

From: Swain, Margaret A.
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 4:25 PM
To: Arthuah@yahoo.com
Subject: Public Records Request Response

Dear Ms. Hazelton,

The Florida Department of State does not have documents responsive to your request regarding: “a copy of the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs Exhibition and long-term loan agreement referenced in the letter from Governor DeSantis to the Acting Architect of the Capitol.”

Respectfully,

Margaret Swain
Senior Management Analyst I
Office of the General Counsel
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
R.A. Gray Building, Suite 100
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250
(850)245-6507
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Note: This response is provided for reference only and does not constitute a formal legal opinion or representation from the sender or the Department of State. Parties should refer to the Florida Statutes and applicable case law, and/or consult an attorney to represent their interests before relying upon the information provided.

In addition, Florida has a very broad public records law. Written communications to or from state officials regarding state business constitute public records. Public records are available to the public and media upon request, unless the information is subject to a specific statutory exemption. Therefore, any information that you send to this address, including your contact information, may be subject to public disclosure.



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

July 10, 2019

Ms. Christine A. Merdon
Acting, Architect of the Capitol
SB-16, United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Merdon:

This letter serves as the State of Florida's official request to replace the General Edmund Kirby Smith statue in National Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol with Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune.

Florida is proud to submit this request on the 144th anniversary of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune's birthday. Born on July 10, 1875, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune was a prominent Floridian, a visionary, influential educator, leader and civil rights activist who became one of our nation's most notable figures. Her legacy endures and will continue to inspire future generations.


In accordance with the Procedure and Guidelines for the Replacement of Statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection, I hereby transmit to you the attached Chapter 2018-19, Laws of Florida, an act relating to the National Statuary Hall approved by the Governor of Florida on March 19, 2018; requesting the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress to approve the replacement of the statue of General Edmund Kirby Smith in the National Statuary Hall Collection with a statue of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune.

In accordance with your guidelines, and the requirements established by the Florida Legislature in Chapter 2018-19, Laws of Florida, the General Edmund Kirby Smith Statue will be re-located and made available for public display in Florida. On June 28, 2018, the Lake County Historical Museum submitted one of three proposals considered by Florida's Statue Location Selection Committee in a public meeting to receive and display the General Smith statue. During the same meeting, the Statue Location Selection Committee voted to move the statue to the Lake County Historical Museum in accordance with the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs exhibition and long-term loan agreement.

Ms. Christine A. Merdon
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Should you or the Joint Committee require any further information regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Thank you for your assistance with this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RDS', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Ron DeSantis
Governor