

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM
401 F STREET NW SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, DC 20001-2728

202-504-2200
202-504-2195 FAX
www.cfa.gov

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

15 January 2004

9:00 AM **CONVENE**, Suite 312, 401 F Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001-2728

I. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Approval of minutes: 20 November 2003
18 December 2003
- B. Dates of next meetings: 19 February 2004
18 March 2004
15 April 2004
- C. Confirmation of actions taken during the 18 December 2003 meeting.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

- A. Department of Defense / Department of the Navy
 - 1. [CFA 15/JAN/04- 1](#), Naval Observatory and the Vice President's Residence. 34th and Massachusetts Avenue, NW. Perimeter security upgrades at the Main Gate, Gillis Avenue Gate, and South Gate. Designs.
 - 2. CFA 15/JAN/04- 2, Anacostia Naval Station. Harden Forth Stirling Gate at South Capitol Street, SE. Perimeter security upgrades. Design. POSTPONED
 - 3. [CFA 15/JAN/04- 3](#), Washington Navy Yard. Anacostia River waterfront. Perimeter security fence. Design.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS continued, 15 January 2004

B. United States General Accounting Office

[CFA 15/JAN/04- 4](#), GAO Headquarters Building, 441 G Street, NW. Perimeter security barriers and guard booths. Final.
(Previous: CFA 16/OCT/03- 8).

C. Department of State

[CFA 15/JAN/04- 5](#), People's Republic of China. International Center, Lot 12 (consolidated Lots 11, 12 &13), Van Ness Street, NW. New chancery building. Concept.

D. Smithsonian Institution

[CFA 15/JAN/04- 6](#), Museums of the Smithsonian Institution on the National Mall. Constitution and Independence Avenues, Madison and Jefferson Drives, and the cross streets between 4th and 14th Streets, NW. Perimeter security barriers. Concept.

E. Smithsonian Institution / National Zoological Park

1. [CFA 15/JAN/04- 7](#), National Zoological Park. New Asia Trail-Phase I. South of the Olmsted Walk. Final.
(Previous: CFA 20/ FEB/03- 3).

2. [CFA 15/JAN/04- 8](#), National Zoological Park, New Asia Trail-Phase II. South of the Olmsted Walk. Concept.

F. National Park Service

1. [CFA 15/JAN/04- 9](#), Meridian Lodge House. Meridian Hill Park, 16th and Euclid Streets, NW. Rehabilitation and additions. Designs.

2. [CFA 15/JAN/04- 10](#), Franklin Park. Bounded by K, I, 13th and 14th streets, NW. Landscape renovation-Phase I. Design.

G. District of Columbia Department of Mental Health

[CFA 15/JAN/04- 11](#), St. Elizabeths Hospital. 2700 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE. New hospital building. Revised concept.
(Previous: CFA 20/MAR/03- 5).

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS continued, 15 January 2004

H. District of Columbia Office on Aging

1. [CFA 15/JAN/04- 12](#), Old Kennedy Theatre Wellness Center. 318-324 Kennedy Street, NW. Alterations and additions. Designs.
2. [CFA 15/JAN/04- 13](#), Old Hayes School –Ward Six Senior Wellness Center. 1035 5th Street, NE. Renovations and addition. Design.

I. District of Columbia Public Schools

[CFA 15/JAN/04- 14](#), Alice Deal Middle School. 3815 Fort Drive, NW (in Fort Reno Park). Renovation and additions. Concept.

J. District of Columbia Public Schools / U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

[CFA 15/JAN/04- 15](#), Woodson High School. 55th and Eads Streets, NE. Rehabilitation and alterations. Final. (Previous: CFA 16/OCT/03- 18).

K. District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Old Georgetown Act

- a. O.G. 03-284, E. Chamberlain residence. 2720 O Street, NW. New single-family dwelling. Concept.
- b. Appendix I.

2. Shipstead-Luce Act

- a. Appendix II.

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28 January 2004

Dear Mr. Earle:

During its meeting of 15 January, the Commission reviewed the proposed designs for perimeter security upgrades at the main gate and Gillis Avenue gate of the Naval Observatory and for a perimeter security fence along the waterfront at the Washington Navy Yard. The Commission understands the unfortunate need for such projects and supports the intention to open the waterfront to the public but finds a lack of information to make an informed decision.

More specifically, the Commission is concerned about the need for vehicle security barriers outside the security gates at the Vice President's residence and would appreciate the opportunity to speak with the Secret Service regarding this and future projects. On the Navy Yard project, the Commission would like to see more detailed drawings, including more information regarding proposed landscape improvements. The addition of a landscape architect to the project team is strongly recommended. The proposed fence creates an inhospitable environment because its height, regularity and opacity at an oblique angle over the approximate 2,400 ft length. A site visit would be appropriate for this project and should be scheduled as soon as mutually convenient.

