



ACTION ALERT:

Speak Out Against the Illegal “Triumphal Arch”

The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (Commission) and the National Park Service are considering approval of a proposed triumphal arch in Memorial Circle, a traffic island in Washington, DC, near Arlington National Cemetery and in the line of sight between the U.S. Capitol, the Washington Monument, and the Lincoln Memorial.

- **THE ISSUE:** The proposed triumphal arch would fundamentally alter one of the nation's most iconic landscapes. At 250 feet, it would dwarf the Lincoln Memorial and would block the view from the U.S. Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial.
- **THE ASK:** **Submit a comment before the imminent deadline of midnight on June 15, 2026**, and speak out publicly in opposition to this rule and the risks it poses to the rule of law. Make clear that no individual, especially a sitting president, should be permitted to use public monuments to elevate personal legacy above the law.

WHY THIS MATTERS

- The proposed arch violates federal law and the United States Constitution because the project has not received the required Congressional approval or appropriations.
- Congress, not the Executive Branch, controls federal spending and authorization of major public works. Implementing this project without Congressional approval would undermine basic constitutional principles and the separation of powers.
- The proposed triumphal arch would violate the Commemorative Works Act because it would honor a sitting president.
- At 250 feet tall, the proposed triumphal arch would violate the 130-foot height restriction in the Height of Buildings Act and Washington, DC's Comprehensive Plan.
- The proposed arch would have significant adverse effects on existing monuments and other historic properties in Washington, DC.
- **This is not simply a design dispute. It is a test of whether powerful political figures can circumvent legal safeguards and reshape our shared national spaces for personal glorification.**



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WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

- **Submit a comment** to oppose the proposed triumphal arch before the **imminent deadline: midnight, June 15, 2026**. Review our Action Alert Briefing Materials to assist you in preparing your own comment. In addition, please see our [Meeting the Moment Tips for Commenting Effectively on Proposed Rules](#).
- **Speak out on multiple platforms against the proposed rule to ensure the public understands the risks it poses to the rule of law**. Write articles and letters to the editor and post on social media. Reach out to local podcasters and radio shows to share why the proposed arch must not be built. Use the Talking Points below as well as LDAD’s social media messaging. For additional help, see our [Meeting the Moment Tips for Writing and Placing Letters to the Editor and Opinion Pieces](#).

KEY TALKING POINTS

- **Congress has not approved or appropriated funds for the proposed triumphal arch, in violation of federal law and Article I of the United States Constitution.**
- No administration should be permitted to bypass Congress and ignore federal laws to build a major federal monument. Doing so would **erode the constitutional separation of powers that safeguards our democracy**.
- **Federal law prohibits commemorative works honoring a sitting president.** These restrictions exist to prevent the use of public monuments for political self-promotion and to ensure that historical judgment, not political power, determines who is memorialized.
- **The proposed triumphal arch would violate the height limit** in the Height of Buildings Act and the District's Comprehensive Plan.
- **The proposed triumphal arch would ruin the historic views and symbolic balance of our nation's capital.**