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September 25, 2014

Chairman L. Preston Bryant
National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW, North Lobby, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20004

RE: NCPC File No. 6694


Dear Chairman Bryant:

The National Coalition to Save Our Mall, a not-for-profit organization, founded in 2000 to provide an organized voice for the public on National Mall matters and to advocate for comprehensive, visionary planning for the National Mall in the 3rd century, is pleased to provide the following comments on the Eisenhower Memorial concept.

The Coalition would like to reiterate the need for the Commission, in reviewing the project, to adhere faithfully to the 1791 L'Enfant Plan.

The Coalition thanks the NCPC for the opportunity to provide input into this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Judy Scott Feldman, Ph.D.
Chair



September 29, 2014

Mr. L. Preston Bryant, Jr., Commissioner and Chairman
The National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW, North Lobby, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Commissioner Bryant,

Revisions to the Eisenhower Memorial design that was denied approval in April address only one of the several concerns in the April 3rd Corrected Commission Action, and this concern only partially. The revisions have compromised the current design without making it fully conform either to the seven design principles for Eisenhower Square or to the L'Enfant and McMillan plans. For this reason I write to urge that you deny preliminary approval to the current design.

The elimination of two side tapestries removes one of the three columns the commission found would obscure views to and from the U.S. Capitol along Maryland Avenue SW. These views are still obscured by: 1) the freestanding east column, and 2) two west columns and the tapestry section between them at the western end of the remaining screen. The resulting composition makes an incoherent and asymmetrical "frame" for viewing the Capitol along Maryland Avenue's diagonal axis. The incoherence along this axis will be most obvious in the winter months, when the freestanding east column that is partly obscured by greenery on page 14 of the Design Revisions packet is visible through the bare branches of deciduous trees.

Removing the side tapestries has also undermined the designer's initial intention to create a clearly defined urban square where the adjacent buildings are too far apart to accomplish this on their own. The freestanding corner columns that are all that remains of his initial gesture are floating objects rather than spatial boundary markers. Without tops or bottoms, and bereft of the screens they once supported, it is no longer clear what exactly these "columns" are meant to be.

The revised design also does not address the commission's concerns about pedestrian circulation along the Maryland Avenue allée, nor does it remove the Memorial Information Center as requested by the commission.

The attempt to advance this memorial without fully resolving NCPC concerns is not unusual for a memorial commission that has departed from standard practice for nearly every aspect of the Eisenhower Memorial. As a result the current design has divided public opinion like no other recent memorial. For two years it has received no public funding from Congress, which has investigated commission activities on two occasions. The revised design you are reviewing was indirectly approved by the Eisenhower Memorial Commission through canvassed voting, without informed discussion among the Commissioners. One commissioner who did not vote resigned last week, and another abstained from voting.

Approving the revised design in these circumstances will not increase the likelihood of its being built, but it will likely preclude further decisive influence over that design. Despite years of controversy, that design underwent its first substantial revision only when the NCPC denied preliminary approval. Nevertheless it still does not conform to the L'Enfant and McMillan plans. We therefore ask that you continue to enforce the law, and the standards you have created, to protect the plan of our national capital.

Sincerely,

Sam Roche

Spokesman, *Right by Ike: Project for a New Eisenhower Memorial*

September 29, 2012

National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW, North Lobby, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20004

Dear National Capital Planning Commissioner,

As a presidential appointee to the Eisenhower Memorial Commission, I write to you with grave concerns about the design you will consider on October 2nd and also about advancing this design amidst confusion and controversy, as the Eisenhower Memorial Commission is attempting to do.

I write to you also as a professor of art and architecture history, a former chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the former president of a national museum who has run a national design competition for a new museum building. I've spent a good part of my life studying monuments and have written fourteen books on art and architecture.

