MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
19 DECEMBER 1957

ORDER OF BUSINESS

9:30 a.m. 1. CONVENE, ROOM 7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING.

9:33 a.m. 2. MINUTES.

9:35 a.m. 3. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 23 January 1957 (?)

9:40 a.m. 4. CONFERENCE WITH MEMBERS OF OLD GEORGETOWN BOARD, AND SHIPSTEAD-LUCE PANEL.

9:45 a.m. 5. REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT APPLICATIONS SINCE 21 NOVEMBER 1957 MEETING (See Appendix 1). app.

9:50 a.m. 6. REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON OLD GEORGETOWN ACT APPLICATIONS SINCE 21 NOVEMBER 1957 MEETING (See Appendix 2). app.

9:55 a.m. 7. REPORT OF NCPC COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING OF 26 NOVEMBER 1957. 70B-A set back on lot - Coord. Com. recom - app.

10:00 a.m. 8. DRAFT LEGISLATION FOR DECORATIVE ART IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS, Conference with Mr. C. Robert Seater, Budget Examiner, Bureau of the Budget. Mr. Seater unable to come - redraft for further discussion today

10:20 a.m. 9. DISCUSSIONS:

(a) Constitution Avenue Bridge status. Letter to Engineer Commissioner on design of bridge. letter read + app.

(b) CFA's relations with the Press. Ltrs. from Mr. Wiggins, Exec. Editor of Wash. Post & Times Herald.

(c) Decorative Arts for the new State Dept. Bldg.

(d) Replacement of D. C. Lighting Standards - status. - write letter

(e) CFA's Executive Order, status.

(f) Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, World War II & Korea - Review drawings.

(g) U. S. Corps of Engineers-Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Refrigeration building--Review design in perspective drawing. de. not read

11:00 a.m. II 10. GSA. PUBLIC BUILDINGS SERVICE SUBMISSIONS (Mr. L. L. Hunter, Asst. Comm'r. for Design & Constr., Mr. Hagemann):

Prelim. Drwgs for indication of dir. in arch design

(a) Gallaudet College - Mens Dormitory (Mr. James Porter of Irwin S. Porter & Sons, architects) Mr. Otis Porter

(b) Gallaudet College - Cafeteria & Service Bldg. (Mr. Wm. N. Denton, arch. of Wilson & Denton)

(c) Central Intelligence Agency-Model of building (Harrison & Abramovitz, architects) app.

(d) Federal Office Bldg. 10-A.

12:15 p.m. II 11. ARMY DEPARTMENT, HERALDIC BRANCH-Air Force Commendation Medal

1:00 p.m. LUNCH

2:00 p.m. III 12. WHITSTEAD-LUCE SUBMISSION (Preliminary): Proposed bldg. for Veterans of Foregin Wars at corner of Md. Ave. & 2nd St., NE (Mr. Wm. Holabird, Mr. Helmuth Bartsch, architects, of Holabird, Root & Burgee). app -

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COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
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MEMORANDUM MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., 19 DECEMBER 1957.
9:30 a. m.

Present: David E. Finley, Chairman
Felix de Weldon
Mrs. Emily Muir
Elbert Peets
William G. Perry

L. R. Wilson, Secretary
Susan E. Bennett, Admn. Asst.
Gilbert Halasz, Stenotypist

The Commission met, pursuant to notice, at 9:30 a.m., with David E. Finley, Chairman presiding.

I. ADMINISTRATION

1. Minutes of meeting 21 November 1957

Copies of the Memorandum Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 1957 were distributed at the meeting. Action on the minutes was held over until the next meeting, subject to any revisions which the members might make after they have had an opportunity to read them.

2. Date of next meeting

23 January 1958 meeting was postponed to 6 February 1958.

3. Conference with members of the Georgetown Board of Architectural Consultants and the Shipstead-Luce Panel of Architects

Upon invitation of the members of the Commission of Fine Arts, the members of the Georgetown Board and the Shipstead-Luce Panel met with the members. The Chairman expressed the Commission's appreciation to the members of the Board and the Panel for the splendid work they had done during the past year in dealing with the problems involved in the submission of building applications from the D. C. Government, under the above named Acts.

