

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

20 February 2003

I. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Approval of minutes: 16 January 2003
- B. Dates of next meetings: 20 March 2003
17 April 2003
15 May 2003
- C. Report on last month's site inspection of the first six bas-relief panels for the World War II Memorial.
- D. Chairman's report on the site inspections for the World War II Memorial stone work.
- E. Report on the revisions of the designs for the 2004 Florida State Quarter and 2003 platinum proof coin.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

- A. The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
[CFA 20/FEB/03-1](#), The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. New plaza with two new buildings and alterations to the terraces. Concept.
- B. National Museum of African American History and Culture Plan for Action Presidential Commission
[CFA 20/FEB/03-2](#), National Museum of African American History and Culture. Information presentation on site selection study.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS continued, 20 February 2003

C. District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

[S.L.03- 019](#), 555 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. The Freedom Forum. New mixed use building to house the Newseum. Concept. (Last seen 19 December 2002).

D. Smithsonian Institution / National Zoological Park

[CFA 20/ FEB/03-3](#), National Zoological Park. New Asia Trail. South of the Olmsted Walk. Concept.

E. National Park Service

[CFA 20/FEB/03-4](#), Lincoln Memorial. The Martin Luther King Jr, "I Have A Dream" speech commemorative plaque. Revised lettering size. (Previous: CFA 19/DEC/02-7).

F. Department of the Treasury / U.S. Mint

1. [CFA 20/FEB/03-5](#), Thomas Edison Commemorative Silver Dollar. Designs.

2. [CFA 20/FEB/03-6](#), Fish and Wildlife Service Medals. Designs.

G. General Services Administration

[CFA 20/FEB/03-7](#), National Building Museum. 401 F Street, NW. New walkway and stairs to the G Street entrance. Design.

H. District of Columbia Children's Advocacy Center

[CFA 20/FEB/03-8](#), Gales School. 65 Massachusetts Avenue and New Jersey Avenue, NW. Addition and alterations. Concept.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS continued, 20 February 2003

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

1. [CFA 20/ FEB/03-9](#), Luke C. Moore Academy Senior High School (The Brookland School). 1001 Monroe Street, NE. Addition and renovation. Final. (Previous: CFA 15/NOV/01- 13).
2. [CFA 20/ FEB/03-10](#), Woodson High School. 55th and Eads Streets, NE. Rehabilitation and alterations. Concept. (Previous: CFA 21/NOV/02- 9).

J. District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Old Georgetown Act
 - a. DC Historic Preservation Division. Georgetown Historic District. Proposed amendment to the landmark designation to define the period of significance from 1751 to 1950. Information presentation.
 - b. Appendix I.
2. Shipstead-Luce Act, continued
 - a. S.L. 03-045, 100 Block of D Street, SE. Four new single family townhouses. Concept.
 - b. S.L. 03-055, 2800 Chesterfield Place, NW. Additions and modifications to an existing dwelling. Revised concept. (Previous: S.L. 03-038, seen CFA 16/JAN/03).
 - c. Appendix II.

III. INSPECTION

Freer Gallery of Art, Object proposed for acquisition

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4 March 2003

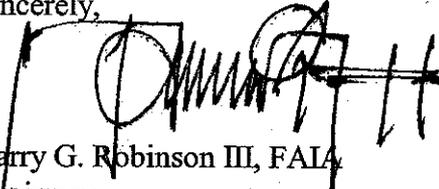
Dear Mr. Kaiser:

At its meeting of 20 February, the Commission reviewed the preliminary concept design for the Kennedy Center's new plaza and expansion project. Included in the proposal were new pedestrian and vehicular access points and a new grand entranceway and forecourt that will connect the Center to E Street by decking over the adjacent highways to the east; two new buildings, flanking the forecourt, that will provide the Center with new rehearsal and educational spaces; and a reconfigured terrace, placing the Center in a surrounding "monumental" oval.

The design by Architect Rafael Viñoly was found to be comprehensive and well thought out. The members were encouraged with the direction of Mr. Viñoly's proposal and thought it appropriate. It should prove successful in achieving the multiple goals of reconnecting the Center to the city, allowing direct access to the waterfront, and providing the much needed auxiliary spaces for onsite rehearsals and educational programs, while maintaining and reinforcing the monumental presence of the Center. The concept design was approved unanimously.

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

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA
Chairman

Mr. Michael Kaiser
President, The John F. Kennedy Center
for the Performing Arts
Washington, DC 20566-0001

cc: Rafael Viñoly, FAIA
Claudette Donlon, JFKCPA

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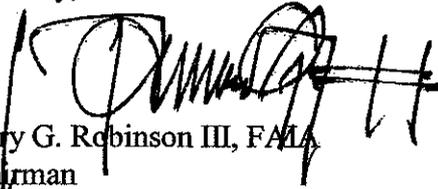
4 March 2003

Dear Dr. Wright:

The Commission wishes to thank Mr. Wilkins and Mr. Johnson for the informational presentation on the site selection study for the new National Museum of African American History and Culture during our 20 February meeting. The members appreciate the thoroughness of the analysis and felt that any one of the sites studied would be an appropriate location for the museum's facilities in the city. Ultimately, no matter which site is finally selected, the design of the building should be of the highest quality reflecting the pivotal importance of the contributions of African Americans to this great nation. To achieve that goal the broadest search possible for design ideas should be conducted.