The design you will consider—whatever its original merits—has been compromised by the recent attempts to make it conform to the L'Enfant and McMillan plans. The designer once talked about an open temple and an urban square or plaza delineated by three sets of tapestries. That idea is gone now that two side tapestries have been removed. The freestanding shafts that remain at the corners of the site do not enclose or even effectively demarcate the intended urban square. Their purpose and character are no longer clear without tapestries to support, as the commissioners at the last NCPC meeting noted when they compared them to something out of the final scenes of *Planet of the Apes*, and to pillars holding up an interstate-highway overpass. Whether even in this compromised form the design under consideration adheres to the seven design principles drafted for this site is questionable.

The Eisenhower Memorial Commission has sown confusion and controversy to bring this design before you. Unable to achieve a quorum at its hastily scheduled meeting, after little to no discussion of the issues, the acting chairman used irregular parliamentary procedure to solicit voting by mail, thereby precluding the democratic deliberation and public scrutiny essential in current circumstances. After the meeting, several commissioners complained of the unclear ballot language, which may have caused a rejection of the compromise proposed by National Capital Planning Commissioner Rep. Darrell Issa—again without the necessary public discussion. In addition, without the commissioners having been informed before the vote, one of the Kansas senators on the Eisenhower Memorial Commission resigned without voting. Another senator abstained from voting.

The design of President Eisenhower's memorial has now become too controversial to be resolved through any but the most standard practice and established procedures. NCPC approval of the design before you today would obscure the degree to which those practices and procedures are being ignored and raise doubts about their future relevance. I therefore urge you to protect the standard consensus-building process for building national memorials, and to either deny preliminary approval of the current design or remit it to the Eisenhower Memorial Commission for the public discussion it requires.

Sincerely,

Bruce Cole

Written Statements for Submission to the National Capital Planning Commission
Project: Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial
File Number: 6694
Submissions for the October 2, 2014 NCPC Meeting

Meeting Date: October 2, 2014

Author

Louis Galambos (oral testimony), Professor, Johns Hopkins University.....	Enclosure 1
Robyn Hage, Teacher, Navarre Elementary School.....	Enclosure 2
Brandon Mansur, First Lieutenant, U.S. Army Reserves.....	Enclosure 3
Judy Burgess, former Mayor of Abilene, KS.....	Enclosure 4
Michael Williams, CBS Golf Analyst.....	Enclosure 5
Sam Holt (oral testimony), former PBS/NPR Programming Board.....	Enclosure 6
Susan Harris (oral testimony), Washington resident and EMC Commissioner.....	Enclosure 7
Howard Bauleke, former Chief of Staff (U.S. Rep. Dennis Moore, KS.....	Enclosure 8
General Paul X. Kelley (oral testimony), former Chair, American Battle Monuments Commission	
Charles Sills (oral testimony), Chairman, Federal Allies Institute	

Architectural Commentary

David Childs, FAIA.....	Enclosure 9
Laurie Olin, FASLA, AAAL, AAAS Hon AIA, Hon RIBA.....	Enclosure 10
Witold Rybczynski, Emeritus Professor of Urbanism at the University of Pennsylvania.....	Enclosure 11
William Pedersen, FAIA.....	Enclosure 12

Enclosure 1

9/30/2014

Statement of Professor Louis Galambos, Johns Hopkins University

Between 1971 and 2001, I spent a substantial part of my life editing 16 volumes of *The Papers of Dwight David Eisenhower* and studying his career as a military leader, author, head of a great university, first military commander of NATO, and President of the United States. Since we completed *The Papers*, I have been a consultant with the Eisenhower Memorial Commission on matters involving the Eisenhower Legacy.

On the basis of that long experience with Ike, I have come to the following conclusions: First, that Dwight Eisenhower provided the United States with very high orders of vision and leadership in both domestic and foreign relations. Second, that his services to the nation as a Supreme Commander in World War II and as President during some of the most dangerous years of the Cold War deserve memorialization in Washington, D.C. Third, that the site selected for the Eisenhower Memorial is uniquely suited to a man who started his life in the horse

and carriage years of the late nineteenth century and then ushered America and its military into the space age. Fourth, that the design by architect Frank Gehry does an outstanding job of capturing the values and accomplishments of a leader who never forgot that he came from the other side of the tracks in Abilene, Kansas. The compromises that Frank Gehry made as he designed the memorial should also remind us that Eisenhower believed that compromise and conciliation were the essence of the democratic society to which he dedicated his life.

October 1, 2014

Enclosure 2

Commissioners
National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, N.W., North Lobby, Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20004

RE: Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission

Dear Commissioners:

The students of Navarre Elementary in Toledo, Ohio are ready to visit the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial in Washington, D.C. Nearly two years after collecting donations and learning about President Eisenhower, the children have inquired if the memorial is complete and when they can view it online. Imagine their disappointment when I share that groundbreaking and approval for the design has not yet even occurred.

The Eisenhower Memorial Commission has worked tirelessly to address the needs and apprehensions of the opposition. The design of the memorial has been revised, concerns with the NCPC principles have been rebutted, and the public has learned that some with resistance to the project do not have altruistic intentions at heart.

The time to move forward with this memorial is now. Students are waiting to see the fruits of their labor, World War II veterans are waiting to honor their leader, and Eisenhower's legacy is waiting to take its proper place in our nation's capital. I strongly urge the Commissioners to vote in support of preliminary approval.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Robyn Hage
Teacher
Navarre Elementary School

Eisenhower Memorial NCPC Testimony
By Brandon Mansur
October 2, 2014

Ladies & gentlemen of the National Capital Planning Commission, it is an honor to be writing to you today on a matter of importance to me; recognizing the life and legacy of a simple American icon, Dwight D. Eisenhower.

When I first heard of the plan to carve out a plot of land in front of the Department of Education building, my immediate thought was “what a great idea!” Aside from the reality that the plot of land has enough room for a memorial to be built, I can think of no higher honor of recognizing the accomplishments of Dwight Eisenhower than by building a monument in his honor in front of the very government entity that promulgates education throughout this country; one that also happens to be a creation of Eisenhower.

It is evident, from the years following Eisenhower’s time, that one of his lasting legacies is the effort he forged in upholding education for *all* children in this country. Despite the unyielding political and social pressure to do nothing, Eisenhower’s decisive action to protect students as they went to school in Little Rock in 1957 paved the way for future efforts to integrate schools thereafter.

The design of this Memorial, and the educational aspects it entails, will only be enhanced by the location of this Memorial. In that vein, as Commissioners tasked with preserving meaningful legacies and balancing the construction of Memorials in the National Capital Region, I urge you in your deliberations over the construction of this Memorial to consider the subtle yet meaningful symbolism of the location and how the Memorial will utilize this space to encapsulate Eisenhower’s legacy.

On that note, Dwight Eisenhower took a brief moment in his First Inaugural Address to remind the citizens of this country that “a people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both.” With that in mind, I would just like to point out that you, as a commission, have an opportunity to support a memorial that takes into account principles of what monuments should be on the National Mall above all other factors—accessibility, proportionality, and relevance to the people who visit it. It is my sincere hope that we do not lose our privilege of honoring someone like Eisenhower without your support. It is time to build it now.

Thank you for your time and attention.

JUDY BURGESS

Enclosure 4

Wichita, Kansas

September 29, 2014

The Commissioners
National Capital Planning Commission
Washington, D.C. 20004

When the Eisenhower family moved back to Kansas in 1892, Eisenhower was 2 and Abilene was only 23 years old. It was the American frontier – what better place to field a national military and political leader in this new country.

Now, over 120 years later, Kansas continues to celebrate the man we call Ike. Most recently, Wichita honored him by changing the name of its airport to the Wichita Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport and the City Government of Abilene passed a resolution endorsing the Frank Gehry design for the proposed memorial.

Ike's story, as told in this design, honors his legacy and will educate and inspire future generations. As a passionate fan and active promoter of the Eisenhower legacy, I support the Gehry design and the work of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission. Now is the time to move the project forward.