The Commission looks forward to continued review of this project. As always, the staff is available should you or the design team have questions or need guidance.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Mr. Lawrence P. Earle
Department of the Navy
Engineering Field Activity Chesapeake
1314 Harwood Street, S.E.
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5018

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Dear Mr. Walker:

During its meeting of 15 January, the Commission reviewed the final designs for the perimeter security barriers and guard booths for the General Accounting Office's headquarters building at 441 G Street, NW. The submission was approved with the exception of the design for the guard booths and the aggregate-concrete as shown on the material sample panel.

The members recommend the design for the guard booths be modified so that the roof overhang is eliminated. This will give the booths a rectilinear profile that is in keeping with the clean and simple lines of the main building. In addition, they recommended the use of clear, low-iron content, security glass be used in the windows of the booths instead of the green colored glass presented, so that there is a closer match to the color of the windows in the main building.

The sample of the aggregate concrete proposed for the walkways at the entrances was found to be too coarse in texture and of a color that is not compatible with the existing decorative granite paving at the entrance. To complement the granite, a gray-colored, finer-grained aggregate was recommended.

In order to expedite the process, the details of the guard booth and the selection of aggregate concrete have been delegated to the staff for final review. Please forward revised drawings and new material samples when ready.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Mr. David M. Walker
Comptroller General of the United States
United States General Accounting Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

cc: Mallory S. Andrews, Director, Facility Management, GAO
Daniel E. Packa, GAO
Ingrid Stead, GAO

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28 January 2004

Dear Ms. Mavritte:

During its 15 January meeting, the Commission reviewed the concept design for a new chancery building for the People's Republic of China to be located on Lot 12 in the International Center on Van Ness Street, NW. The members unanimously approved the concept submission and were pleased with the bold and dynamic configuration of the building. However, there were several issues raised during the discussion that warrant additional study.

The first was a concern with the building's north elevation facing Van Ness Street. The members felt that this side of the building needs to be very carefully studied so that there is a richness to the detailing, particularly with the large expanses of flat wall. This side of the chancery will be the most visible to the public as they enter or cross through the International Center. The Commission encourages the design team to explore ways in which to add additional layers of detail to the building's walls and grounds. One item on the north elevation the members found to be enticing, but perhaps needing additional study, was the "keyhole" opening in the wall of the garden opposite the entry pavilion. As presented, it was thought that its surround might be a bit too thin and appeared fragile, and the members questioned the character of the view that it framed. This signature feature will require thoughtful detailing to be successful.

A landscape plan that is very carefully composed can greatly help to enliven the streetscape along Van Ness Street. The requisite security fence should also be carefully considered in this plan so that it is visually interesting, complements the building, and enhances the landscape.

The Commission looks forward to the review of the design as it progresses. The staff is available to assist as needed.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Ms. Donna Mavritte
Project Manager
Office of Real Property Management
International Chancery Center
United States Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

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28 January 2004

Dear Mr. Rombach:

During its meeting of 15 January, the Commission approved the proposed concept for the perimeter security barriers for the museums of the Smithsonian Institution on the National Mall, including the National Museums of American History and Natural History, S. Dillon Ripley Center, Smithsonian Institution Building, Freer Gallery of Art, National Museum of African Art, Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Arts and Industries Building, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, and National Air and Space Museum. The architects are commended for their thoughtful design that is sensitive to the existing structures while creating a cohesive approach responding to the urban condition surrounding the mall. As the project progresses, the Commission encourages a singular, contemporary design for the security booths, rather than referencing the architecture of the existing buildings. In addition, the continued coordination with the ongoing sign program is crucial to the success of the project.

The Commission looks forward to the further review of this project.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Mr. Harry Rombach, R.A.
Associate Director for Facilities Master Planning
Smithsonian Institution
Office of Facilities Planning & Resources
PO Box 37012, VB5200 MRC 908
Washington, DC 20013-7012

cc: Hany Hassan, Beyer, Blinder, Belle
Roger Courtenay, EDAW

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Dear Dr. Spelman:

During its meeting of 15 January, the Commission approved the proposed design for Phase I and the proposed concept for Phase II of the new Asia Trail. The need to regrade the trail to provide appropriate access is understood and the blending of native and Asian landscapes creates habitats which are adaptive to the animals without compromising existing ecologies. The use of realistic rock is encouraged wherever possible.

More importantly, there is a grave concern about the sculptural representations of captive animals. One commissioner stated:

“The Zoo is to teach and we are using the animals sacrificially to teach...a legacy of each generation to protect the environment. Children playing on animal (sculptures) is not teaching respect for animals. It’s more like an amusement park and you want a much different experience at a zoo than you do in an amusement park...When you have sculptures of animals that are photo opportunities or to play on, it’s giving a message to children that animals are to be amusing for us, that we don’t have total respect for them. Adding more amusements is the wrong direction to go.”

This opinion was unanimously supported by all the members present at the meeting. Therefore, the Commission recommends the removal or relocation of all animal sculptures.

After the meeting, the commissioner representing landscape architecture expressed some additional concerns. Specifically, more attention should be given to the future structures for the animals. Although working drawings were submitted for staff review, more specific drawings and views of the landscaped spaces should be part of future public presentations.

