

U. S. COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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401 F STREET NW SUITE 312 WASHINGTON DC 20001-2728 202-504-2200 FAX 202-504-2195 WWW.CFA.GOV

28 February 2025

Dear Mr. Hunter:

In its public meeting of 20 February conducted by videoconference, the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed a concept submission for a new shelter for the homeless at 1201 New York Avenue, NE. The Commission approved the submission and delegated the review of the final design to the staff, providing the following comments for the development of the design.

The Commission members expressed support for the overall proposal, which they said is well conceived and elegant despite the challenging site. They also found that the proposed building form and massing would create humane spaces for the residents—including private outdoor spaces and fritted glass windows that would provide a sense of privacy. In their support for the project, they recommended refinement of the welcome center pavilion and its setting to ensure that the entry sequence is inviting and dignified. They also suggested reevaluating the inclusion of a railing inside the glass-enclosed terraces so that the terraces maintain their functionality without compromising safety.

Please consult on the delegated final review with the staff which, as always, is available to assist you.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Luebke, FAIA
Secretary

Delano Hunter, Director
D.C. Department of General Services
3924 Minnesota Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20019

cc: Suman Sorg, Sorg Architects
Bruno Carvalho, Carvalho & Good
Lisa Franklin, D.C. Department of Human Services