The Commission looks forward to working with you and your team throughout the project and to the next steps in creating this important cultural institution for the nation. The Commission's staff is available should you or the development team have questions.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA
Chairman

Dr. Robert L. Wright, Chairman
National Museum of African American History
and Culture Presidential Commission
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW, Room 2012
Washington, DC 20240

cc: Robert L. Wilkins, Esq.
E. Verner Johnson

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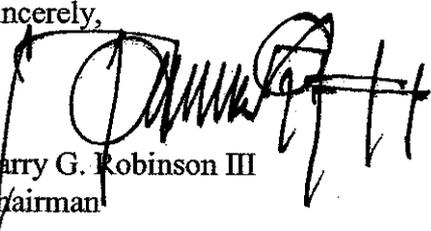
4 March 2003

Dear Mr. Page:

During its meeting of 20 February, the Commission reviewed a concept design for a new mixed use building for the Newseum to be located at 555 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (Lot 826, Square 491/S.L. 03-019), and the Commission voted to "approve the concept of this design with an ultimate height limit of the third bar to 134 feet." The Commission supports the considerable effort made to reduce the effect of the loading dock on the pedestrian experience, in addition to the continued investigation of the transparency of the overall structure and the design of the First Amendment plaque. The proposed seven foot set-back of the third "bar" from the Canadian Embassy is an appropriate modification to mitigate some of the building's apparent height.

This innovative building, housing an exciting new museum and the Freedom Forum's World Center, will undoubtedly have a dramatic and positive presence on the Avenue and will give the city an amenity with many benefits. 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 additional guidance.

Sincerely,


Harry G. Robinson III
Chairman

Max Page
Deputy Director and Vice President
Newseum
The Freedom Forum World Center
1101 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22209

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

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4 March 2003

Dear Dr. Spelman:

The Commission was delighted to meet with you during its meeting of 20 February for the review of the concept design for the proposed Asia Trail project to be located near the entrance to the National Zoological Park. We are sorry the weather conditions prevented us from visiting the Zoo to inspect the site and to see the model, which are instrumental in our understanding the impact of the project on the historic zoo. We would like to reschedule a visit for the our next meeting on 20 March.

The Asia Trail promises to be an exciting part of the Zoo. The improvements to the animal habitats and the careful integration of the landscaping will be a great first step in the "Renew the Zoo" effort. As such, the preliminary concept designs were well received and we encourage you to continue development of the concepts reviewed.

We look forward to the site visit and the continued review of design development, particularly for the new structures and the addition to the Panda House. As always, the staff is available to assist you.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA
Chairman

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

cc: Eric Mucklow, NZP Project Manager
Leon Chatelain, Chatelain Architects, p.c.
Warren Byrd, Nelson-Byrd Landscape Architects

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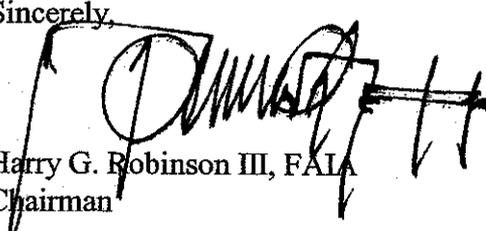
4 March 2003

Dear Mr. Carlstrom:

During its meeting of 20 February, the Commission reviewed the different options for the size of the letters for the Martin Luther King, Jr., *I Have a Dream* speech commemorative inscription to be located on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial where the speech was given.

The members feel the three-inch tall lettering for the title is too large, while the 2 1/8 - inch high letters were deemed appropriate for both readability and scale. The increase of the letters of Dr. King's name to 1 1/4 - inch was an improvement. It was recommended that the spacing between the title and the name, as well as the spacing between the name and the text be slightly increased to set off each visual. With this caveat, the inscription was approved.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FALA
Chairman

Terry R. Carlstrom
Regional Director
National Capital Region
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20242

cc: John Parsons, NPS
Glenn DeMarr, NPS

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4 March 2003

Dear Ms. Fore:

At its meeting on 20 February, the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed designs for the 2004 Thomas Alva Edison Commemorative Silver Dollar. The members' preferences were as follows:

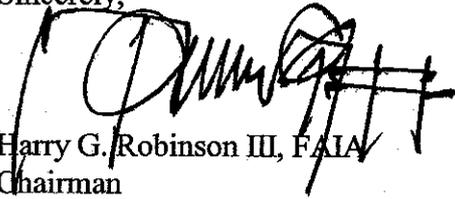
Obverse:

The unanimous choice was Design #2, with the request that the photograph be consulted again as to the rendering of the light bulb, the trousers, and of the fingers on the right hand, which appeared too bony.

