

# 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 May 2003

**AM 10:00** CONVENE, Suite 312, 401 F Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001

### I. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Approval of minutes: 22 April 2003
- B. Dates of next meetings: 19 June 2003  
17 July 2003  
18 September 2003
- C. The Commission's 93rd year: established 17 May 1910 and the Shipstead-Luce Act's 73rd year: approved 16 May 1930.
- D. Report on the Committee of 100's Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Mr. Atherton.

### II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

- A. Smithsonian Institution  
  
CFA 15/MAY/03-1, National Museum of the American Indian. Independence Avenue and 3rd Street, SW. Perimeter security barriers and bollards. Designs. (Previous: CFA 18/MAY/00-2).
- B. Department of the Treasury / U.S. Mint  
  
CFA 15/MAY/03-2, Fifty States circulating / commemorative quarter program for 2004. Designs for the Iowa state quarter. (Previous: CFA 22/APR/03-2).

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS continued, 15 May 2003

C. General Services Administration

[CFA 15/MAY/03-3](#), Judiciary Square Historic District. Bounded by 4th, G, and 5th streets and Indiana Avenue. Draft Master Plan – Information presentation.

D. Department of Defense / Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC)

1 [CFA 15/MAY/03-4](#), WRAMC, Main Section. 16th Street, Aspen Street and Georgia Avenue, NW. Master Plan–final draft.

2. [CFA 15/MAY/03-5](#), Fisher House III. WRAMC, Main Section. Dahlia and 15th Street, NW (adjacent to Fisher House II). New residential building. Concept.

E. Department of State

[CFA 15/MAY/03-6](#), International Center. Northwest corner of Van Ness Street and International Court, NW. Guard booth. Revised design–final. (Previous: CFA 16/JAN/03-2 ).

F. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

[CFA 15/MAY/03-7](#), New York Avenue Metrorail Station. Red Line–between Florida Avenue and M Street on 2nd Street, NE. Public art enhancements (concept) and revised entrance pavilion canopy (final). (Previous: CFA 21/NOV/02- 4).

G. District of Columbia, Office of Property Management

[CFA 15/MAY/03-8](#), Material Testing Laboratory for the District Department of Transportation. 414 Farragut Street, NE. New laboratory building. Design.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS continued, 15 May 2003

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

[CFA 15/MAY/03-9](#), Birney Elementary School. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue and Sumner Road, SE. New school building. Revised concept. (Previous: CFA 21/NOV/02-12).

I. District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Old Georgetown Act

- a. O.G. 03- 47 & O.G. 03-48 , East side of the 1500 block of 32nd Street, NW. Five new three-story townhouses. Concept. (Last seen: 22 April 2003).
- b. O.G. 03-37, 3030 M Street, NW. Three new commercial/retail buildings. Concept.
- c. Appendix I.

2. Shipstead-Luce Act

- a. Appendix II.

III. INSPECTION

Studio of Ray Kaskey, Bas-relief panels for the National World War II Memorial.

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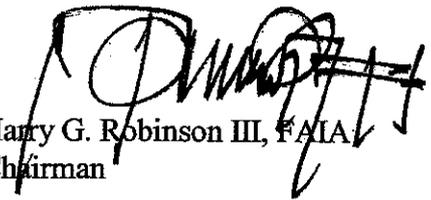
2 June 2003

Dear Mr. Rombach:

During its meeting of 15 May, the Commission reviewed and approved the concept design of perimeter security for the National Museum of the American Indian, located on Independence Avenue and 3rd Street, SW. Although the Commission would have appreciated an earlier submission of the concept, the variety of barriers used in the proposal was strongly supported. However, fewer bollards and the use of reinforced street furniture or additional "grandfather" stones were strongly encouraged.

For final approval, please submit details of the plan, including additional large scale drawings of the proposed guard house and bollard designs. Please coordinate with staff for a site visit during an upcoming Commission meeting for the review of on-going construction, bollard mock-ups and material samples.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA  
Chairman

Harry Rombach, R.A.  
Associate Director for Facilities Master Planning  
Office of Facilities Planning & Resources  
Smithsonian Institution  
750 9th Street, NW, MRC 908  
Washington, DC 20013-7012

cc: Mike Arnold, EDAW  
Hal Davis, Polschek Tobey + Davis

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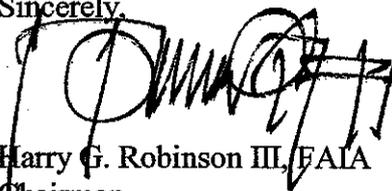
2 June 2003

Dear Ms. Fore:

The Commission of Fine Arts reviewed five candidate designs for the Iowa state quarter at its 15 May meeting. The Grant Wood paintings did not translate well as coin designs, and the preference was clearly for what was called design #5. It showed a cow and a pig in the foreground, an ear of corn on the left and branches of soybeans on the right, and an outline of the state behind the animals containing the inscription, "Feeding the World".

