

The Committee of 100 on the Federal City



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June 28, 2016

Ms. Nancy Witherell
Regional Historic Preservation Officer
U.S. General Services Administration
301 7th Street, SW, Room 4004
Washington, DC 20407

[nancy.witherell@gsa.gov]

Re: St. Elizabeths West Campus Plan

Dear Ms. Witherell:

The Committee of 100 on the Federal City would like to take this opportunity to express its concurrence with comments made by several consulting parties at the June 7th and June 21st Section 106 meetings concerning the lack of landscape or walking path elements in the proposed West Addition designs.

We are well aware that there is an approved landscape master plan. However, sequencing of this project necessitates updating the initial plan to include the West Addition as the design develops. The absence of landscape elements in the presentations makes it very difficult to evaluate how the West Addition architecture fits into the overall design, especially the way the West Addition will appear to frequent visitors from the USCG building and to the employees who will use this as one of the primary entrances to the Center Building. At the very least, we suggest that overlays of the approved landscape plan for the areas around the West Addition might suggest how the various elements – both historic and new buildings -- fit together.

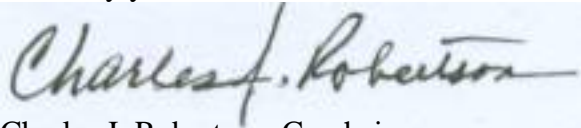
The absence of a landscape scheme tailored to the West Addition denies us the opportunity to envision how the integrity and cohesion of the proposed plan works. This is to the detriment of the careful work being done on this project. Coordination with the approved landscape plan is a necessity, but adjustments

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must be made to it as the design of the new buildings develops. As the proposal currently exist, it is impossible to evaluate the designs for the new construction.

I would very much appreciate your distributing these comments to the other consulting parties.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles J. Robertson", is displayed on a light blue rectangular background.

Charles J. Robertson, Co-chair
Historic Preservation Subcommittee

cc: Danielle.Breaux, Senior Advisor, GSA [Danielle.Breaux@gsa.gov]
Thomas Luebke, Secretary CFA [tluebke@cfa.go]