



Smithsonian Institution

David J. Skorton
Secretary

January 24, 2017

Benjamin F. Lenhardt
Chairman, The Garden Conservancy
PO Box 219
Cold Spring, NY 10516

Dear Mr. Lenhardt, the Preservation Committee of The Garden Conservancy's Board of Directors and members of The Garden Conservancy:

Thank you for your recent letter in regard to the Smithsonian's South Mall Campus Master Plan and its possible impact on the present design of the Enid A. Haupt Garden.

I fully agree with your observation that the Haupt Garden's overall design and various features form a unique garden environment on the National Mall. My daily commute includes a walk through many of the Smithsonian's gardens and each day I experience how appreciated these spaces are by so many.

As is apparent from your letter, The Garden Conservancy is well aware of the history of the Enid A. Haupt Garden but I thought I would attach a fact sheet about the garden that was shared during the most recent Section 106 Consulting Parties Meeting convened for this project. The many needs of the facilities in this area of the campus, including replacement of the roof membrane above the underground museum complex (the "Quadrangle"), led us to the development of the Smithsonian's South Mall Campus Master Plan. The goals of this plan are to preserve historic structures; provide a central mechanical plant to lessen the Smithsonian's energy consumption; consolidate and expand below ground service and delivery facilities for the buildings on the campus to allow expanded garden space; improve compliance with ADA Standards for Accessible Design and east-to-west access to museums above and below grade; and renew and expand the gardens.

The initial phase of the plan, which is currently under review by the National Capital Planning Commission and in an extended public comment period, included highly conceptual illustrations for the Enid A. Haupt Garden. I want to assure you that the Smithsonian has heard the many individual and organizational voices that have indicated their concern for the Enid A. Haupt Garden. As a result, we are currently developing another master plan alternative which will be made available for public comment.

Smithsonian Institution Building
1000 Jefferson Drive SW
Washington DC 20560-0016
202.633.1846 Telephone
202.786.2515 Fax

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The Garden's final design is not part of the master plan currently under consideration. The illustrations represent just one of many alternatives that may be considered in the future. The ultimate design will not be developed until renovation of the Quadrangle begins in the next five to ten years to replace its leaking roof. The design process will include meaningful opportunities for public participation.

We at the Smithsonian are committed to providing a handsome garden that will sustain the elements that have made the current configuration of the Haupt Garden so special, namely private, contemplative spaces; horticulturally rich plantings; and beautiful vistas that respect the Garden's historic location and honor Enid A. Haupt and her generous gift to the Smithsonian and the nation.

In closing, The Garden Conservancy is an organization held in high esteem by the nation. As an organization committed to saving and celebrating America's gardens we respect your views and hope you will continue to share your opinions and expertise as the development of the designs for the Smithsonian's South Mall Campus landscapes evolve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Skorton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Enclosure

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Hirshhorn and Quadrangle Fact Sheet – South Mall Campus Master Plan Consulting Parties Meeting

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

- Constructed 1969-74
- Designer: Gordon Bunshaft of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill
- Sculpture Garden rehabilitation
 - o Phased rehabilitation between 1977-1981
 - o Designed by Lester Collins (landscape architect) in collaboration with the Hirshhorn Museum and Smithsonian Office of Horticulture
 - Paving and vegetation replaced; new stairs, ramps and raised beds installed
- Plaza and landscape alterations
 - o Altered between 1989-93
 - o Designed by landscape architecture firm Urban & Associates in collaboration with architecture firm Cannon
 - Granite pavers, planting beds, accessible ramps and plantings installed

The Quadrangle

- Constructed 1983-87
- Architectural design team: Junzo Yoshimura (concept architect); Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson and Abbott with design principal Jean Paul Carlhian
- Landscape architect: Sasaki Associates; hardscape details (i.e. Moongate Garden and Fountain Garden) designed by Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson & Abbott
 - o Smithsonian Office of Horticulture and Lester Collins consulted on the planting plan
- Renwick Gates
 - o Based on an illustration by James Renwick, Jr., from *Hints on Public Architecture* by Robert Dale Owen
 - o Posts constructed from salvaged Seneca red sandstone from a late 19th century D.C. jail
 - o Fabricated and installed in the Haupt Garden c. 1987
- Andrew Jackson Downing Urn
 - o Designed by Calvert Vaux and sculpted in 1856 by Robert E. Launitz
 - o Originally located on the northeast corner of the Smithsonian Grounds
 - o Moved to the garden east of the Castle in 1972; installed in the Haupt Garden in 1989
- Enid A. Haupt Garden
 - o Late 19th and early 20th century cast iron benches from Smithsonian Gardens' collection (not site specific)
 - o Aluminum and wood benches installed c. 1976; Luytens benches installed c. 1987
 - o Lamposts c. 1976, salvaged from Dan Kiley's Bicentennial park
 - Reproductions cast from 19th century molds
 - o Alterations:
 - Original crushed stone walkways replaced with brick in 1990-91

Individually Listed Historic Resources in the South Mall Campus

- Smithsonian Institution Building (Castle)
 - o Listed as a National Historic Landmark in 1965
 - o Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966
 - Listing does not include the Haupt Garden or the Quadrangle Building
- Freer Gallery
 - o Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969
- Arts and Industries Building
 - o Listed as a National Historic Landmark in 1971
 - o Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971