THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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25 June 2004

Dear Mr. McGill:

During its meeting of 17 June 2004, the Commission reviewed the General Services Administration's preliminary urban design and development plan for the Southeast Federal Center (SEFC). The members found the proposed scheme, in its basic concepts, to be an appropriate development plan for the SEFC. It is understood that the submission is not the final sanctioned program, and that GSA is still negotiating with the preferred development team on issues relating to timing, phasing, financing and the implementation of the plan. Nonetheless, the members approved the proposed scheme and endorsed its approach to create an exciting new neighborhood for the city.

The one portion of the SEFC plan that generated several comments by the members was the waterfront park. The members felt that this particular area will be critical to the overall success of the center and that its design should be carefully considered. It should be more than just an open lawn as shown in the renderings. The potential to create an exciting, lively public space is a great opportunity for the city, especially in consideration of its close proximity to Capitol Hill and its central location on the Anacostia River.

The Commission looks forward to future submissions of the individual phases and details of the SEFC as their designs are generated. As always the staff is available should you or the development team require guidance or assistance.

Sincerely,

Frederick J. Lindstrom
Acting Secretary

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

cc: Patricia Daniels, GSA
Shalom Baranes, SBA