



District of Columbia Green Spaces Alliance, Inc.

July 19, 2018

Mr. Earl A. Powell III, Chairman
U.S. Commission of Fine Arts
401 F Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Chairman Powell and Members of the Commission of Fine Arts,

I am President of the District of Columbia Green Spaces Alliance, also known as *Green Spaces for DC*. The mission of our organization is to advance the Quality of Parks and Green Spaces in the District of Columbia. We provide support, and advocate for the promotion and innovation of programs, policies and guidance that improve park management, maintenance, administration and use.

Throughout our city is evidence of inadequate maintenance of our parks and public spaces primarily due to lack of funding resulting in disrepair; overgrown, undernourished and lost vegetation; and loss of infrastructure. Pershing Park has also met this fate despite being a significant and highly visible part of the Pennsylvania Avenue public realm.

We support the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) in providing continued and factual insight in the public and private projects throughout Washington D.C. We

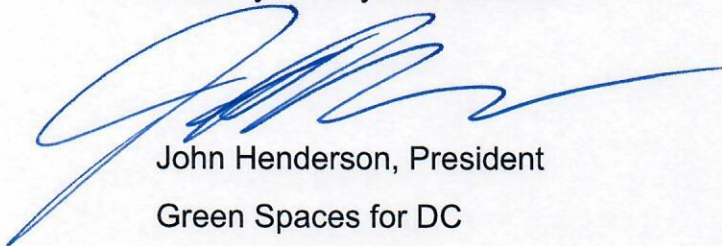


speaking in favor of the CFA's effort to both acknowledge the historic landscape of Pershing Park by awarding-winning landscape architect, M. Paul Friedberg and planting plan by Oehme van Sweden that created and established a park for people; and for the CFA's guidance during this design review process to assure the integration of the proposed World War I Memorial with the important public space elements of the park. We urge you to continue your thoughtful work to determine the best course of action in preserving the integrity of Friedberg's nationally significant design concept for Pershing Park.

We do not support Option A. The freestanding sculpture alters and undermines the very essence of the spatial relationships and views of the original design: the cascade fountain, pool, kiosk and Pershing Memorial. We encourage you to consider other options, including C: Round Sculpture near kiosk that could be integrated with the existing park while preserving the integrity of these important park elements.

My background includes positions as Director of Research, Planning and Evaluation for the Chicago Park District, Research and Evaluation Manager for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and Chair of the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies.

Thank you for your attention.



John Henderson, President
Green Spaces for DC

