

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 501

To provide a site for the National Women’s History Museum in the District  
of Columbia.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 3, 2005

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mrs. DOLE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. CLINTON, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. PRYOR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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## A BILL

To provide a site for the National Women’s History Museum  
in the District of Columbia.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “National Women’s His-

5       tory Museum Act of 2005”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds that—

1           (1) the National Women’s History Museum,  
2 Inc., is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational institu-  
3 tion incorporated in the District of Columbia;

4           (2) the National Women’s History Museum was  
5 established—

6                 (A) to research and present the historic  
7 contributions that women have made to all as-  
8 pects of human endeavor; and

9                 (B) to explore and present in a fair and  
10 balanced way the contributions that women  
11 have made to the Nation in their various roles  
12 in family and society;

13           (3) in March 1999, the President’s Commission  
14 on the celebrating of Women in American History  
15 concluded that “efforts to implement an appropriate  
16 celebration of women’s history in the next millen-  
17 nium should include the designation of a focal point  
18 for women’s history in our nation’s capital . . .” cit-  
19 ing the efforts of the National Women’s History Mu-  
20 seum to implement this goal;

21           (4) the National Women’s History Museum will  
22 collect and disseminate information concerning  
23 women, including through the establishment of a na-  
24 tional reference center for the collection and preser-

1 vation of documents, publications, and research re-  
2 lating to women;

3 (5) the National Women’s History Museum will  
4 foster educational programs relating to the history  
5 and contribution to society by women, including pro-  
6 motion of imaginative educational approaches to en-  
7 hance understanding and appreciation of historic  
8 contributions by women;

9 (6) the National Women’s History Museum will  
10 publicly display temporary and permanent exhibits  
11 that illustrate, interpret, and demonstrate the con-  
12 tributions of women;

13 (7) the National Women’s History Museum re-  
14 quires a museum site near the National Mall to ac-  
15 complish the objectives and fulfill the ongoing edu-  
16 cational mission of the museum;

17 (8) the 3-story glass enclosed structure known  
18 as the “Pavilion Annex” is a retail shopping mall  
19 built next to the Old Post Office in 1992 by private  
20 developers using no Federal funds on public land in  
21 the Federal Triangle south of Pennsylvania Avenue,  
22 NW.;

23 (9) the Pavilion Annex came into the possession  
24 of the General Services Administration following

1 bankruptcy and default by the private developer of  
2 the Old Post Office Pavilion;

3 (10) the Pavilion Annex has been vacant for  
4 over 10 years and is in a state of disrepair;

5 (11) the Pavilion Annex is located near an area  
6 that has been identified as an ideal location for mu-  
7 seums and memorials in the Memorials and Muse-  
8 ums Master Plan developed by the National Capital  
9 Planning Commission;

10 (12) the National Women’s History Museum  
11 will provide a vibrant, cultural activity in a building  
12 currently controlled by the General Services Admin-  
13 istration but unused by any Federal agency or activ-  
14 ity;

15 (13) the Government Accountability Office has  
16 determined that vacant or underutilized properties  
17 present significant potential risks to Federal agen-  
18 cies, including—

19 (A) lost dollars because of the difficulty of  
20 maintaining the properties; and

21 (B) lost opportunities because the prop-  
22 erties could be put to more cost-beneficial uses,  
23 exchanged for other needed property, or sold to  
24 generate revenue for the Government;

1           (14) the National Women’s History Museum  
2 will use Government property for which there is no  
3 Government use as of the date of enactment of this  
4 Act, in order to—

5                   (A) promote utilization, economy, and effi-  
6 ciency of Government-owned assets; and

7                   (B) create an income producing activity;

8           (15) the National Women’s History Museum  
9 will attract an estimated 1,500,000 visitors annually  
10 to the District of Columbia; and

11           (16) the National Women’s History Museum  
12 will promote economic activity in the District of Co-  
13 lumbia by—

14                   (A) creating jobs;

15                   (B) increasing visitor spending on hotels,  
16 meals, and transportation; and

17                   (C) generating tax revenue for the District  
18 of Columbia.

19 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this Act:

21           (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
22 trator” means the Administrator of General Serv-  
23 ices.

24           (2) MUSEUM SPONSOR.—The term “Museum  
25 Sponsor” means the National Women’s History Mu-

1       seum, Inc., a nonprofit organization incorporated in  
2       1996 in the District of Columbia.

3           (3) PAVILION ANNEX.—The term “Pavilion  
4       Annex” means the building (and immediate sur-  
5       roundings, including any land unoccupied as of the  
6       date of enactment of this Act) in Washington, Dis-  
7       trict of Columbia that is—

8                   (A) known as the “Pavilion Annex”;

9                   (B) adjacent to the Old Post Office Build-  
10       ing;

11                   (C) located on Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.,  
12       to the east of 11th Street NW.; and

13                   (D) located on land bounded on 3 sides by  
14       the Internal Revenue Service buildings.