A discussion of the problems of the Commission of Fine Arts followed. Mr. Faulkner, member of the Shipstead-Luce Panel, suggested that solutions to many of the difficult problems now current, might possibly be reached by a small group composed primarily of the heads of the interested agencies, who are Presidential appointees. Such a small group might perhaps consist of the Chairmen of the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission, the Engineer Commissioner for the Government of the District of Columbia, and the Secretary of the Interior or his representative, and the Director of the National Park Service. As a coordinating group, it could

I. ADMINISTRATION (Continued)

3. Conference with members of the Georgetown Board of Architectural Consultants and the Shipstead-Luce Panel of Architects (Cont'd.)

have power to make decisions, and as Presidential appointees, the members could request instructions from the President when necessary.

The Chairman stated that he thought perhaps a small group such as the one suggested, and composed of not more than four people, could work together and suggested that the matter be explored informally. It was agreed to do so.

II. SUBMISSIONS

1. Government of the District of Columbia

a. Department of Licenses and Inspection

1. Building applications submitted under the Shipstead-Luce Act

The actions recommended by the Shipstead-Luce Panel of Architects, on the submissions listed on Appendix 1, were confirmed. (Exhibit A).

2. Building applications submitted under the Old Georgetown Act

The actions recommended by the Old Georgetown Board of Architectural Consultants, on the submissions listed on Appendix 2, were confirmed. (Exhibit B).

2. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service

a. Gallaudet College - Men's Dormitory

The architect, Mr. James Porter, presented and explained preliminary drawings for a Men's Dormitory. The plans were still in an early stage, but gave an indication of the direction the architectural design will take. Satisfaction with the general concept of the design was expressed, and the architect was invited to submit the developed plans when they are ready. (Exhibit X).

b. Gallaudet College - Cafeteria and Service Building

The architect, Mr. William N. Denton, presented and explained preliminary drawings for a Cafeteria and Service Building. The members expressed their satisfaction with the manner in which the architects were approaching the problem and invited them to submit the developed plans when they are ready. (Exhibit X).

c. Central Intelligence Agency - Model of Building.

The architect, Mr. Max Abramovitz, presented and explained a scale model of the Central Intelligence Agency building to be erected at Langley, Virginia. After viewing the

II. SUBMISSIONS (Continued)

2. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service

c. Central Intelligence Agency - Model of Building (Cont'd.)

model and discussing the design of the architectural features, the members commended the architect on the way his office had handled this large and difficult assignment. The design was approved as submitted in the model. Special note was taken of the use of works of art as part of the design. An invitation to return with details of the design as they are developed was extended. The Secretary was directed to write a letter to the Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration confirming this action, and to make a copy of this letter a part of the official record. (Exhibit C).

d. Federal Office Building #10-A

A report, prepared by a subcommittee of the Coordinating Committee, National Capital Planning Commission, recommending locating the north facade of Federal Office Building 10-A 61 feet south of the present north building line in Square 409 and 433, was approved. This report had been distributed to members for study prior to the meeting. The Secretary was instructed to write a letter to the National Capital Planning Commission, with a copy to the General Services Administration, informing them of this action. A copy of this letter is to be made a part of the official record of these proceedings. (Exhibit D).

3. Department of the Army, Heraldic Branch

a. Air Force Commendation Medal

The Secretary told the members of a meeting he had held with representatives of the Heraldic Branch and the Air Force, and showed the members photographs of three proposed preliminary designs for an Air Force Commendation Medal. It was unanimously agreed that none of the designs had sufficient merit, and that Mr. de Weldon and the Secretary should work with the Heraldic Branch in an effort to work out a better design. The Secretary was instructed to write a letter to the Heraldic Branch and make a copy a part of the record. (Exhibit E).

