

Summary Minutes; NMAAHC Consulting Parties Meeting April, 15, 2009

Objective of the meeting was to review the 6 architectural submissions and extract qualities and characteristics that will help inform the design team once they come on board to develop three alternatives for Section 106 and Environmental (NEPA) review. This exercise will take several meetings.

Curtis Davis and Brenda Sanchez did an excellent job of presenting brief summaries of projects. There was good discussion regarding the selected team concept. On the whole the group was supportive of Freelon Adjaye bond (FAB) scheme and will be working to refine the design principles in a constructive way to inform the architects as they prepare three distinct concepts for NCPC and CFA review.

Devroux & Purnell; Clear statement of merged rectilinear and curvilinear forms as building meets site. Not much group comment except that softened site treatment of curved walk, water feature and ramp from Madison up to central hall entrance does make the first floor accessible and welcoming to pedestrians.

Diller Scofidio + Renfro; excellent landscape approaches to the entrance with pathways leading right into core of the building; inviting pedestrian experience for approaching both museum and monument. Great emphasis on views into and out of the building and intriguing use of structural glass to emphasize unblocked views.

Foster + Partners: well integrated into landscape with lower terraces giving light to lower levels, but concern that prescriptive entrance to lower level is not welcoming to visitors on grade level and does not consider the accidental visitor. Did appreciate the lower height of the structure. Some concerns about the solidity of the exterior walls which reduces views into structure.

Freelon Adjaye Bond; Good identity with iconic image of the crown/corona and efforts to break scale into the three bands; impressive night lighting imagery and elegance of details. Concern with projecting plaza level and mass of building corona impinging on Mall vistas. Raised plinth also appears to create a visual barrier. Concern about the views out of the screening material.

Moody Nolan Predock; Interesting engagement of the public in exterior rooms, such as the amphitheatre and water features. Concern as to how these spaces might function given the noise levels of the city. Use of linear forms to focus on views out of the building makes for an interesting composition, but concern for the overall aesthetics on the mall in terms of materials choices and forms.

Moshe Safdie; Retained grove of trees, diagonal entrance from 14<sup>th</sup> St. and focused views towards monument which were all good. However, the large scale of the central glass element and projecting masonry wing walls was of concern. Interesting use of curved and banked site features around perimeter of building gave pedestrian access and interest to site. Overall the building appeared to be competing with the monument and almost too directional.

Characteristics that group will work on:

Site integration of landscape

Entrance sequences and arrivals

Views and Vistas

Scale and massing

Service/transportation accommodations

Materials

The Consulting Parties members will look at impacts on historic resources and resource protection from:

Site

Mall

Urban context

In addition to comments on the various schemes, the Advisory Council asked if SI could initiate some form of broader communication to the general public to keep them informed of the work of the Consulting Parties. This follows on the request from the SHPO to have some SI presence on the web or through a comment email address to inform the public about SI activities for all our undertakings.

End.