Respectfully,
Judy Burgess

(Former Mayor of Abilene, Kansas)

To: The National Capital Planning Commission

Enclosure 5

From: Michael Williams – CBS Radio

Date: October 1, 2014

Re: Eisenhower Memorial

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in support of the approval of the current design of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission. I do not believe that there is a person who opposes the memorialization of Eisenhower; likewise, it is virtually unanimous public opinion that the memorial is long overdue.

The contention and debate over the design has been vigorous and useful, yielding useful input and the type of civic interaction of which Ike himself would have approved. Those that oppose the design contend in part that unusual methods are being implemented. An examination of history reveals that employing unusual methods was at the heart of Eisenhower's genius.

Eisenhower was an unquestioned patriot and a lover of the game of golf. As an American of African descent, a patriot and a lover of the game of golf, the year 1957 resonates with me. In September of that year, the schools of Little Rock, Arkansas were squarely in the public eye as violent mobs tried to prevent the integration of public schools in defiance of the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in 1954. Eisenhower knew that the rule of law must prevail, that courage and fortitude in that moment would define the history of the nation's move toward equality. So he took the unexpected and unorthodox step of sending Federal troops to Little Rock to defend the students' rights and the authority of the Judicial and Executive branches.

I'm pretty sure Charlie Sifford was reading the papers in September of 1957, that he saw how the determination of those kids who bravely walked a gauntlet of hatred, all because they wanted that which is guaranteed to all. Now a member of the Golf Hall of Fame, Sifford became the first African-American to join the PGA Tour in 1961. But for years prior he was barred from Tour membership, forced to play in extremely hostile conditions in those few events that would allow him to qualify.

I'm sure that Sifford was inspired and energized to see a President who was willing to use the full authority of his office to uphold equality with disregard for politics and popularity. The evidence for my supposition is that on November 10, 1957, just two months after Little Rock, Sifford became the first African-American to win a PGA Tour-sanctioned event, the Long Beach (CA) Open. I am warmed and

encouraged by the notion that Eisenhower's foresight in the South brought strength and resolve to one man's quest for excellence a continent away.

When Eisenhower sent those troops to Little Rock it was seen as unorthodox, even radical. In hindsight it is seen as an act of courage and conviction. In hindsight, what seemed risky at the time has come to be considered a rational choice, an obvious choice. I believe that some consider the current design of the Eisenhower Memorial to be unorthodox and risky. I am just as confident future generations will look on the Memorial's design as the reasonable and obvious choice by those who were tasked to make the decision.

Respectfully,

Michael Williams
Golf Analyst - CBS Radio
Washington, DC
2014 Middle Atlantic PGA Media Person of the Year

**Samuel C. O. Holt
Testimony for NCPC Meeting
October 2, 2014**

My name is Samuel Holt. I have spent the bulk of my working life in the fields of media and education.

I have taught American history at the university level both in a normal classroom setting and in an extension system, in which I taught not only adult learners but also US Navy SSBN crews. I served as head of programming for both PBS and NPR and was Executive Producer of The Discovery Channel's first educational project. And, as a college drop-out, I actually covered Eisenhower's second nominating convention with CBS News.

Based on this experience, I worked for a short time with the Eisenhower Memorial Commission staff on their concept of a first for a presidential memorial: an electronic package of multimedia materials to enrich and expand the experience for both real and virtual visitors to the memorial site.

I did that because I firmly believe that a memorial to Ike incorporating public outreach and education is important. I am firmly convinced that Ike will be seen increasingly as one of the most important presidents of the 20th Century. Having experienced his presidency during my college and postgraduate years, I know that it was not one of inactivity, as is often claimed after the turmoil of 1960's.

Beyond that, I believe strongly that there are powerful personal reasons for which Eisenhower deserves memorialization.

His career represents an almost stereotypical model of the citizen soldier. Democracy was in his DNA, and his personality made it easy for him to connect with not only the international senior staff which he constructed in Europe but also the troops he commanded. And he accomplished most of his strategic aims while holding casualties down.