III. INFORMAL SUBMISSIONS

a. Shipstead-Luce Submission - Preliminary

1. Proposed building for Veterans of Foreign Wars

Mr. Holabird and Mr. Bartsch of the firm of Holabird, Root and Burgee, presented, and Mr. Bartsch explained preliminary drawings for a proposed headquarters building for the Veterans of Foreign Wars to be erected at Maryland Avenue and Second Street, Northeast. A building on this site will

III. INFORMAL SUBMISSIONS (Continued)

a. Shipstead-Luce Submission - Preliminary

1. Proposed building for Veterans of Foreign Wars (Cont'd)

replace a building proposed for 315-327 First Street, Northeast, which design was approved by the Commission on 9 November 1955. The new design was approved as presented. Under the provision of the Shipstead-Luce Act the working drawings will be submitted to the Commission for review before a building permit will be issued by the District of Columbia Commissioners. The Secretary was instructed to write a letter to the Architects informing them in writing of the Commission's approval. A copy of such letter is made a part of the official record of the proceedings. (Exhibit F).

IV. LEGISLATION

a. Draft legislation for works of art in Public Buildings

The Secretary stated that Mr. C. Robert Seater, Examiner for the Bureau of the Budget, had expected to attend the meeting for the purpose of discussing a draft of legislation for obtaining suitable works of art in public buildings, with the members, but had been unavoidably detained and would not be able to be present. The members critically examined the draft in detail and made some changes in the wording. The Secretary was instructed to discuss the draft with Mr. Seater at the Bureau of the Budget before the next meeting, if possible. The draft as finally approved is attached to the official record of the proceedings of the meeting. (Exhibit G).

V. DISCUSSIONS

a. Constitution Avenue Bridge - Letter to Engineer Commissioner on design of the bridge.

The Chairman read a letter which he had, with the help of several members, drafted to send to Colonel A. C. Welling, Engineer Commissioner, informing him that the Commission of Fine Arts could not approve the erection of a bridge and its network of roadways and other structures so near the Lincoln Memorial. The Commission would be willing to approve the design for the proposed bridge if it were erected in some other location. The Chairman read the letter to the members and after discussion it was unanimously approved. A statement was also prepared for release to the press at the same time. A copy of this letter and the press release has been made a part of the official record of the proceedings. (Exhibit H).

b. Public Relations

1. Letter from Executive Editor of The Washington Post and Times Herald

The Chairman read a letter which had been received from Mr. J. R. Wiggins, Executive Editor, The Washington Post

V. DISCUSSIONS (Continued)

b. Public Relations (Continued)

1. Letter from Executive Editor of the Washington Post and Times Herald (Continued)

and Times Herald, who charged that the procedures and decisions of the Commission were secret, and suggesting that the meetings should be thrown open to the public. The Chairman also read his reply to Mr. Wiggins. A long discussion on the manner in which the Commission meetings are held followed, and it was the consensus of opinion that it would be inadvisable to have reporters sit in at the meetings, as they do at the meetings of some other agencies. It was agreed, however, that the Commission might well issue a statement on matters which could be released. It was agreed also that contact with the press was of such a delicate nature that it should be left to the discretion of the Chairman to issue a release or statement to the press, following each meeting, on such matters as might be given out without infringing upon the rights of the individual departments or agencies to make their own announcements to the press. The Chairman's reply to Mr. Wiggins was approved and the Secretary was instructed to make a copy of this letter, and the incoming letter from Mr. Wiggins, a part of the record of the proceedings. (Exhibit I and Exhibit I-1).

2. Letter from Robert Ware Straus, President, Galaxy, Inc. on the future growth of the national capital

The Chairman read the letter from Mr. Straus in which he stated that the great increase in the number of national organizations with headquarters in Washington prompted his assumption that these organizations would have a very vital interest in the kind of city Washington will become. The letter then suggested that the resident heads of these organizations be invited to meet with the Commission for a discussion of the problems and the standards involved. The members agreed this might be good public relations and it would be well to enlist the aid of these groups in keeping Washington a beautiful city. The Chairman was asked to investigate the matter further with Mr. Straus and Mr. Frederick Gutheim, Director of the Joint Congressional Committee on the growth of Washington and the metropolitan area. Copy of Mr. Straus' letter is to be made a part of the official record of the proceedings. (Exhibit J).