Reverse:

It was thought that Design #12 would be the most effective, but it was recommended that the design of the original light bulb, as shown in Design #8, be used instead of the version shown in #12, and that the pointed rays of light be removed.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA
Chairman

The Honorable Henrietta Holsman Fore
Director, United States Mint
801 9th Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20220

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4 March 2003

Dear Ms. Fore:

At its meeting on 20 February, the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed designs for silver and bronze medals to be issued in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The members' preferences were as follows:

Obverse:

The obverse designs selected were those marked A, C, E, and G. For Design A, it was recommended that the branches be pulled back somewhat so that they are not so close to the eagle, particularly to the tail feathers; at coin size they will interfere with the strength of the bird. For Design C, it was observed that while it was a handsome design when viewed alone, its lack of anything in the background made it look slightly out of place with the others in the series. It was realized, however, that it might be impossible to add anything to this design without weakening it, and so the request was that the artist take another look and see if he has any suggestions. We would be happy to look at any revisions that might be made, to this or any of the other coins. In Design E, the off-center placement of the short word "elk" seemed a bit distracting; perhaps the animal could be moved up and "elk" centered at the bottom, somewhat as it is in Design F.

Reverse:

The choice in this category was Design N. There were no particular objections to Design I, but the full-length portrait of Roosevelt dressed in his "woodsman" clothes seemed more appropriate for commemorating his role as a conservationist. If the figure could be made slightly larger, with perhaps some adjustment in the lettering, it would be more impressive.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA
Chairman

The Honorable Henrietta Holsman Fore, Director
United States Mint
801 9th Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20220

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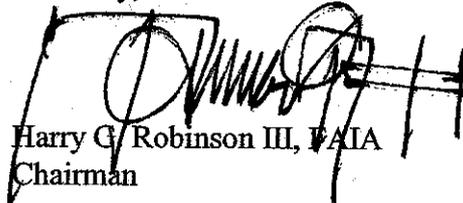
4 March 2003

Dear Mr. McGill:

During its meeting of 20 February, the Commission reviewed and approved the design for the installation of a new walkway and stairs to the G Street entrance of the National Building Museum. The design responds appropriately to the grounds of the historic building and will eliminate the unsightly mud path that cuts through the lawn. It will provide the pedestrian with a direct and safe connection to the museum's north entrance.

The members stressed the importance of having the bricks in the new walkway match exactly those of the existing sidewalk. Please submit material samples to the staff for our delegated approval. In addition, the members noted that the existing sign for the Museum will have to be removed or relocated with the installation of the stairs. When alternative plans for signs on this side of the museum are developed, please submit them for review. As always, the staff is available should you or the design team have questions.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA
Chairman

Mr. Michael McGill
Special Assistant for Regional Coordination
U. S. General Services Administration
301 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20407-0001

cc: Timothy Kenney
Enrique Bellini, KCCT
Frank van der Kemp, KCCT

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4 March 2003

Dear Ms. Chandler:

During its meeting of 20 February 2003, the Commission reviewed and approved the footprint and massing of the concept for the DC Childrens' Advocacy Center that will expand and alter the historic Gales School located at 65 Massachusetts Avenue and New Jersey Avenue, NW (Lot 806, Square 625). The members recommend further study of the new addition's elevations and materials to create a more complimentary relationship with the original building. In addition, every effort should be made to reduce the height of rooftop equipment enclosures.

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,



Eden Rafshoon
Acting Chairman

Nancy Chandler
Executive Director
National Childrens' Alliance
1612 K Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20006

cc: Geoffrey Griffis, Hickok Warner Fox Architects

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4 March 2003

Dear Mr. Block:

During its meeting of 20 February, the Commission reviewed and approved the final designs and material samples for the proposed addition to and renovation of the historic Luke C. Moore Academy Senior High School at 1001 Monroe Street, NE. The revisions to the facades and brick facing are an improvement over the approved concept.

The Commission will want to see sample panels built on site before exterior finish materials are ordered. As always, the staff is available to coordinate this visit and assist you in the interim.

Sincerely,



Eden Rafshoon
Acting Chairman

Stanley N. Block, P.E.
Chief, Design Management Branch
Department of the Army
Baltimore District, US Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

cc: Sarah Woodhead, DCPS
Walter Hernson, DCPS
Richard L. Cole, US Army Corps of Engineers
Steve Parker, AIA, Grimm and Parker
Erika Lea Lehman, AIA, Grimm and Parker

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4 March 2003

Dear Mr. Eichler:

During its meeting of 20 February, the Commission reviewed the revised concept design for the rehabilitation and alterations of the H. D. Woodson High School located at 55th and Eads Streets, NE. The members found the modified elevations and the reconfigured main entranceway to be much improved. The members approved the concept with the suggestion that additional windows or other design elements be incorporated into the south elevation's large flat expanses of wall to enliven this side of the new academic wing. In addition, the Commissioners requested that a detailed landscape plan be submitted when the project returns for additional review.

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

Sincerely,



Eden Rafshoon
Acting Chairman

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

cc: Sarah J. Woodhead, AIA, DCPS
J. Patrick Higgins, SHW Group, Inc.
Justina Nesbitt, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers