

# U.S. COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM  
401 E STREET, N.W., SUITE 312  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001-2728

202-504-2200  
202-504-2195 FAX

4 May 2005

Dear Mr. Pritchard:

During its meeting of 21 April 2005, the Commission reviewed the proposed concept for the streetscape plan and perimeter security barriers designed for the Freedom Forum and Newseum to be located at 555 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (S.L. 05-055). While the Commission has no objections to the majority of the design proposed for 6th and C Streets, the design intent for Pennsylvania Avenue as presented requires further study.

The continuity of the Pennsylvania Avenue streetscape is an important characteristic of its overall design. Therefore, the Commission requests that the sidewalk materials at the front entrance of the building be consistent with materials of the avenue, rather than introducing the black granite to differentiate the horizontal plane. The size and density of planters and benches proposed are inconsistent with the streetscape design for the avenue and creates a strong pedestrian barrier on the sidewalk. The Commission requests that the applicant reexamine the proposed layout of street furniture and encourages a reduction in mass and number of elements. Finally, the current configuration of planters and walls on the sidewalk at the intersection of 6th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue seems overly complex and should be reevaluated for the next submission.

The Commission looks forward to the continued review of this project. Please submit a revised concept for review when ready. As always, the staff is available to assist you.

Sincerely,



Thomas Luebke, AIA  
Secretary

Peter Pritchard, President, The Freedom Forum  
1101 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22209

cc: James Polshek, Polshek Partnership Architects  
Edward M. Rogers, Nixon Peabody LLP  
Judith H. Renfrew, CarrAmerica