c. Sculpture for the new State Department

The Chairman read a copy of a letter which he had written after the last meeting to the Commissioner of Public Buildings Service, regarding the sketches of proposed

V. DISCUSSIONS (Continued)

c. Sculpture for the new State Department (Continued)

sculpture to be placed in the courts of the new State Department Building. The members reaffirmed their opinions that the sculptors could do much better in the way of designs. In the letter, the Commissioner of Public Buildings Service was requested to resubmit new sketches for consideration at a later meeting. A copy of the letter to the Commissioner of Public Buildings Service was made a part of the official record of the 21 November 1957 proceedings.

d. Replacement of street lighting standards in the District of Columbia

The replacement of the present street lighting standards in the District of Columbia with pendant highway type standards was reviewed. It was recalled that the Commission had approved a design for a standard with a straight arm, but for use only in outlying districts, and not in the monumental areas. Upon inquiry of the Chairman, the Highway Department of the District of Columbia advised that it now had on hand 21,274 of the pendant highway type lamp standards, and that 7,147 were now in use. The total estimated investment in this project was stated to be $1,245,580. A copy of a letter which was sent to Brigadier General Thomas A. Lane, former Engineer Commissioner, on 21 May 1957 on this subject was reread; also General Lane's reply stating that a special committee had been formed to study the light standard problem, and that the results of this study would be transmitted to the Commission. Such information has not been received, and the Chairman was asked to write a letter to Colonel A. C. Welling, Engineer Commissioner, protesting the continued installation of the highway-type lighting standards. Copy of such a letter is to be made a part of the official record of the proceedings. (Exhibit K).

e. Executive Order for Commission of Fine Arts, Status

The Chairman reported that there was no change in the status of the Executive Order for the Commission. The Secretary stated that it was his understanding that the draft had been sent to the Department of Justice for review of the wording. No further action was indicated at this time.

f. Tomb of Unknown Soldier of World War II and Korean Conflict

The architect's working drawings for the crypts for the Unknown Soldiers of World War II and the Korean Conflict which are to be added to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery were reviewed and reaffirmed. Mr. Twiddy of the District Engineer's office had brought the drawings to the office and the Chairman had signed the drawings for the Commission on 27 November 1957.

V. DISCUSSIONS (Continued)

g. Budget for Fiscal Year 1959

The Secretary advised the members that the Commission's budget request for $35,000 for fiscal year 1959 had been approved by the Bureau of the Budget. Hearings before the appropriation committees of the Congress will be held early in the year.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p. m.

L. R. Wilson
Secretary

APPENDIX 1

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT APPLICATIONS SINCE 21 NOVEMBER 1957:

NO	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT	ACTION
2028	1301-05 E St., NW Penn Drug Co.	1 s-f, 21 sq-ft, neon sign	Disap. Surface of bldg. already devoted to advertising exceeds desirable CFA maximum. Text of sign is product-advertising not firm-identification. Prefer no additional signs but, if allowable, recom. redesign using firm name in back-lighted ltrs. on bldg., 12/11/57
2029	915-17 Pa. Ave., NW Regal Shoe Co.	Make miscel. alterations such as; new acoustic ceilings & new store front; 6'-1" wide marquise & 2 9'-6" wide show windows will extend 3' beyond bldg. line	App'd., subj. to changing color of enamel steel to approximate limestone color for backgroung of back-lighted ltrs. Note: This chg. has been made on drawing, 12/12/57
2030	915-17 Pa. Ave., NW Regal Shoe Co.	1 s-f, 24½ sq-ft white neon sign	App'd., 12/13/57

EXHIBIT A

APPENDIX 2

NO	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT	ACTION
2025	3203 Grace St., NW Wm. P. Dillon	Bld. warehouse & assembly bldg.; & raze exist. 1-story storage bldg. for purpose of new construction	App'd., 11/25/57
2039 R 2032	3413 Q St., NW C. A. Holmes	Install new window & door in rear. Erect fireplace & chimney on east wall.	App'd. provided muntins in doors & windows are lined up horizontally, 11/25/57
2040	1214-30th St., NW Philip S. Jessup	Wood fence in rear. Fence to be split cedar or cypress pickets placed close together, 6' or 6'-6" high.	App'd., 11/25/57
2041	3034 Dent Pl., NW Frederick Allman	Repair & enlarge exist. garage with br.; bld. 3'-6" br. ret. wall & 7' br. fence	App'd., 11/25/57
2042	3641 M St., NW H. M. Walling	1 3-story brick dwell.	App'd., 11/25/57
2043	3643 M St., NW H. M. Walling	1 3-story brick dwell.	App'd., 11/25/57
2044	3639 M St., NW H. M. Walling	1 3-story brick dwell.	App'd., 11/25/57
2045	1201-37th St., NW H. M. Walling	1 3-story brick dwell.	App'd., 11/25/57
2046	1220-29th St., NW Sarah F. Bromley	7' br. wall at alley entrance	App'd., 11/25/57
2047	1222-29th St., NW M. E. Sterbutzel	7' br. wall at alley entr. & party wall between 1220 & 1222-29th St., NW	App'd., 11/25/57
2048	3025 Dent Pl., NW Mr & Mrs. F. M. Doyle	Remove exist. wood front porch & steps & concr. steps & concr. coping & replace with br—add shutters & new door.	App'd., 11/25/57
2049	1664 Avon Pl., NW Sam Levy	6' to 7' (varies) wood boards fence	App'd., 12/3/57
2050	1666 Avon Pl., NW Sam Levy	Same as 2049	App'd., 12/3/57

REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN ON OLD GEORGETOWN ACT APPLICATIONS SINCE 21 NOVEMBER 1957

EXHIBIT B

APPENDIX 2 (Continued)

NO	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT	ACTION
2051	2001-3-5-7-9-Wisc. Ave., NW Page Communications Engr's.,	Raze 5 2-story br. dwellings; not cond. by D. C.; to be razed in entirety to make way for a commercial bldg.	App'd., 12/10/57
2052 R 2014	3034 Dent Pl., NW Frederick Allman	Rev. to B. P. B-29487, install new window on front of bldg.	App'd., 12/3/57
2053	1249-33rd St., NW Mrs. C. Kuhn	Enlarge front window	App'd., 12/3/57
2054	1620-30th St., NW Howard B. Payne	Remodel bldg. to 2-family flat	App'd. provided lights in bottom section of wind are same dimensions as lights in top section. (Note: may require lowering br. sill), 12/3/57
2055	1500-35th St.,NW Georgetown Visitation Convent	Remove exist. masonry wall & build new 7'-6" to 8'-1½" br. wall	App'd., 12/10/57
2056	1673-34th St., NW Mrs. Mary O'H. Alsop	Enlarge bedrm., provide porch, new window on 1st. fl.	App'd., 12/10/57
2057	3200 Scott Pl., NW Katherine E. Byron	Erect new 2-story colonial br. residence	App'd except for details of bay window on drawing #4, & subj. to later subm. of rev'd. design for this feature. Recom. restudy of window, possibly in manner suggested in attached sketch, 12/10/57
2058	3202 Scott Pl., NW Katherine E. Byron	Erect new 2-story colonial br. residence	App'd., 12/10/57
2059	1226-29th St., NW Kermit S. Murphy	Erect br. & br. & cinder-bl. fence, 7'	App'd. for solid br. wall with br. cap (cap not indicated on draw.), 12/10/57

APPENDIX 2 (Continued)