This extraordinary leader had a great technical interest and skill at implementing his vision. He grew up in a Midwest with relatively few miles of paved road, yet left in place preliminary plans for what became the Internet, satellite-based communications, and the lunar landing. He was an agent of change in transforming America domestically and in leading his country to unprecedented global power and prestige. And he did it while maintaining a civil political discourse.

His world class legacy deserves a world class memorial.

SUSAN B. HARRIS
REMARKS FOR NCPC
OCTOBER 2, 2014

Enclosure 7

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. My name is Susan B. Harris. I was appointed to the Eisenhower Memorial Commission by President Bill Clinton as one of its original members. I am honored to serve in this bipartisan effort to memorialize the legacy of a truly great American, President and General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

I am also a long time Washingtonian and have been active over the years in numerous important projects in our nation's capital, important efforts to further our understanding and appreciation of the American values that underpin this great country—values that Eisenhower indeed personally embodied and that must be recognized and shared with future generations.

So I am speaking today not just as the Vice Chair of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission and standing in for our Chairman, Mr. Rocco Siciliano, but as a grateful citizen as well.

I want to thank the National Capital Planning Commission and the staff for its long and hard work as we have cooperated and will continue to cooperate to create a lasting and valuable tribute to Dwight Eisenhower. Thank you for your studied consideration of Frank Gehry's evolving concepts and helping to maintain a coherent strategic vision of how the memorial can seamlessly take its place in our beautiful city. Your guidance and leadership have been crucial.

With cooperation and compromise, I believe that our work here today begins an exciting next chapter in this important national project. Thank you very much.

Statement of Howard P. Bauleke October 2, 2014

National Capital Planning Commission Proposed Dwight D. Eisenhower National Memorial

Thank you. I appear again as an individual, who served as chief of staff for 12 years for former U.S. Representative Dennis Moore of Kansas, who served as a member of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission from its inception to his retirement at the beginning of 2011. As a member of the Commission's Executive Committee, he was one of the most active Commission members.

As a native Kansan who began his Washington, D.C., career as a Senate intern in 1980, I can think of no better location, than at the foot of Capitol Hill, for a national memorial to the most important American in our history who spent his formative years in Kansas, with its representation of the American Great Plains as its backdrop.

Within walking distance of the U.S. House, and across the street from the Air and Space Museum, the Eisenhower Memorial will be built in a location that will be a destination for millions of world tourists. The Eisenhower Memorial is to be built in a very challenging, urban location. This is not an easy project, from any vantage point. Much has been said about the proposed memorial previously, with everyone from the Eisenhower granddaughters to a wealthy Chicago investor attempting to influence its outcome, so I will not repeat it. The Commission has put before you today a revised proposal that addresses the three design principles that remain outstanding before this body.

Design Principle 1: Preserve reciprocal views to and from the U.S. Capitol along Maryland Avenue SW. The revised design has widened the view corridor from 95' to 135'. This design creates a more proportionally horizontal framed view of the U.S. Capitol.

Design Principle 4: Reflect the L'Enfant Plan principles by shaping the Memorial site as a separate and distinct public space that complements the Department of Education Headquarters and other surrounding buildings. The design revisions eliminate the East and West tapestries allowing the influence of the adjacent buildings to define and unify the site.

Design Principle 6: Respect the building lines of the surrounding rights of way and the alignment of trees along Maryland Avenue. The proposed northern singular columns are set back more than 47' from the Independence Avenue Right of Way and are fully located within the planes of the adjacent building facades.

Having staffed Representative Moore's Commission service, I know firsthand how carefully and deliberately this complicated process has been undertaken by-the-book by the staff and commissioners, as stewards of public funds. I'm glad to have this opportunity to again recognize their service. I am particularly pleased to note that the Memorial as planned would include, presented in context, President Eisenhower's memorable quote: "In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes."

The proposed Memorial stands on its own merits, and I urge the Commission to approve the Eisenhower Memorial application that is before it today. Thank you.

Enclosure 9

DAVID M. CHILDS, ARCHITECT

49 EAST 86TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK 10028

Preston Bryant, Chairman
National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW
Suite 500-North
Washington, DC 20004

26 August 2013

Dear Chairman Bryant,

I am writing with regard to the design by Frank Gehry for the Eisenhower Memorial now under consideration by the Commission. As a former chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission and of the Commission of Fine Arts, I applaud the Gehry proposal for being both a bold new addition to Washington's urban design and also one that reinforces the historic L'Enfant city plan.

The Gehry design has undergone significant revisions since it was first presented. These changes have modified many details of the initial scheme, but to date they have refined the concept, and have not weakened the powerful and inventive solution that this important site and program deserve. But to remove the east and west pairs of columns, as was recently suggested in a discussion at the Commission of Fine Arts, would destroy the grand urban space fundamental to the concept, and in its place leave a meaningless planar wall.

The site is an important one within the Monumental Core, but it is one that is surrounded by buildings and landscapes that vary in their relationships to the geometry of L'Enfant's grid. Gehry's plan respects all the traditional rights-of-way, view corridors and surrounding buildings in a complex but seemingly effortless solution that brings harmony to one that now suffers from a lack of coordination. To modify these proposed placements, alignments and dimensions would unbalance a brilliant solution.

I therefore urge you to support the proposal as it has now been submitted to you. The strength and timelessness of this design will be a proud addition to the list of Washington's most important civic undertakings.

Respectfully yours,

David M. Childs, FAIA



OLIN

Enclosure 10

Chairman Preston Bryant
National Capitol Planning Commission
C/o Office of the Secretariat
401 9th Street, NW
Suite 500-North
Washington DC 20004

20 August 2013

Dear Chairman Bryant,

I write to you and your fellow commissioners in support of the current scheme for the Eisenhower Memorial as designed by Frank Gehry and strongly urge you to resist attempts to alter or change this superb work of art and civic design. I believe it to be a remarkably significant and positive addition to our nation's capitol and the historic tradition of memorials and a worthy tribute to this great national leader in war and peace. Like many innovative works by great artists this project both builds upon tradition and invents new ways of seeing and experiencing ideas and messages of consequence that are not immediately appreciated or understood by some at the time, even discomforting them as seems to have been the case. It is, however, a great work of art and design by one of America's most significant architects and as such is a coherent work, all of which parts are significant.

Gehry's memorial design draws strength from a long tradition of monuments extending as far back as the Ara Pacis in Rome, a handsome roofless enclosure framed by carved narrative friezes erected in the first century CE to commemorate Peace after a devastating civil war. As members of the Fine Art Commission have pointed out the proposed Eisenhower Memorial also forms a roofless room of superb proportion and quality, framing key views of the L'Enfant plan and establishing an honorific space that unifies the disparate buildings and agencies on its edges that currently can only be characterized as disappointingly characterless and incapable of framing a civic space adequately. The two panels at the east and west are essential to the scheme, in part for the narrative imagery they contain, and in part for the manner in which they frame the space and form part of the twin gateways framing the historic diagonal view to the Capitol as well as for the manner in which they also address and engage the buildings behind them – the FAA and Cohen buildings – in effect bringing them into the composition as well as the Education building. In addition to accomplishing these goals and in the dimensions established for heights, setbacks, and widths, the current design specifically embodies successfully the 5th and 6th principles that NCPC articulated earlier for the memorial.



Letter to Chairman Bryant
20 August 2013
Page 2 of 2

There is not a good track record for projects, especially memorials, which have been compromised, reworked, and watered down by various committees and numerous cooks. I recommend with full enthusiasm and without reservation that the Commission approve the current Frank Gehry proposal for the Eisenhower Memorial as it is. This elegant and imaginative work of art and design that is a tribute to one of our greatest leaders in both war and peace is certain to join other famous memorials in our nation's capitol as a pilgrimage sight, sought out by visitors from America and around the world.

