

TESTIMONY
Before the Committee on Public Works and Operations

**On behalf of the Archives Advisory Group of the Council of the District of
Columbia**

by Trudy Huskamp Peterson, Chairperson

February 22, 2023

My name is Trudy Huskamp Peterson. I am testifying on behalf of the Archives Advisory Group. Our mandate, as outlined in the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Support Act of 2020, is to “advise the Council of the District of Columbia about Project AB102C in the District’s Capital Improvement Plan to construct a new archives facility for the District of Columbia.” The Group was sworn in on November 18, 2021 and has provided the Council with two semiannual reports.

The Archives Advisory Group is pleased that OCTO has worked with the Office of the Secretary to procure three systems for use by the DC Archives: ArchivesSpace, SpringShare, and Quartex. The Archives continues to need a good electronic preservation system, and we understand that there is a planned procurement for such a system. These are all good and important steps toward making the DC Archives capable of handling the electronic records created by today’s DC government.

When the preservation system is installed, OCTO can begin to transfer the permanently valuable electronic records to the DC Archives for safekeeping and access by the public. Discussions between OCTO and the Archives on this major transfer will be essential and should begin soon, with the goal of ensuring that no electronic information is lost in the transfer process.

The new DC Archives building is planned as a state-of-the-art facility. That will require OCTO to engage actively in the planning process, as features, spaces, and connectivity issues are confronted and resolved. OCTO should ensure that adequate staff time and attention is allocated to working with the Archives building project.

Thank you for your attention, and I would be happy to answer any questions.