Minor changes were recommended. It was requested that the typeface for "Feeding the World" be the same as used for "Iowa 1846", and it was thought that the rendition of the two crops-especially the soybeans-be made bolder in some way so that it would be clear what they were when reduced to coin size. For the corn, perhaps showing more of the kernels would suffice.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FALA  
Chairman

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

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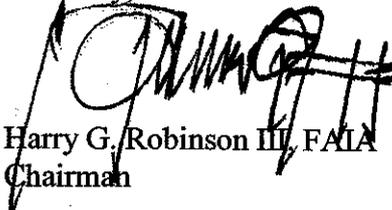
2 June 2003

Dear Mr. McGill:

During its meeting of 15 May, the Commission was pleased to receive an information presentation of the proposed master plan for the Judiciary Square Historic District, bounded by 4th, 5th, and G Streets and Indiana Avenue. The Commission strongly encouraged further collaboration among all the organizations located within the square to resolve ongoing questions and offered staff assistance to help facilitate this activity. As the process continues, the Commission requests the development of a comprehensive plan that responds to current needs while allowing for inventive solutions to future issues, including providing much-needed public places. The integration of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Museum in your planning concepts is of major importance.

We look forward to review of the project as it continues to develop. As always, the staff is available should you or the planning team require guidance.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA  
Chairman

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

cc: Michael A. Kazan, Gruzen Samton, LLP  
Cathy Daskalakis, Gruzen Samton, LLP  
Devpal S. Duggal Metropolitan Architects and Planners, Inc.

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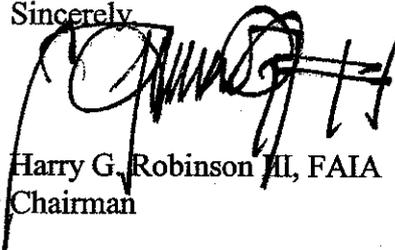
2 June 2003

Dear Mr. Singh:

During its meeting of 15 May, the Commission reviewed and approved the revised Master Plan and Urban Design Framework Study for the Main Section of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. These documents should prove invaluable in directing the future changes and improvements to the Center's facilities and physical environment. At this stage in the planning, all the proposed directives and initiatives for the base that are included in the master plan are welcome enhancements to the campus and its surroundings. The recommended removal of the engineered building on Georgia Avenue is a welcome change. On a more detailed level, the intervention of the visitors' center/security checkpoint on Georgia Avenue and Elder Street and the new guesthouse at the Alaska Avenue gate will require removing mature, healthy trees and changes in topographical features of those two edge sites. The Commission recommends that great care be taken to maintain the natural character of these two sites to avoid their becoming visual intrusions in the green edges of the Center.

The members would like to commend the Center for the thoroughness of the plan and study. We look forward to the review of the new projects that are included in the Master Plan; please submit them when ready.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA  
Chairman

Mr. Harjinder Singh  
Acting Director, Public Works and Transportation  
Department of the Army  
Walter Reed Army Medical Center  
Washington, DC 0307-5001

cc: Marjorie Marcus, Senior Master Planner, Master Planning Branch

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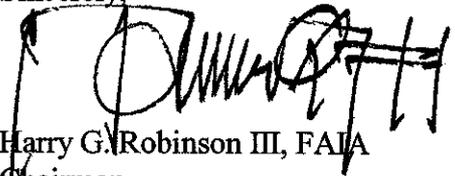
Dear Mr. Singh:

During its meeting of 15 May, the Commission reviewed the concept design of the proposed Fisher House III to be located on the corner of Dahlia and 15<sup>th</sup> Streets in the Main Section of Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The members had minor objection to siting such a facility at the proposed location and they found the proposed house to be too suburban in character, the design's expression of the Georgian Style to be poorly proportioned, and the architectural details needing refinement. Several recommendations were made that could improve the appearance of the facility, including; increasing the size of the windows in the center block; using better-proportioned columns on the entrance porch; and revising the rear and side elevations so that they appear more residential than institutional. In addition, if the overall scale of the building could be reduced, it would be a better companion to the existing Fisher House.

The common areas for the two houses should be carefully studied to make them more integrated and inviting to the guests of both houses. The members also expressed concerns with the size of the proposed parking lot on 15<sup>th</sup> Street and suggested that it be reconfigured to reduce the amount of pavement. This would allow more green space around the house, reduce the need for retaining walls, and maintain the residential quality of this portion of 15th Street. Central to this concern is the re-contouring of the gentle rise in the landform to be occupied by the parking lot.

We commend the Fisher Foundation on their gift to the center. Our hope is that this facility will have the highest quality of design, one that is on par with that of the care given to the Center's patients. We look forward to the review of revisions. Please submit them when ready. As always, the staff is available should you or the design team require guidance.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA  
Chairman

Mr. Harjinder Singh  
Acting Director, Public Works and Transportation  
Walter Reed Army Medical Center  
Washington, DC 20307-5001

cc: Marjorie Marcus, Senior Master Planner, Master Planning Branch

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2 June 2003

Dear Ms. Mavritte:

During its meeting 15 May 2003, the Commission reviewed and approved the revised design for the proposed guard post for the International Center to be located at the northwest corner of Van Ness Street and International Court. The design, as approved, will be the prototype for the four additional posts at the Center.

The vertical lines added to the coursing of the base below the windows will both improve the vertical appearance of the booth and provide it with a character of security, strength and permanence. On the other hand, the proposed bollards were considered not to be in scale and proportion to the guard booth, and should be deleted from the plan as they are not a security requirement. The paving on which the post is sited should be of one hard landscape material and the grass areas should be deleted. The members felt that the dark green color for the new vinyl roof should be used on the metal fascia above the windows as well.

Please forward the revised drawings to the staff for confirmation.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA  
Chairman

Donna Mavritte  
Project Manger  
International Chancery Center  
United States Department of State  
Washington DC 20520

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2 June 2003.

Dear Mr. White:

During its meeting of 15 May, the Commission reviewed the proposed public art enhancements for the new METRO Station at New York Avenue and a revised detail for the cantilever of the structure supporting the roof of the station's entrance pavilion. The members unanimously approved the scheme developed by artist Barbara Grygutis and District of Columbia Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick for installation in the new station. Its combination of a freestanding sculpture, ornamental paving patterns, embellished fencing and panels of poetry was thought to be thematically cohesive and an appropriate adornment for a transportation facility. It should prove to be an interesting and stimulating addition to the METRO system.

As for the proposed detail for the terminus of the roof support structure, the members found the revised configuration of the end points, with the inset panels, a bit too complicated. They preferred a detail that would simply taper the structure back from the edge of the roof, perhaps at a 30% angle from vertical. The idea was to make the original abrupt ending of the entrance canopy structure more gracious, not more elaborate. Please submit a revised detail to the staff for our delegated approval.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA  
Chairman

Mr. Richard A. White  
Chief Executive Officer  
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority  
600 Fifth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

cc: John D. Thomas, WMATA, Project Manager  
Michael McGill, WMATA, Special Assistant for Regional Coordination  
Ed Riley, WMATA, Manager of Architecture  
John A. Ferguson, Jacobs Civil Inc.  
Barbara Grygutis, Artist

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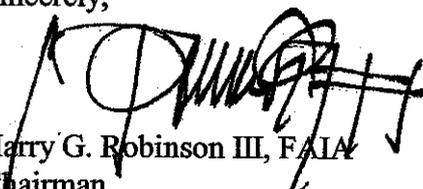
2 June 2003

Dear Mr. Cyrus:

During its meeting of 15 May, the Commission reviewed the design of a new Material Testing Laboratory for the District of Columbia, located at 414 Farragut Street, NE. The project showed a refreshing strength of design with its inventive massing, material choice and use of color. The proposal was approved unanimously.

The Commission looks forward to the review of other well-articulated designs for the District of Columbia and commends the District government on its efforts to provide interesting and respectful additions to the community.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA  
Chairman

Ralph W. Cyrus, Jr.  
COTR, Project Manager  
Capital Construction Services Administration  
Office of Property Management  
District of Columbia  
2000 14th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009

cc: Suman Sorg, Sorg and Associates Architects

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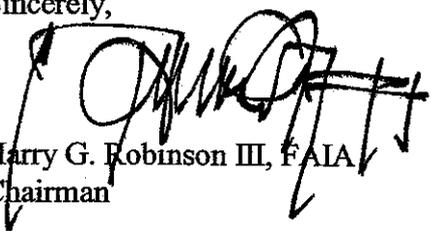
2 June 2003

Dear Mr. Morrow:

During its meeting of 15 May, the Commission reviewed and approved the concept design for the modernization and replacement of the Birney Elementary School located at 2501 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE. While the project greatly benefitted from the additional material patterning and color to create less monolithic facades, the Commission encouraged further use of mid-scale patterning to enhance the design.

The Commission looks forward to the final review of this project and recommends the use of a model in the design process and presentation. As always, the staff is available should you or the design team require assistance.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA  
Chairman

David Morrow  
Design Manager, Design Management Branch  
Engineering Division  
Department of the Army  
Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 1715  
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

cc: Geoffrey Lewis, Gauthier, Alvarado & Associates  
Felipe Turriago, Gauthier, Alvarado & Associates  
Justina Nesbitt, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers