

U.S. COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

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

27 October 2017

Dear Mr. Kenner:

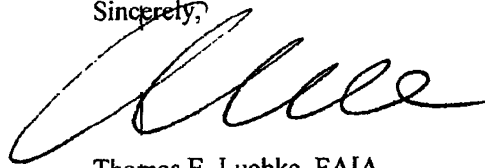
In its meeting of 19 October, the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed a revised concept submission forwarded by the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development for several public spaces of the Southwest Waterfront development known as the District Wharf: the Wharf promenade, the Grove, M Street Landing, and the Terrace. The Commission members present recommended approval of the revised concept designs with the following comments.

The Commission members expressed appreciation for the responsiveness to their previous advice, such as maintaining a more consistent treatment of trees along the Wharf promenade to provide the needed continuous setting for the distinctive public spaces and buildings. They observed that the collaboration between architects and landscape architects has resulted in greatly improved designs for the public spaces. For the Terrace park, they commented that the shift in orientation of the park's geometry and of Water Building #3 results in an effective framing of views to the water. For the M Street Landing park, they commented that the integration of the design of the Parcel 10 amphitheater and the park landscape allows this corner to form part of the threshold between public spaces.

The Commission's consideration of the District Wharf in this meeting also included the review of Water Building 1, submitted as a private-sector proposal in accordance with the Shipstead-Luce Act. For your reference, the letter describing the review of this project is enclosed.

As a quorum was not present for the review of this submission, this recommendation will be placed on the administrative agenda for confirmation at the Commission's next meeting. The Commission looks forward to further review of components of the District Wharf project; please consult with the staff which, as always, is available to assist you.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Luebke, FAIA
Secretary

Brian T. Kenner
Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 317
Washington, DC 20004

Encl.: Letter of 27 October 2017 on Shipstead-Luce Act submission at the District Wharf

cc: Shawn Seaman, Hoffman-Madison Waterfront
Hilary Bertsch, EEK/Perkins Eastman
Paul Josey, Wolf | Josey Landscape Architects

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Dear Mr. Seaman:

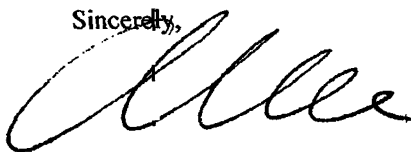
In its meeting of 19 October, the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed a new concept design for Water Building 1, to be located at 670 Maine Avenue, SW, in the Southwest Waterfront development known as the District Wharf (case number SL 18-002). Expressing their appreciation for the responsiveness to their previous advice, the Commission members present recommended approval of the concept submission with the following comments.

The Commission members found the revised design to be much improved in its expression of a distinctive, idiosyncratic character within a series of buildings along the water, related in scale and materiality. They characterized the new design as elegant, and they commented favorably on the simpler and lighter treatment of the perimeter trusses. They observed that the bronze-colored metal proposed for the curtainwall contrasts well with the lighter color of the eccentric trusses, noting that the interior core is now more visible as an element of the building's volumetric composition. They expressed support for the perimeter bench as an architectural element that enhances the public space, recommending careful study of its proportions and details for human comfort and to avoid the necessity for guardrails. They also recommended careful attention to the details at the base and top truss connections in order to realize the crisp intent of the concept.

The Commission's consideration of the District Wharf in this meeting also included the review of revised designs for several public spaces in Phase 2, submitted by the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development. For your reference, the letter describing the review of these projects is enclosed.

As a quorum was not present for the review of this submission, this recommendation will be placed on the administrative agenda for confirmation at the Commission's next meeting. The Commission looks forward to its next review of components of the District Wharf project; please consult with the staff which, as always, is available to assist you.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Luebke, FAIA
Secretary

Shawn Seaman
Hoffman-Madison Waterfront
690 Water Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Encl.: Letter of 27 October 2017 on public space submissions at the District Wharf

cc: Marc Kushner, Hollwich Kushner Architecture
Jennifer Steingasser, D.C. Office of Planning
Melinda Bolling, D.C. Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs