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November 17, 2021

VIA IZIS

Zoning Commission for the
District of Columbia
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 210S
Washington, D.C. 20001

**Re: Z.C. Case No. 12-15C - Gallaudet University
Proposed Amendment to 2012-2022 University Campus Plan
Applicant's Post-Hearing Materials**

Dear Members of the Zoning Commission:

On behalf of Gallaudet University ("Gallaudet" or the "Applicant"), we respectfully submit these materials for your consideration in response to your comments and questions received during the November 4 public hearing held for this application. These materials include a complete package of refined architectural drawings and plans (the "Updated Drawings"), which are proposed to supersede and replace the earlier-submitted packages of drawings included at Exhibits 5 and 21 of the hearing. Also included is the Applicant's racial equity analysis undertaken pursuant to the District Elements of the Comprehensive Plan

Creativity Way Further Refinements:

Gallaudet and its design team much appreciated the dialogue with the Zoning Commission during the November 4 public hearing and the Commission's comments and suggestions for further study. A number of design updates have been made to Creativity Way as well as additional gestures made to improving public wayfinding to and through Creativity Way and onto Gallaudet's campus, as shown in the attached updated drawings package and summarized below:

Improving Visibility and Access to Creativity Way:

The Applicant has reviewed each of the three public routes between 6th Street, NE, and the Gallaudet Campus with respect to optimising and fostering connectivity between Creativity Way and 6th Street, recognizing that each of the three routes has distinct characteristics and that each presents different opportunities. Each of the three 'portals' have been reviewed and adjusted accordingly:

- Tapscott Street – The scale and orientation of this portal have been modified in recognition of this being the primary route between 6th St and Creativity Way from Union Market and points north. The larger portal (increased by approximately 20 percent) offers enhanced visibility from 6th Street and also provides a ‘frame’ within which it is intended that banners can be hung to promote public events within Creativity Way and/or elsewhere on Campus. This portal also has been rotated (on plan) to more directly address the view along Tapscott Street. See Updated Drawings at Sheets 30 and 31.
- The "Green Finger" – The Applicant has studied this entry and does not recommend any changes be made to this portal, given that the pedestrian-only character of the Green Finger is already designed in such a manner as to draw visitors in to explore Creativity Way and the Campus. At the end of view down the Green Finger, the visibility of the min Creativity Way Pavilion structure provides another element that will be visible from 6th Street. See Drawings at Sheet 37.
- Morse Street – The Applicant is proposing its most dramatic revision to the Creativity Way design at this location by proposing to relocate the "southern portal’ from Creativity Way a block west to the south side of the intersection of 6th Street and Morse Street, on Parcel 1 as described in the related Planned Unit Modification application (Case No. 15-24). The Applicant believes that this move will establish a strong and very visible connection with 6th Street and Florida Avenue and engage pedestrians approaching from the south. The continuity of the Creativity Way material and color palette along the south sidewalk of Morse Street will establish a visual connection between this portal and Creativity Way, offering pedestrians a clear sense of the continuity of public space to be explored by heading east along Morse Street. Also, in place of the portal at the south end of Creativity Way, the Applicant is now proposing an additional pavilion that will provide an additional dedicated entry point to Olmsted Green and the Campus. See Updated Drawings at Sheets 42 and 43.

Clarification of Security and Design and Operation of Gates:

In response to questions and comments received from the Commission regarding public access to Creativity Way and the design and operation of the various gates shown, the Applicant has refined its general security strategy to provide that the Campus will be secured at night at three points where Creativity Way connects with the adjacent Planned Unit Development to its west: at Tapscott Street; the Green Finger; and Morse Street. Decorated gates designed to be incorporated into the Creativity Way pavilions and related sculptural elements that will swing inwards toward Creativity Way will be positioned at each of these three locations, as shown on the Updated Drawings at Sheets 21, 22, 23, 37, 42 and 43.

