

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the National Endowment for the Humanities' Section 106 Review of Vizcaya Museum and Gardens Trust's Project to Preserve the Barge

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has offered the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens Trust, Inc. (the Museum) a grant to preserve its boat-shaped breakwater, the Barge, which was damaged by the storm surge from Hurricane Irma in September of 2017. NEH is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. This public notice is issued as part of NEH's responsibilities under 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the regulations which implement Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, 16 U.S.C. § 470. NEH, a funding agency, is required by regulation to identify and assess the effects of any proposed actions on historic properties. If any proposed action will have an adverse effect on historic resources, NEH works with the appropriate parties to seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects. Additionally, the Section 106 regulations require NEH to consider the views of the public on preservation issues when making final decisions that affect historic properties.

In its grant application, the Museum proposed to:

- retrieve and clean the architectural and sculptural elements of the Barge that were damaged by the storm surge from Hurricane Irma on September 10, 2017, and
- contract with a conservation firm to treat one of four herms (statues) on the Barge.

The herm to be treated was broken into three sizable fragments. The figure's head (measuring 12" x 9") was the only salvageable fragment immediately after the storm. The others were too large to collect by hand; the torso of the figure (measuring approx. 71" x 16") and its base (approx. 40" x 24" x 28") were recently recovered from the Barge landing using a boat with an A-frame hoist. All three fragments are currently in storage, and the work to clean and reassemble the sculpture would take place on site. The treatment would return the herm to its pre-Irma condition and relocate the original herm indoors. At a later date, separate from this project, the Museum intends to produce a replication of the herm for installation on the Barge.

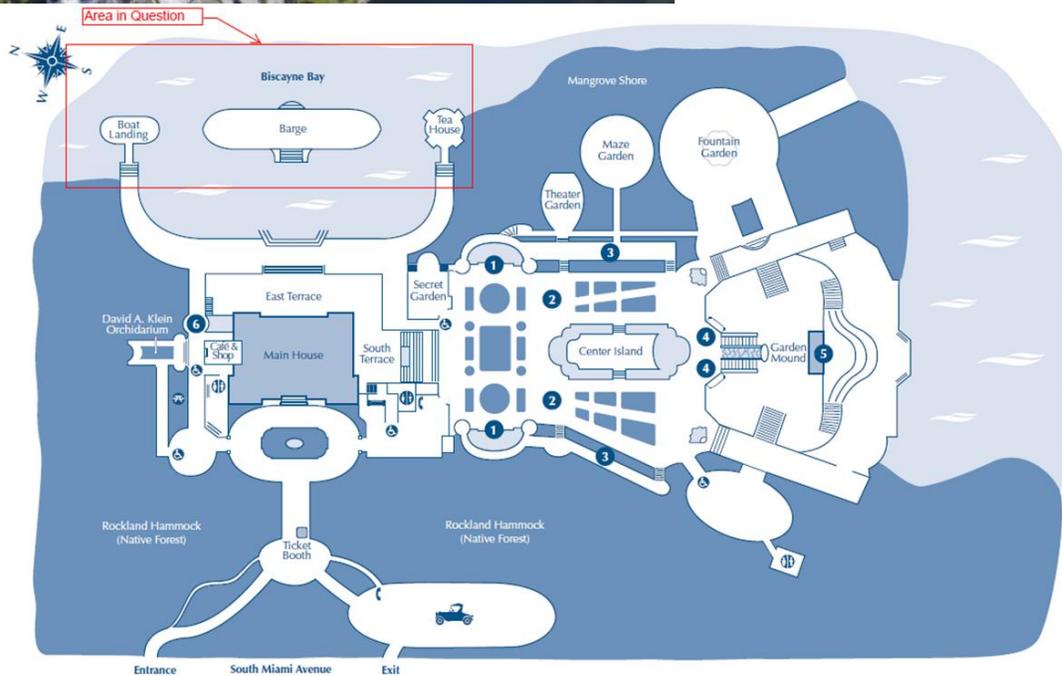
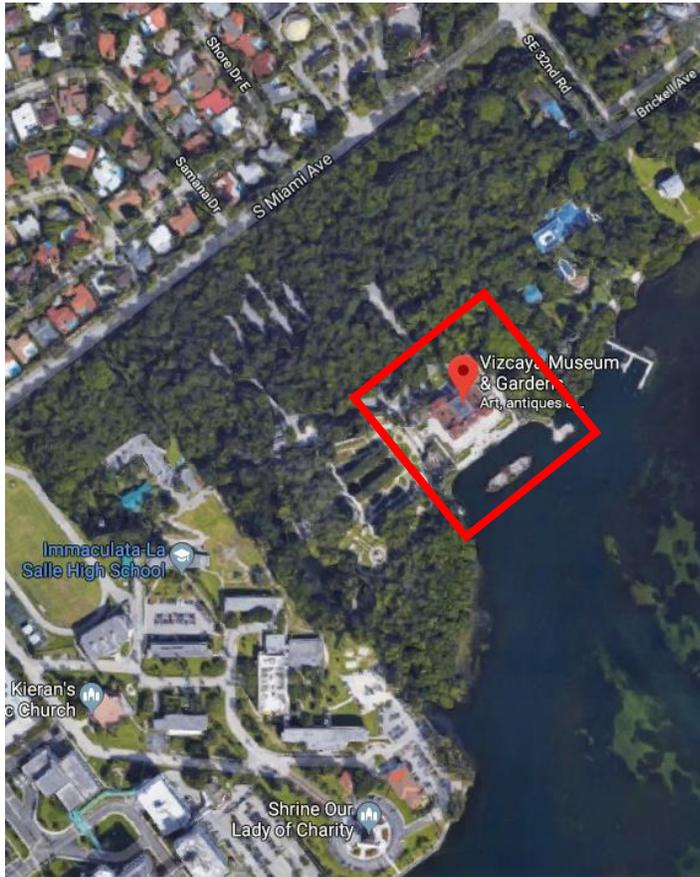
The Vizcaya estate is a National Historic Landmark and was the former Florida home of businessman James Deering (1859-1925). Built between 1914 and 1922, Vizcaya overlooks Miami's Biscayne Bay and consists of the main house with 34 decorated rooms and over 2,500 art objects and furnishings, 10 acres of formal gardens that feature historic sculptures and fountains, a native hardwood hammock, and a historic farm village. Deering's estate was conveyed to Miami-Dade County and opened to the public as a historic house museum in 1953; it welcomes 300,000 visitors each year. A distinct architectural feature of the estate is the Barge, a boat-shaped breakwater designed by Paul Chalfin and decorated with sculptures conceived by American artist, Alexander Stirling Calder. The Barge is an important piece of Vizcaya's sculpture collection, and as a breakwater, it also plays a vital role in protecting the main house and the art and furnishings inside.

In a letter dated Jan. 30, 2018, the Compliance Review Supervisor and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer of Florida's Bureau of Historic Preservation, the Division of Historical Resources wrote: "The proposed project includes recovery and repair of architectural and decorative sculptural elements from the Barge that were toppled or damaged during Hurricane Irma in September 2017. The proposed work appears to be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (the Standards) and, furthermore, the proposed work is critical to returning the Barge to good condition. It is the opinion of this office that the proposed recovery and repairs will have **no adverse effect** to the Barge as a contributing element to the NHL, provided that all work is carried out in a matter consistent with the Standards. We do request an opportunity to review additional plans once available to provide any necessary recommendations to ensure that the project continues to meet the Standards." The Museum provided the selected treatment proposal and firm credentials to the Compliance Review Supervisor on Sept. 18, 2018.

As required by Section 106, NEH is providing the public with information about the repairs to the Barge, as well as an opportunity to comment on any knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the proposed project area, and issues relating to the project's potential effects on historic properties. Comments may be submitted to the NEH by e-mail to FPO@neh.gov, or to National Endowment for the Humanities, Division of Preservation and Access, Constitution Center, 400 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20506. The deadline for submitting comments is Nov. 30, 2018.

Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, 3251 South Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida 33129

Area of Potential Effect



LEGEND Parking Public Telephone Restrooms Accessible Route School Group Picnic Area	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Semicircular Pools 2. Parterres 3. East and West Statuary Walks 4. Mound Cascade and Grottos 5. Casino 6. Swimming Pool 	