



March 31, 2021

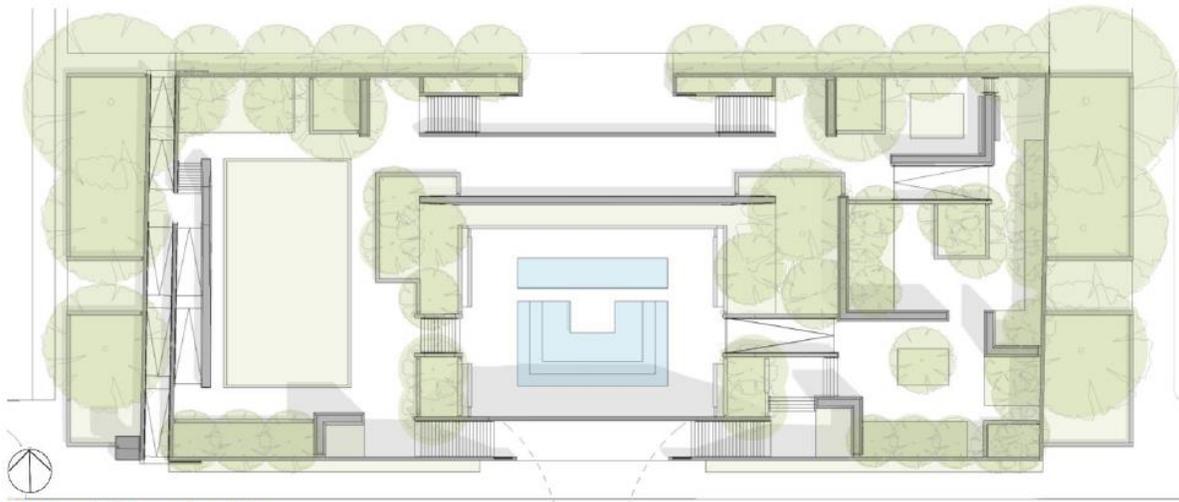
Ms. Carly Bond
Historic Preservation Specialist
Smithsonian Institution
600 Maryland Avenue, SW, Suite 5001
PO Box 37012 MRC 511
Washington, DC 20013-7012

RE: Additional Comments Regarding the Hirshhorn Sculpture Garden Revitalization Project

Dear Ms. Bond:

Thank you for hosting another on-line consulting parties meeting on March 10, 2021 to continue discussions regarding the above-referenced undertaking. This letter provides additional comments regarding effects on historic properties in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800.

We also appreciated the follow-up email that was sent to consulting parties on March 17, 2021 to clarify that the Smithsonian Institution intends to move forward with the “Revised Alternative” which retains the original 1974 pool and augments it with a smaller pool to the south (as shown below) rather than the previously proposed “Preferred Alternative” which would have surrounded Bunshaft’s original water feature with a larger pool. This decision was not made entirely clear in the meeting, but it is an important distinction which we consider to be a meaningful step towards minimizing adverse effects on the historic Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. As you are aware, we have long maintained that retention of the original pool was the minimum that should be done to acknowledge the significance of the Bunshaft/Collins design and we are pleased that this crucial change to the project designs has finally been made.



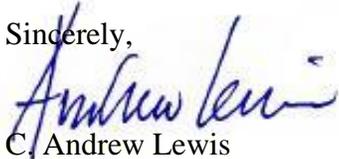
Revised Alternative Plan

Despite this significant step forward, we share the concerns raised by some consulting parties that the second pool will detract from the importance and simplicity of the original design. If the Smithsonian is able to achieve its performance goals without an additional water feature, we would certainly welcome the elimination of the second pool. On the other hand, we also recognize the importance of balancing historic preservation goals with program needs. If the second pool is truly essential, the Smithsonian should commit to retaining the original pool's black granite stone edge and to heating the water feature year-round, as was suggested in the previously proposed "Preferred Alternative," so that Bunshaft's pool will be more clearly distinguished as an important and original element of the garden.

For similar reasons, we also echo many of the other comments made by consulting parties regarding the integral nature of aggregate concrete walls to Bunshaft's design and we continue to urge the Smithsonian to replace the central partition wall *in-kind* to help further minimize adverse effects on this important Modernist landscape.

We look forward to consulting further with all parties to resolve the remaining adverse effects and to completing the Memorandum of Agreement necessary to conclude the Section 106 review of this undertaking. If you should have any questions or comments regarding any of these matters, please contact me at andrew.lewis@dc.gov or at 202-442-8841.

Sincerely,



C. Andrew Lewis
Senior Historic Preservation Officer
DC State Historic Preservation Office

19-0361
cc: Consulting Parties