As noted on Sheet 21, these three gates are anticipated to afford access for the public into Creativity Way and on to explore the Miller Memorial Garden or to enjoy the park-like experience of Olmsted Green on the Campus. Operation of the gates along Tapscott Street are

shown conceptually at Sheets 22 and 23, and similar operation would occur at the eastern terminus of Morse Street.

Pedestrian movement east from Creativity Way into the Olmsted Green, past the Faculty Row houses, is accomplished via multiple distinct ‘gateway’ pavilions which signal public access. At each of these ‘gateways’ sets of gates will be set in an open position, only to be closed on those occasions where Gallaudet considers it necessary to control the movement from Creativity Way further onto the Campus. On those occasions when these ‘gateways’ are closed, public movement into and through Creativity Way to Campus would proceed at the north end of Creativity Way, where no such gateways are located, as shown on Sheet 21 of the Updated Drawings. Conceptual drawings of the gateways are provided at Sheets 20, 24, 25, 26, 40, 41, and 43.

Public Art and Family-Friendly Elements:

The Updated Drawings include additional images to convey how Gallaudet envisions that Creativity Way’s design development will proceed in such a way as to include public art and features that can be enjoyed and explored by children whilst providing shelter and seating for parents/guardians. The following strategies are being explored, as shown on Sheets 30 through 33 of the Updated Drawings:

- ‘stepping stones’ within planted areas – encouraging children to engage closely with nature in a playful manner;
- ‘foot-steps’ – artwork that would be embedded in the ground that could also offer a source of engagement for children;
- surfaces of the new Creativity Way pavilions and other structures – illustrations show how the vertical surfaces can support art – either permanent relief work (e.g. perhaps relating to American Sign Language and/or the diagonal lines that characterise the architecture of the historic campus) or by providing a surface with which children could engage (e.g. a chalk-board wall);
- distinct sculptural elements – Creativity Way could be a home to some permanent public sculptures or could support temporary sculpture exhibition.

Comprehensive Plan/Racial Equity Analysis:

Subtitle X Section 101.11 provides that the Zoning Commission shall consider, to the extent they are relevant, the policies of the District Elements of the Comprehensive Plan when reviewing and deciding a campus plan application or new building construction pursuant to a campus plan. As the Commission is well aware, racial equity is an important consideration as set forth in the recently updated District Elements of the Comprehensive Plan and is a stated and emphasized goal of the District government. The Office of Planning report in support of the Application includes

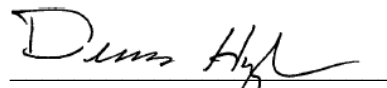
a thorough review of the Application through a racial equity lens pursuant to direction from both the Framework Element and Implementation Element of the Comprehensive Plan, and the Applicant concurs and supports that analysis.

The Framework Element notes that equity exists where all peoples share equal rights, access, choice, opportunity, and outcomes, regardless of characteristics such as race, gender or class. Further, equity is achieved by targeted actions and investments to meet residents where they are, to create equitable opportunities. As the Office of Planning rightly noted in its report, the proposed limited Campus Plan amendment elements will facilitate development intended to bridge the gap between the University Campus and commercial uses to the west. Furthermore, the amendment proposes to establish a significant community open space asset in the form of Creativity Way that will be open and welcoming to residents and visitors of all racial, economic and social backgrounds. Finally, the amendment proposes to facilitate access to residents of all backgrounds to other areas of the University Campus, including the Louise B. Miller Pathways and Gardens, which has been designed by Gallaudet to share the history of the Black Deaf student experience, to commemorate and celebrate groundbreaking figures in support of improving that experience, and to provide a welcoming contemplative space for residents and visitors of all racial, social and economic backgrounds.

Thank you for your consideration of these additional materials in advance of the December 16 public meeting when this application is scheduled for deliberation and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP



Dennis R. Hughes, Esq.

cc : Certificate of Service

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on November 17, 2021, electronic copies of Gallaudet University's post-hearing materials were delivered as follows:

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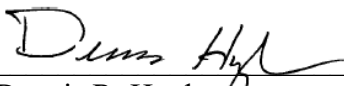
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