The presenters are to be praised for providing the large model on which to see the trail and its context. However, it is regrettable that the project did not begin presentations to the Commission earlier in the design process, when substantive changes were a possibility. The Commission looks forward to continued review of the National Zoo for Phase II of the Asia Trail and other upcoming projects, earlier in the design process.

As always, the staff is available should you or the design team have questions or need guidance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles H. Atherton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "C".

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Dr. Lucy Spellman, Director
Smithsonian National Zoological Park
3001 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008-2598

cc: Harry Rombach, Smithsonian Institution
Leon Chatelain, Chatelain Architects, P.C.
Warren Byrd, Nelson-Byrd Landscape Architects

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Dear Mr. Lawler:

During its meeting of 15 January, the Commission approved the proposed design for the rehabilitation and additions to the Lodge House in Meridian Hill Park. The project team is commended for their thorough research and sensitive incorporation of programmatic requirements. The Commission looks forward to the continued improvement of this important and well-designed park.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Mr. Joseph M. Lawler
Regional Director
National Capital Region
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20242

cc: Adrienne Coleman, National Park Service
Maryanne Gram, Architrave, P.C. Architects

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Dear Mr. Parsons:

During its meeting of 15 January, the Commission approved Phase 1 of the proposed concept for the landscape renovations to Franklin Park, permitting the removal, relocation and addition of trees and the removal of secondary pathways. The project team is commended for their thorough research and coordination efforts with various agencies. The Commission looks forward to the continued review of improvements for this and other parks, including but not limited to the submission of designs for benches, trash receptacles and lighting.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Mr. John G. Parsons
Associate Regional Director
Lands, Resources and Planning
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20242

cc: Cy Paumier, Downtown BID

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Dear Ms. Knisley:

During its meeting of 15 January, the Commission approved the revised concept for the new hospital on the St. Elizabeth's campus, located at 2700 Martin Luther King, designed to replace the current John Howard Pavilion. The revisions improved the quality of the design by screening the service area and relocating the mechanical equipment areas, reducing the perceived massing on the roof.

The Commission looks forward to continued review of this project as it progresses to the next phase of design. As always, the staff is available should you or the design team have questions or need guidance.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Ms. Martha B. Knisley
Director, District of Columbia
Department of Mental Health
1612 K Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20006

cc: Richard Warsh, DC Department of Mental Health
Marc Shaw, Einhorn Yaffee Prescott Architects
Steve Kleinrock, Einhorn Yaffee Prescott Architects

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Dear Dr. Pace:

During its meeting of 15 January, the Commission reviewed two concept design submissions for new Senior Wellness Centers for the District of Columbia's Office of Aging. The first concept proposal reviewed was for additions and alterations to the Old Kennedy Theatre, 318-324 Kennedy Street, NW, and the second was for the renovation of, and addition to, the Old Hayes School, 1035 5th Street, NE, for the new centers. The members approved both concept submissions and expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Office of Aging to bring life back into these structures. Both projects should prove to be welcome amenities for the senior members of these communities.

The Commission looks forward to the submission of the final construction documents for both projects when ready. The staff is available to assist you in the coordination of these reviews. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Dr. E. Veronica Pace
Executive Director, Office of Aging
Government of the District of Columbia
441 Fourth Street, NW, Suite 900S
Washington, DC 20001

cc: Bijoy Isaac, DC Office of Property Management
Louis Fry III, AIA
Charles Bryant, FAIA

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Dear Ms. Woodhead:

During its meeting of 15 January, the Commission approved the proposed concept for the renovations and additions to Alice Deal Middle School located in Fort Reno Park. The Commission commends the school district and project team for saving the historic school while developing an addition that meets contemporary needs, both programmatically and aesthetically.

The Commission looks forward to continued review of this project as it progresses to the next phase of design. As always, the staff is available should you or the design team have questions or need guidance.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Ms. Sarah Woodhead, AIA
Chief of Facilities
District of Columbia Public Schools
Office of Facilities Management
1709 3rd Street, NE, Penn Center
Washington, DC 20002

cc: Jeffery Luker, AIA, Quinn Evans Architects

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Dear Mr. Eichler:

During its meeting of 15 January, the Commission reviewed the final revisions to the designs for the rehabilitation and additions to Woodson High School, 55th and Eads Streets, NE. The introduction of more windows into the rear wall of the new academic wing has greatly improved this elevation. The additional trees and grass area in the island within the parking area at the front of the school, as well as the enlarged planting areas along the main entrance walkway, will help to soften and reduce the large amount of hard-scape in this portion of the school's grounds. It should make for a more welcoming approach to the main entrance.

The members found these refinements acceptable and gave the project its final approval. They look forward to the project's completion.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Mr. Herbert Eichler, P.E.
Chief, Military/SFO Section
Military/SFO Management Branch
Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

cc: Sarah J. Woodhead, AIA, DCPS
Justina Nesbitt, US Army Corps of Engineers
Bruce Mongrain, SHW Group, Inc.