15 **SEC. 4. OCCUPANCY AGREEMENT.**

16       (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
17       sion of law, the Administrator shall enter into an occu-  
18       pancy agreement to make the Pavilion Annex available to  
19       the Museum Sponsor for use as a National Women’s His-  
20       tory Museum in accordance with this section.

21       (b) PAYMENTS.—The Administrator shall enter into  
22       negotiations with the Museum Sponsor concerning pay-  
23       ment to the Federal Government based on the cost basis  
24       of the Pavilion Annex or prior appraisals or expert opin-

1 ions rendered to the General Services Administration re-  
 2 lating to valuation of the structure.

3 (c) APPRAISAL.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator and the  
 5 Museum Sponsor are unable to reach agreement on  
 6 fair market value for the purpose of determining  
 7 rent within 90 days after the date of enactment of  
 8 this Act, fair market value for the purpose of deter-  
 9 mining rent shall be determined by not more than  
 10 3 appraisers, operating under a common set of in-  
 11 structions, of whom—

12 (A) 1 shall be retained by the Adminis-  
 13 trator;

14 (B) 1 shall be retained by the Museum  
 15 Sponsor; and

16 (C) 1 shall be selected by the first 2 ap-  
 17 praisers only if—

18 (i) the first 2 appraisals are irrecon-  
 19 cilable; and

20 (ii) the difference in value between the  
 21 first 2 appraisals is greater than 10 per-  
 22 cent.

23 (2) DIFFERENCE OF NOT MORE THAN 10 PER-  
 24 CENT.—If the 2 appraisals differ by not more than

1       10 percent, the fair market value shall be the aver-  
2       age of the 2 appraisals.

3           (3) IRRECONCILABLE APPRAISALS.—If a third  
4       appraiser is selected—

5           (A) the fee of the third appraiser shall be  
6       paid in equal shares by the Administrator and  
7       the Museum Sponsor; and

8           (B) the fair market value determined by  
9       the third appraiser shall bind both parties.

10       (d) TERM OF OCCUPANCY AGREEMENT.—

11           (1) IN GENERAL.—The term of the occupancy  
12       agreement shall be at least 99 years, or any lesser  
13       term agreed to by the Museum Sponsor.

14           (2) FIRST PAYMENT.—The first payment shall  
15       be due on the date that is 5 years after the date of  
16       execution of the occupancy agreement.

17       (e) PRIVATE FUNDS.—The terms and conditions of  
18       the occupancy agreement shall facilitate raising of private  
19       funds for the modification, development, maintenance, se-  
20       curity, information, janitorial, and other services that are  
21       necessary to assure the preservation and operation of the  
22       museum.

23       (f) SHARED FACILITIES.—The occupancy agreement  
24       may include reasonable terms and conditions pertaining



1 to shared facilities to permit continued operations and en-  
2 able development of adjacent buildings.

3 (g) RENOVATION AND MODIFICATION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The renovation and modi-  
5 fication of the Pavilion Annex—

6 (A) shall be carried out by the Museum  
7 Sponsor, in consultation with the Adminis-  
8 trator; and

9 (B) shall—

10 (i) be commenced as soon as prac-  
11 ticable but not later than 5 years after the  
12 date of execution of the occupancy agree-  
13 ment;

14 (ii) sever the walkway to the Old Post  
15 Office Building; and

16 (iii) enhance and improve the Pavilion  
17 Annex consistent with the needs of the Na-  
18 tional Women’s History Museum and the  
19 adjacent structures.

20 (2) EXPENSE CREDIT.—Any expenses incurred  
21 by the Museum Sponsor under this subsection shall  
22 be credited against the payment under subsection  
23 (d)(2).

24 (h) REPORT.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator is un-  
2           able to fully execute an occupancy agreement within  
3           180 days of the date of enactment of this Act, not  
4           later than 240 days after the date of enactment of  
5           this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Com-  
6           mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-  
7           fairs in the Senate and the Committees on Trans-  
8           portation and Infrastructure and Government Re-  
9           form in the House of Representatives a report.

10           (2) CONTENTS.—The report shall contain—

11                   (A) a summary of the issues that remain  
12                   unresolved and an analysis of the position of  
13                   the General Services Administration;

14                   (B) an itemization, including date, where  
15                   appropriate, and costs of actions taken by the  
16                   General Services Administration to maintain  
17                   and secure the Pavilion Annex to prevent fur-  
18                   ther deterioration; and

19                   (C) a plan for future use and development  
20                   of the Pavilion Annex, including plans for ap-  
21                   propriate security improvements.

22 **SEC. 5. EFFECT ON OTHER LAW.**

23           Nothing in this Act shall limit the authority of the  
24           National Capital Planning Commission and the National  
25           Capital Planning Commission shall retain authority over

- 1 development in the Federal Triangle development area as
- 2 defined in subchapter II of chapter 67 of title 40, United
- 3 States Code (40 U.S.C. 6711 et seq.).

