**DC History Center FAQs**

**What is the DC History Center?**
The DC History Center is a library and museum that includes the Kiplinger Research Library, three galleries, and a museum store. Located in the historic Carnegie Library, the DC History Center is where the public has free access to exhibits and programs about the diverse stories of Washington, DC. The DC History Center is owned and operated by Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

**What is the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.?**
The Historical Society of Washington, D.C. was founded in 1894 and is a 501(c)(3) educational and research organization that collects, interprets, and shares the history of our nation's capital. The Historical Society preserves a library of documents, manuscripts, maps, photographs, art, and ephemera about Washington, D.C. The Historical Society provides public access to these collections in its Kiplinger Research library. The Historical Society and its DC History Center promote a sense of identity, place, and pride in Washington, D.C.

**Carnegie Library FAQs**

**How did Washington get a Carnegie Library?**
In 1899 philanthropist Andrew Carnegie called on President Theodore Roosevelt. As Carnegie waited in the White House anteroom, Brainard Warner, president of the Board of Trustees of the Washington Free Public Library, arrived for his own appointment. Warner seized the moment to ask for a library building for Washington, and Carnegie agreed.

**How much did the library cost Carnegie?**
Carnegie donated $375,000 for the building.

**Did Carnegie supply the books and pay for the staff?**
No. Carnegie donated libraries with the condition that the city buy the books and pay for staffing.

**What was the library called when it opened in 1903?**
The Carnegie Library opened in 1903 as the Washington Public Library. Even though philanthropist Andrew Carnegie asked that the building not be named for him, Washington locals have referred to it as the Carnegie Library since it opened.

**Did Andrew Carnegie give other libraries to Washington, D.C.?**
Andrew Carnegie donated three additional libraries to the District: the Takoma, Mt. Pleasant, and Southeast (Capitol Hill) branches.

**What was the Central Public Library?**
When the Takoma branch opened in 1911, the Washington Public Library changed its name to the Central Public Library. In 1972 the DC Public Library moved to the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, its current home at Ninth and G Streets NW.
What happened to the Carnegie Library after the library moved?
From 1972 to 1977, the library sat unused. In 1977 the University of the District of Columbia proposed that the building serve as an anchor for a larger campus, but later abandoned the plans. In 1999 the Historical Society was granted a 99-year lease to open and operate an urban history museum. After investing over $20 million to renovate the building in 2003, the Historical Society has continued to operate its Kiplinger Research Library, exhibits, and programs from the Carnegie Library.

Who owns the Carnegie Library today?
The District of Columbia owns the Carnegie Library.

Is the Carnegie Library available for private events?
The Carnegie Library is no longer available for private events.

Who owns Mount Vernon Square?
Mount Vernon Square is owned by the U.S. Government and is managed by the National Park Service. In 2006 the U.S. transferred to the District of Columbia administrative jurisdiction of U.S. Reservation 8, the land underneath and adjacent to the building.

Is the Carnegie Library a federally protected building?
Yes, in part. The exterior of the library is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites. The interior is not protected with historic designation.

Who manages the Carnegie Library and Mount Vernon Square?
In 2011 the District entered into an agreement with the Washington Convention and Sports Authority (Events DC) regarding the Carnegie and Reservation 8, whereby the District transferred all rights and obligations for the administration of the property to the convention authority.

What was the approval process for the restoration project at the Carnegie Library?
Due to the historic building, historic site and proposed scope, the project was subject to both District and Federal reviews. In 2017 the project was presented to and approved by the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission, the DC State Historic Preservation Office, and the DC Historic Preservation Review Board, with comment and participation by the general public. ###