

Bruce McNeil
Misty Brown

December 15, 2014

Anthony J. Hood
Chairman
District of Columbia Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 2005
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Chairman Hood:

We are writing to express our excitement and wholeheartedly support for Four Points' Stage II Planned Unit Development application to develop 2255 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE into a brand new mixed-income residential building.

As Ward 7 residents and artists, we are extremely happy that Four Points' goal is to provide affordable housing for artists. As many know, artists are in a field that has fluctuating income, which comes with supply and demand in the market for their art or expertise. In these changing times, many developers do not provide affordable housing for artists. The trend has been for families, seniors, homeless or returning citizens. We are homeowners in Fort Dupont. However, many of our friends are always facing housing challenges.

BACKGROUND INFO: Bruce McNeil has been inspiring the art world and the residents of the Washington Metropolitan Area, since 1987 with an innovative blend of photography and the environment about cleaning up the Anacostia River. His artistic advocacy, which prompted the Washington Examiner and The Washington Post to give him the title "DC River Man" and "Washington's River Man," has influence environmental and social changes. His work has been the subject of numerous complimentary reviews from his peers, juried competitions, collectors, media coverage, politicians, and the community. District of Columbia Commission of the Arts and Humanities (DCCA) funded or awarded him the Finalist in Excellence In An Artistic Discipline for the 28th Annual Mayor's Arts Award, Art Bank and Small Projects Program.

His first solo exhibition on the Anacostia River and its inhabitants entitled, *Mami Wata: Capturing the Spirit* opened at Honfleur Gallery in summer 2010. This photography collection is permanently housed in the George Washington House - a historic site that President Washington frequently visited when it was a tavern. Today, it is the

headquarters of Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) located in Bladensburg, MD where the watershed of Anacostia is located. (DCCAHD funded the exhibition.) He was the only "master photographer" and DC artist in the groundbreaking exhibition, *Reclaiming the*

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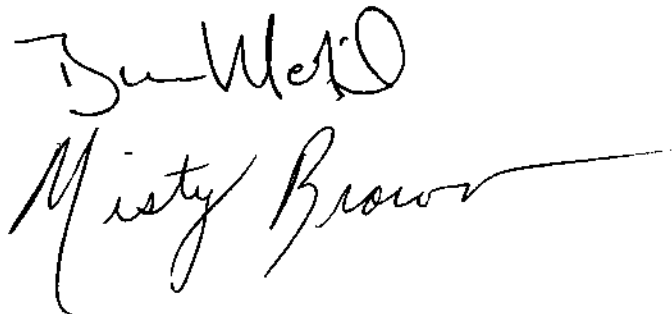
Edge: Urban Waterways and Civic Engagement, Smithsonian, Anacostia Community Museum (ACM), October 14, 2012 to November 30, 2013 6 to June 23, 2013.

Misty Brown comes with an equally impressive history as a performance and visual artist, writer and arts presenter/producer. A 25-year resident of Washington, D.C., Brown has performed for literary giants: Gwendolyn Brooks, James Baldwin and had a one-woman show, *In A Twinkle of An Eye* at Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Trust in 1992. In the early 1990s, she was co-curator of DC Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton's art exhibitions located within in her offices. Since 1987, she has been writing about the arts for various publications. Currently, she performs as Mami Wata, an ancient mythic water spirit teaching environmental stewardship.

Again, we would like to express our full support for the proposal submitted by Four Points. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Thank You,

Bruce McNeil
Misty Brown

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature, "Bruce McNeil", is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'B'. The second signature, "Misty Brown", is also in cursive, with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

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