



To: Senator Elizabeth Warren and Colleagues
From: Trust for the National Mall
Re: Response to January 13, 2026 Correspondence
Date: January 28, 2026

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the Trust for the National Mall and its role in the White House Ballroom project. This voluntary follow-up correspondence, paired with our timely response to your prior request, is intended to further clarify our limited role in this project, and benefit to the Trust's broader mission in support of the National Park Service for the National Mall and President's Park.

As an official nonpartisan nonprofit philanthropic partner to the National Park Service (NPS), the Trust for the National Mall has a track record of investing over \$100M in restoration projects and programs for the National Mall. Over the last 18 years, the Trust has been dedicated to filling the funding gap that Congress is unable to meet for National Parks, particularly for the National Mall – which suffers from nearly \$1B in deferred maintenance for much-needed repairs and upgrades. The misunderstanding of the Trust's limited role in the White House Ballroom project persists, and the mischaracterization of that role, both in your correspondence and in the media, requires further clarification to avoid compromising the Trust's important mission in partnership with the National Park Service.

Specific responses are provided below.

- The Trust is an official 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit, philanthropic partner of the National Park Service. We service two units of NPS: the National Mall and Memorial Parks unit and the White House/President's Park unit. Our role in the White House Ballroom project, as with other past projects related to NPS and the National Mall, is limited to accepting and managing private donations to support the project. This is one of the Trust's standard practices as an official philanthropic partner of NPS.
- The Trust Board of Directors discussed and agreed to proceed with this project as it serves the Trust's mission to support priority projects of the National Park Service as their philanthropic partner.
- For this project, the Trust receives a 2 or 2.5 percent management allocation from each donation received. This allocation is intended to cover our significant management and compliance expenses associated with the Trust's role in the project and as a partner to a federal agency, along with providing broad support for the Trust's mission. This management allocation is below standard management fees in the range of 6-8 percent of contributions for similar types of agreements (according to the National Network of Fiscal Sponsors 2023 Fiscal Sponsor Field Scan). The Trust is proud to be able to provide expert and efficient services to the National Park Service.

- The Trust has not been involved in conversations to solicit funds or regarding the design or planning for the project. In addition, the Trust has no contractual agreement with fundraiser Meredith O'Rourke related to the Ballroom project. Any questions regarding these aspects of the project should be directed to NPS or the White House.
- The Trust adheres to NPS guidelines and regulations related to accepting and managing private donations for projects that are prioritized by NPS. All donations received by the Trust within our fiscal year are reported as required through the annual filing of the IRS Form 990.
- The Trust provides donors with appropriate donor recognition opportunities, in each case, in full compliance with National Park Service guidelines and regulations, including Director's Order #21, referenced specifically in your letter.
- Furthermore, the Trust adheres to all IRS rules and regulations applicable to organizations exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- While the Internal Revenue Service has determined that the Trust may accept charitable contributions, whether those contributions are tax-deductible to donors depends on the donor's individual circumstances.
- For donors who do not seek recognition for their gifts, those same regulations allow tax-exempt organizations to withhold the names of donors from public versions of annual information reports (i.e., the IRS Form 990).
- Further, as a 501(c)(3), the Trust does not operate for the benefit of private interests, nor does it attempt to influence legislation as a substantial part of its activities or participate in any political campaign activity.

The Trust's work and partnership with NPS brings significant private support to further the impact and reach of federal tax dollars to maintain and support America's National Mall and President's Park. These iconic and important American spaces benefit from the Trust's role in this and all projects with the National Park Service. The Trust's work and mission have never been more critical than right now. As we honor America's historic 250th anniversary on America's Front Yard, the Trust is leading a campaign to fund legacy restoration projects and educational and volunteer programs to enhance the visitor experience for 2026 and for generations to come.