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D.C. COMMISSION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
D.C. COMMISSION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

11: 29

February 8, 2007

Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia
 One Judiciary Square
 441 4th Street, NW, Suite 210 South
 Washington, DC 20001

Re: 5220 Wisconsin Avenue, Case 06-31

Dear Members of the Commission:

In response to a request from Akridge and the DC Office of Planning, we write to document the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities' commitment to install public artwork in the PEPCO Substation display windows at 5210 Wisconsin Avenue NW.

The renovation of the building's façade and reestablishment of its large display windows present a unique opportunity to enhance this section of streetscape with artwork for the enjoyment of neighborhood residents and visitors. If this Planned Unit Development is approved, we will commission one or more artists to design, fabricate and install a quality artwork (or set of artworks) in the substation widows through our Neighborhood Projects Program.

The goal of this program is to involve community members in bringing public art projects to their neighborhoods while creating opportunities for local artists. Examples of past successful efforts of the Neighborhood Projects Program include:

- EPOCH, a vibrant gateway sculpture project by Albert Paley, in front of PEPCO Headquarters at 9th and G Streets NW that includes a poem by Washington DC Poet Laureate, Dolores Kendrick.
- PANDAMANIA and PARTY ANIMAL PROJECT, a citywide effort designed to be an economic generator, promote civic pride and cultural awareness and offer a public art opportunity for emerging artists. The projects placed 200 creatively designed donkeys and elephants and 150 pandas on the streets of Washington, DC.
- EXPRESSIVE SIGN PROJECT, an innovative project that paired artists with business owners along H Street NE to create 12 unique business signs that herald the revival of the H Street NE corridor.

As the Arts Commission is interested in facilitating the creation of artwork that specifically takes into account community interests and the public use of each site, we will incorporate the input and collaborative ideas of Friendship Heights neighborhood residents in this project.

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through community member representation on the artwork selection committee. We are particularly excited by the prospect of installing art in the public realm in Ward 3, as our agency has had few opportunities for such a project in the past.

Based on the size of the display windows and the site conditions, the Arts Commission has set aside a minimum of \$100,000 in our Fiscal Year 2008 budget to cover the costs of administering the selection, commissioning, design, creation and installation of the art work. If the scope of the project changes, we have the ability to set aside as much as \$200,000.

In closing, we are eager to begin the planning process for this initiative, and are pleased to provide any additional information you may require. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Anthony Gittens
Executive Director
DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities