction and operation of the Living Science Museum Project (Project) may effect the U. S. Custom House, New Orleans, LA, a National Historic Landmark and the Vieux Carre' National Historic Landmark District (VCNHL) in which it is located, and has consulted with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer(SHPO) and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Council) pursuant to 36CFR Part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16U.S.C. 470f) and Section 110(f) of the same Act (16U.S.C. 470h-2(f)),

WHEREAS, Central Business District Historic District Landmarks Commission (HDLC) and Audubon Institute participated in the consultation and have been invited to concur in this Memorandum of Agreement ; and

NOW, THEREFORE, GSA, the SHPO, and Council agree that the undertaking shall be implemented in accordance with the following stipulations in order to take into account the effect of the undertaking on historic properties.

## STIPULATIONS

GSA will ensure the following measures are carried out:

1. GSA shall ensure that the design of all aspects of the Project (including museum displays, exterior signage, additional modifications to make the facility accessible to people with disabilities and any objects erected on the streets surrounding the Custom House in connection with this Project) is compatible with the historic and architectural qualities and character of both the Custom House and the VCNHL. All designs shall be consistent with the recommended approaches to rehabilitation and new construction set forth in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings(U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service). The design for all aspects of the Project and specifications shall be developed in consultation with the SHPO and HDLC, and submitted to the SHPO for written approval prior to implementation. In addition, this approval process shall be required for all future work on the Project. The SHPO and HDLC shall receive the schematic design drawings and 95% complete drawings for consultation and review prior to the start of any work on the building or its setting relating to the Project as described in this paragraph. The HDLC will provide written comments to the SHPO and GSA which are developed in accordance with its enabling legislation as described in its City of New Orleans ordinance.
2. GSA shall ensure that access to the Living Science Museum and other spaces in the Custom House will be controlled. Public access to the Living Science Museum and

the Custom House will only be permitted from Canal Street. Other entrances to the Living Science Museum and the Custom House would only be used by the public for emergency egress as required by the life safety code. Servicing of the building and access for a limited number of federal employees would continue at other entrances as is currently done. Drop-off and pickup of museum attendees will only be permitted on Canal Street. All buses with museum attendees will drop off passengers at the Canal Street entrance. No museum attendee bus parking will be permitted at the Custom House. Bus routing and parking will strictly adhere to current city ordinances and regulations with existing bus parking near the Aquarium, and North Peters to Canal Street as the approved street for routing of bus traffic. All local ordinances implemented by the city to address bus traffic impact within or adjacent to the VCNHLD will always be followed in the routing and parking of buses.

- 3. Any expansion of the Living Science Museum would be considered a new undertaking under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and subject to review and consultation as specified in the Act.

Execution of this Memorandum of Agreement and implementation of its terms evidence that GSA has afforded the Council an opportunity to comment on the Living Science Museum and its effect on historic properties, and that the GSA has taken into account the effects of the undertaking on historic properties.

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

By: *Catherine B. Sater* Date: 6-16-99  
Chairman

General Services Administration

By: *[Signature]* Date: 5/10/99  
Regional Administrator

Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office

By: *[Signature]* Date: 5/12/99  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Concur:

Central Business District Historic District Landmarks Commission

By: Elaine J. Hubbard Date: 5-11-99  
Executive Director

Audubon Institute

By: Ron Forman Date: 5-11-99  
Executive Director