

Original Report on Museum Site

OLMSTED BROTHERS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, BROOKLINE, MASS.

JOHN CHARLES OLMSTED FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
JAMES FREDERICK DAWSON PERCIVAL GALLAGHER

11th October, 1910.

Mr. J. T. Heffernan, President,
Board of Park Commissioners, Seattle, Washington.

Dear Sir:

We beg to report on the question referred to us by letter of your Secretary dated 28th September as to whether or not we advise your Board to grant a building site in Volunteer Park to the Washington State Art Association for a large museum building.

We are in hearty sympathy with the purposes of the Washington State Art Association, one of us in fact being a member of it, and we wish to do anything we can to help them, but in this case we must act as our professional duty to your Board and as the best interests of the parks and of the public requires.

are worth having are very expensive, and we believe the Association would accomplish far more for the advancement of art if they devote their energies ^{to} getting the City to provide site and building so they can use all the private contributions they can collect in acquiring works of art.

Further, we suggest that the proposed art museum, being a large and imposing semi-public building, surely ought to be located by the Civic Plans Commission at some Civic Center to be determined upon by them in connection with the revision of the street plan which they are now considering. We believe it would be a fair interpretation of the duty of your Board to take this view of the case and for this reason if for no other to refuse to consider this or any other application for a site for the Art Museum on Volunteer Park or any other park until after the Civic Plan Commission has reported. If the Civic Plan Commission should recommend a Civic Center, it would become the duty of your Board to aid in the realization of the Civic Center by cultivating public opinion favorably to a municipal loan for the purpose of acquiring such part of the needed land as could most appropriately be taken charge of by your Board, including, it is to be hoped, a site for

a public art museum such as that contemplated by the
Washington Art Association.

Yours respectfully,

Oliver Brothers