

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1531

To authorize the rehabilitation and expansion of The African American Panoramic Experience Center within the Martin Luther King, Junior, Historic Site and Preservation District.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 30, 1993

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the rehabilitation and expansion of The African American Panoramic Experience Center within the Martin Luther King, Junior, Historic Site and Preservation District.

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. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds that—

5 (1) the Martin Luther King, Junior, Historic
6 Site and Preservation District is one of the most sig-
7 nificant places in the country dedicated to African-
8 American history;

1 (2) the Martin Luther King, Junior, Historic
2 Site and Preservation District receives the largest
3 number of visitors compared to any other historic
4 site in the State of Georgia and is the 3rd most vis-
5 ited historic site in the National Park Service in the
6 country;

7 (3) the lack of a comprehensive, international
8 context within which to interpret African-American
9 history and culture impedes the ability of all Ameri-
10 cans, particularly African-Americans, to understand
11 themselves and their relationship to America's past
12 and its future;

13 (4) African-American history is complex and re-
14 quires the integration of diverse experiences of Afri-
15 can-Americans ranging from slavery and freedom—
16 to cultural, scientific and athletic endeavors, through
17 the continued struggles for full participation in our
18 society—to reinforce the positive self-image of Afri-
19 can-Americans and to develop pride in their past
20 and hope for their future;

21 (5) the expansion of a national museum on Afri-
22 can-American history and culture, which will in-
23 clude a wide array of collections from an eclectic
24 group of African-Americans, will help all Americans,
25 and those who visit our country from abroad, better

1 understand and appreciate the significant contribu-
2 tions made by African-Americans to American as
3 well as world history;

4 (6) the African-American Panoramic Experi-
5 ence Museum is located in Atlanta, Georgia, at the
6 gateway to and part of the Martin Luther King,
7 Junior, Historic Site and Preservation District. The
8 APEX houses its own African-American Collection
9 and is the site of exhibitions on African-American
10 art and culture;

11 (7) the Atlanta Fulton County African Amer-
12 ican Research Library, under construction adjacent
13 to The APEX, is designated by Fulton County to
14 serve as the primary location in the Atlanta region
15 for conducting research related to African-American
16 studies and for fostering academic research initia-
17 tives on African-American history and culture.

18 **SEC. 2. REHABILITATION AND EXPANSION OF THE APEX**

19 **(AFRICAN AMERICAN PANORAMIC EXPERI-**
20 **ENCE) CENTER.**

21 (a) REHABILITATION.—The Secretary is authorized
22 to make a grant to the Collections of Life and Heritage,
23 Inc., a nonprofit corporation of The APEX, to rehabilitate
24 their present facility, The APEX, in order to “complement
25 and enhance the District (the Martin Luther King, Jun-

1 ior, Historic Site and Preservation District) and the pur-
2 poses for which the District is established (Public Law
3 96-428; 94 Stat. 1842; Sec. 4(c)(3)). The APEX is lo-
4 cated in Atlanta, Georgia, at 135 Auburn Avenue, N.E.,
5 the gateway to the Martin Luther King, Junior, Historic
6 Site and Preservation District.

7 (b) EXPANSION.—To enhance the presentation and
8 preservation of the significant contributions of African-
9 Americans to the history and culture of America, the Sec-
10 retary shall make a grant to the Collections of Life and
11 Heritage, Inc., a nonprofit corporation of The Apex, to
12 expand their present facility.

13 (c) REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANT.—A grant may not
14 be made under subsection (a) unless an application is
15 made to the Secretary at such time and in such manner
16 as the Secretary may require. The application shall include
17 provisions designed to ensure that—

18 (1) the first floor of the expanded facility (The
19 APEX II) can serve as a visitors center for the Mar-
20 tin Luther King, Junior, Historic Site and Preserva-
21 tion District and the surrounding National Park
22 Service parks, to provide an orientation to the sites,
23 activities, and services created to enhance their edu-
24 cational experience; and

1 (2) the facility will serve as an international
2 center to showcase the historical, intellectual, cul-
3 tural, artistic, scientific, and athletic achievements of
4 African-Americans through galleries, exhibitions,
5 multivideo presentations and an archive collection
6 filled with artifacts and memorabilia that reflect Af-
7 rican and African-American life.

8 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

9 As used in this Act—

10 (1) the term “APEX” means the African Amer-
11 ican Panoramic Experience Museum located in At-
12 lanta, Georgia;

13 (2) the term “Center” means The African
14 American Panoramic Experience (APEX) Center;
15 and

16 (3) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
17 of the Interior.

18 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19 (a) AMOUNT.—There are authorized to be appro-
20 priated \$12,500,000 to the Secretary for fiscal year 1994
21 to rehabilitate and expand The APEX.

22 (b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds appropriated
23 pursuant to the authority of subsection (a) shall remain
24 available until expended.

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