

A. INTRODUCTION

Following the 2014 *City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Technical Manual*, this chapter summarizes significant adverse impacts that would be unavoidable if the proposed project is implemented regardless of the mitigation employed, or if mitigation is impossible.

As described in Chapter 1, “Project Description,” the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH or the Museum) is proposing the construction of a new building, the Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education, and Innovation. The Museum is located in Theodore Roosevelt Park, which is City-owned parkland under the jurisdiction of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC Parks). Three existing buildings within the Museum complex would be removed to minimize the footprint on land that is now open space in Theodore Roosevelt Park, to about 11,600 square feet.

As described below, unavoidable significant adverse impacts resulting from the proposed project have been identified for historic and cultural resources.

B. HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

As discussed in Chapter 5, “Historic and Cultural Resources,” demolition of Building 15, a former power house built in 1903-1904, would constitute a significant adverse impact on architectural resources. Measures to partially mitigate the project’s adverse impacts on architectural resources would be implemented in consultation with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). These measures are set forth in a draft Letter of Resolution (LOR) to be signed by the Museum, OPRHP, and Empire State Development (ESD) and include the following:

- restoration and reconstruction program nearing completion at Building 1;
- a design that incorporates a contemporary architectural approach for the Gilder Center reflecting the time in which it is built and with the proposed scale, massing, and materials respecting the historic Museum setting including landscaping design in keeping with the naturalistic character of the Theodore Roosevelt Park;
- consultation with OPRHP regarding the proposed design of the Gilder Center and its connections to the surrounding Museum buildings including submission of the design plans at the preliminary (100% completion of Design Development) and pre-final (50% completion of Construction Documents) completion stages for OPRHP review and comment; and
- submission to OPRHP of a development history narrative of the Museum complex and documentation of Building 15 per OPRHP’s Recordation of Historic Structures standards.

AMNH Gilder Center

In addition, a Construction Protection Plan (CPP) would be developed in coordination with the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) and OPRHP and implemented in consultation with a licensed professional engineer.

With these measures, the impact would be considered partially mitigated. As the significant adverse impact would not be fully mitigated, the proposed project would result in an unavoidable adverse impact on historic resources. *