



THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY

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January 23, 2020

Margery Perlmutter, R.A., Esq.
Chair, NYC Board of Standards and Appeals
250 Broadway, 29th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: BSA Calendar # 2018-171-BZ
Application for the Frick Collection, 1 East 70th Street, New York, NY

Dear Ms. Perlmutter, R.A., Esq.

The Garden Conservancy recognizes the significance of the Frick Collection's Russell Page-designed garden, a vital cultural artifact. We were pleased to learn that the Frick Collection has acknowledged the importance of this garden in its current plans for expansion. When expanding and renovating, institutions such as the Frick Collection face the challenge of balancing the need to support growth in order to fulfill their mission, while honoring their historical legacy.

Russell Page is a towering figure in late twentieth-century garden design. The garden he created for the Frick Collection is one of New York City's treasures and an enduring legacy of his design philosophy. The Page garden, in keeping with the mission of the Frick Collection, "offers a singular, memorable experience"—one that is essential to preserve. The current plans are significantly scaled back from the ones presented in 2014 and respond to community requests to preserve this garden on East 70th Street. In addition to preserving the garden, the plans, created by Beyer Blinder Belle, the foremost preservation architectural firm, will also provide new, additional vantage points (including the café and second floor lobby) for viewing the garden.

The Garden Conservancy is the nation's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, sharing, and celebrating America's gardens and diverse gardening traditions for the education and inspiration of the public. We endorse the Frick Collection's plans in concept, based on our understanding that they are committed to the preservation of the garden and provided that the garden is restored according to Russell Page's original design.

Thank you for your thoughtful review of the Frick Collection's application.

Sincerely,

James Brayton Hall
President and CEO

cc: Carlo Costanza, Executive Director, NYC Board of Standards and Appeals
The Frick Collection, 1 East 70th Street, New York, NY 10021