Sincerely yours,

Laurie D. Olin
FASLA, AAAL, AAAS Hon AIA, Hon RIBA

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Enclosure 11

Witold Rybczynski

7801 Lincoln Drive
Philadelphia, PA 19118

March 26, 2014

National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street NW
Suite 500-North
Washington, DC 20004

To the Commissioners,

I should like to express my strong support for the proposed Dwight D. Eisenhower National Memorial.

I witnessed the early evolution of Frank Gehry's design over several years as a member of the Commission of Fine Arts, joining my fellow commissioners in voting enthusiastic and unanimous approval of the concept during the September 2011 meeting.

There is a significant difference between the Eisenhower memorial and those on the National Mall; the latter are isolated places, the former is an urban space in a built context. In that sense, the Eisenhower memorial resembles Trafalgar Square, which consists of a personal memorial—Nelson's Column—set in a memorial square. The chief role of the tapestries, although they allude to the Kansas plains, Eisenhower's birthplace, is to define the square in such a way as to raise it above the ordinary.

I continue to find the idea of a roofless temple compelling. Having examined a full-size mock-up of a portion of tapestry on the site, I remain convinced that the scale of the columns and the tapestry are appropriate to this location. The urban design improves its surroundings—a challenging task—while respecting L'Enfant's plan.

The proposed memorial will both honor a great president and embellish the national capital.

Sincerely yours,

Witold Rybczynski

Emeritus Meyerson Professor of Urbanism, University of Pennsylvania

Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates PC
Architects and Planning Consultants
11 West 42nd Street, New York, NY 10036

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Enclosure 12

August 27, 2013

Mr. L. Preston Bryant, Chairman
c/o office of Secretariat
National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW
North Lobby, Suite 500
Washington D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Bryant,

As a member of the jury which selected Mr. Gehry's design several years ago I have followed with great interest the evolution of it through the various steps in the approval process. This process is now at a critical juncture and I feel compelled to offer my support to the design.

Mr. Gehry is known throughout the world for the sculptural strength of his highly personal sensibility to architectural form. What struck me as extraordinary, when I first viewed his design for the Eisenhower Memorial, was the degree to which he eschewed this personal vocabulary in favor of a serene and highly contextual method of making a response to an almost unresolvable urban situation. I found it to be brilliant, particularly when viewed in comparison to his fellow competitors whose solutions looked far more "Gehry-like" than did his. He rejected the temptation to form a sculptural object of the Memorial in favor of making a contemplative room within the larger urban context.

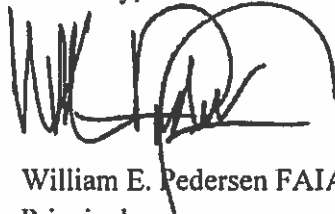
Two elements make the character of his design of the Memorial in sympathy with the character of Washington D.C.. The first of these, massive stone columns, connect the space to the classical language of the city. The second, the woven stainless steel scrim, creates a magical veil through which the surrounding buildings can be viewed but which, in conjunction with the columns, embraces and defines a room within a room. Together, these form the backdrop for the elements which convey to the world Eisenhower's legacies; as young man looking to the future, as a great leader in battle and as a great leader in peace.

Mr. L. Preston Bryant, Chairman
c/o office of Secretariat
National Capital Planning Commission
August 27, 2013
Page 2

KPF

Now, the critical presence of two pairs of these columns, on the east and on the west, is being called into question. To my mind, their elimination places in jeopardy the very intention of the design itself. This pair of columnar elements gives the enclosure which not only creates the inner room but also sponsors a larger connection to the surrounding context. They are two arms which form a spatial embrace. Their amputation would leave the inner elements of the Memorial, which convey the meaning of Eisenhower's life, stripped of their backdrop and adrift without reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Pedersen', with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

William E. Pedersen FAIA
Principal