

Children's Studio School
1301 V. Street N.W. Washington DC. 20009
call (202) 387-6148 or 387-5830

January 24 , 2004

Carol J. Mitten, Chair
DC Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, N.W.

Dear Chairperson Mitten:

Attached is the letter I faxed your office regarding Case 03 26. Before copies of this letter are created for other commission members, I would appreciate your having copies made of *this,* attached, document for that purpose as it corrects the typos found in the faxed letter.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Marcia McDonell
President

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 03-26
Exhibit 46

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.03-26
EXHIBIT NO.46



Children's Studio School
1301 V. Street N.W. Washington DC, 20009
call (202) 387-6148 or 387-5880

January 21, 2004 Case 03 26

Dear Zoning Commission Members:

Children's Studio School lives on the corner of V and 13th Streets, N.W. Now in its 27th year, Studio School is a community-based arts organization for creative thinkers of all ages and cultures, and a full-day school of the arts as a total process of education for young children. Studio School has been struggling for many years to help its families remain and thrive in the community. As you all well know, as each day (or is it hour?) comes to an end, another family is forced to leave our neighborhood and our city.

Thus, we must say up front that we were not exactly thrilled with another residence for upper-income people being constructed *in our back yard.* We must say we do appreciate PN Hoffman committing funds to support affordable housing; however, we all know that few if any low-income families can afford to live in homes designated as "affordable."

In addition to this global issue, we are also very concerned about:

- the amount of traffic anticipated on V Street, where children are constantly crossing between the school and the playground throughout the day;
- equally, the amount of traffic entering the alley adjacent to the school and traversing the sidewalk where children and their teachers, and children and their parents, have to constantly cross;
- the demands for parking on our street, where volunteer artists, parents, faculty, interns and staff can not find a place to park even today;
- the need for factual assurance regarding the possible exposure of children and families to soil contamination, hazardous waste and airborne toxic substances during and after renovations; and
- the possibility of very loud noise for months during construction.

With a positive, proactive stance, we *count on* PN Hoffman to present the documentation on toxicity removal and encourage the support of Studio School's community programs through:

the establishment of absolutely essential Studio School parking spaces (18 are needed) to take the place of those no longer available on the street or on the current empty lot;

the support of the capital costs of creating Studio School *Artists and Communities* transformable performance space in the school for performances, workshops and exhibits for the entire city, but especially for our community;

the donation of space and utilities for the Studio School Community Gallery in the renovated site's commercial space.

Thank you for approving PN Hoffman's zoning request based on the fulfillment of these community needs.

Sincerely,

Marcia McDonell
President
Children's Studio School

Attached: a description of Studio School and its work with artists and communities

CC: Jim Graham, Councilmember, Ward One
Mayor Anthony Williams
Scott Pomeroy, 14th and U Main Street Initiative
Bryan Martin Firvida, Cardozo Shaw Neighborhood Association
Deborah Thomas, ANC
Mr. Monty Hoffman, P.N. Hoffman, Inc.
Jill Chodorov 1329 V Street, NW and other neighbors
Craig MacIvor, Cardozo Shaw Neighborhood Association
Phil Spaulding, ANC1B

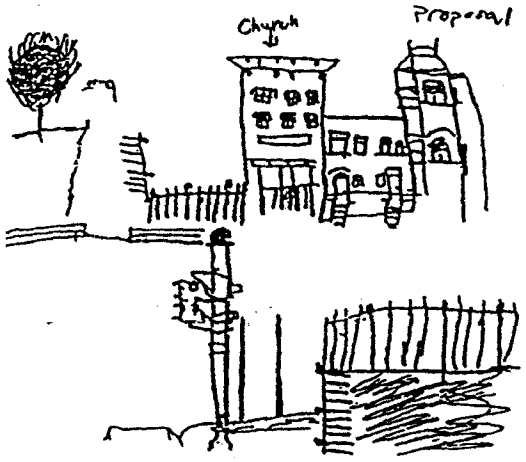
CHILDREN'S STUDIO SCHOOL

Considered radical at its inception -- a school where young children work throughout the day with artists/scholars as a total means of education -- Children's Studio School, now more than a quarter century old, is still a pioneer. Its *Arts As Education©* methodology, its full-day public charter **school of the Arts and Architecture**, its Artists and Families and Artists and Communities programs continue to receive praise from parents, educators, artists and evaluators. Children's Studio School was founded by artist and educator Marcia McDonell in **1977** as a community-based arts organization and all-day school. Its long-planned **Studio School Urban Arts Complex** is being realized, with exhibits in its Community Gallery; performance spaces; evening and weekend Artists and Families and Artists and Community studios; and partially subsidized studio space for artists who support the community.

The school/complex involves the entire community in the education of its children. At its core is the school, where children, as young as three, work with artists/teachers -- highly-developed architects, writers, visual and performing artists, of many cultures -- who are complete teachers. In an intensive educational process through out the day, children develop multiple and unusual thinking capabilities, as they have for two decades in Children's Studio School's original school in Mt. Pleasant/Columbia Heights; in its five-year **InResidence Program** in DC Public Schools at Cleveland School; and in its collaborations with other arts institutions -- currently in a ground breaking, long-term partnership with The **American Place Theatre** of New York and **Art Creates Life** at Duke Ellington School; and with schools in the city's many neighborhoods.

The concept and design of the **Arts Complex** has been developing over many years during the life of the school. Children's Studio School's pioneering vision, leadership and steadfast commitment to the mixed-income (predominantly low) and culturally diverse communities it serves is manifested in the Complex. Here, the school will be increasingly surrounded by adult artists' studio/ residences, exhibits and performance spaces Studio School continues to offer professional development for other artists, interns & teachers; **City As Studio©**; and Artists & Communities programs -- an active center of community arts, education and culture, day and night.

Children's Studio School is **seeking financial and in-kind support from the private sector to expand and renovate our building.** Volunteers -- individuals and corporations -- are needed to help with renovations, communications, and major fundraising. Opportunities are also available for interns and other volunteers to assist artists/teachers in the teaching studios.



Sketch and Proposal corner of 9 & S Sts NW by Zekita Shaw, 8

© Children's Studio School

1301 V Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20009
202 387 6148