NO	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT	ACTION
2060	3327 M St., NW Esso Standard Oil Station	1 d-f, 35 sq-ft sign (12' each side)	Disap. Total sq-footage of exist. signs already exceeds desirable CFA maximum, 12/1 /57
2061	3035 West Le Keys, NW Random Inv. Corp.	Remove breezeway & garage & provide gravel covered off-st. parking area as per BZ #4704 & erect front window as rev'd. to plans with permit B-26380.	App'd., 12/12/57
2063	3041 West Le Keys, NW Statewide Inv. Corp.	Same as 2061	App'd., 12/12/57
2065	3045 West Le Keys, NW American Inv. Corp.	Same as 2061	App'd., 12/12/57
2066	3212 "O" St., NW The Pineapple (Antiques)	1 d-f metal sign	App'd., 12/16/57
2067	3344-56 M St., NW R. P. Neuhauser	Replace exist. cornice using like material	App'd., 12/16/57
2068	3336 "O" St., NW Adm. Edward P. Moore	Bld. 1-story addn. for garage to exist. bldg.	App'd., 12/16/57

13 January 1958

Honorable F. Moran McConihe
Commissioner of Public
Buildings Service
General Services Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. McConihe:

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts were glad to meet on 19 December 1957 with Mr. L. L. Hunter of your office and with Mr. Max Abramovitz of the architectural firm of Harrison and Abramovits to discuss the architectural design of the proposed building for the Central Intelligence Agency that is to be erected at Langley, Virginia.

The use of a scale model of the building greatly facilitated the study of the design. The care and completeness with which the model had been prepared was commented on. The architectural design was approved as presented. Special note was taken of the way the building had been related to the site and of the way that works of art had been used to accent the architecture and planting.

The members of the Commission will be glad to confer with you further as the various parts of the design are developed.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

L. R. Wilson
Secretary

EXHIBIT C

13 January 1972

Honorable E. Horn Hoenlein
Commissioner of Public
Buildings Service
General Services Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoenlein:

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts were glad to meet on 14 December 1971 with Mr. L. E. Hunter of your office and with Mr. Ian Abrosovitz of the architectural firm of Harrison and Abrosovitz to discuss the conceptual design of the proposed building for the Federal Intelligence Agency that is to be erected at Langley, Virginia.

The use of a scale model of the building greatly facilitated the study of the design. The very and megaforms and which the model had been prepared was commended. The architectural design was approved as presented. Special care was taken of the way the building, had been related to the site and of the way that works of art had been used to accent the architecture and planting.

The members of the Commission will be glad to consider with you further as the various parts of the design are developed.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

L. K. Sillcox
Secretary

EXHIBIT C

17 January 1958

Mr. John Nolen, Jr., Director
National Capital Planning Commission
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Nolen:

I am writing to confirm as a matter of record that, on 19 December 1957, at a regular meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, the members of the Commission considered and approved a set-back of 61 feet from the present building line for Federal Office Building 10-A, as recommended by the special committee of the National Capital Planning Commission's Coordinating Committee.

Sincerely yours,

L. R. Wilson
Secretary

cc Commissioner of Public
Buildings Service

EXHIBIT D

EXHIBIT D

13 January 1958

Lt. Colonel James S. Cook, Jr.
Chief, Heraldic Branch
Office of the Quartermaster General
Department of the Army
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Colonel Cook:

At a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on 19 December 1957, I showed the members of the Commission of Fine Arts the sketches which you and the representatives of the Air Force brought to my office recently for discussion and exchange of ideas preliminary to producing a design for an Air Force Commendation Medal. The members of the Commission considered none of the designs to have sufficient merit for such a medal as presented. They recommended that the hexagonal design be developed further giving the Air Force Coat of Arms more prominence.

Mr. de Weldon, the sculptor member of the Commission, and I were directed to work with you informally in the matter to avoid the delay of waiting for the formal meeting of the Commission, When you have anything to submit, please call, and I will arrange a conference.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

L. R. Wilson
Secretary

EXHIBIT E

EXHIBIT E

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

23 December 1957

Dear Mr. Holabird:

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts were glad to meet on 19 December 1957 with you and Mr. Helmuth Bartsch, and with Mr. Omar Ketcham and Mr. Robert Sutphin, representatives of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, to discuss the design of the building your firm is designing for the Headquarters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars at Maryland Avenue and 2nd Street, Northeast.

We believe that the design as indicated in your preliminary drawings and perspective will produce a dignified building, appropriate to its use and site in the Nation's Capital, and are glad to give it our approval. Inasmuch as this building falls within the area controlled by the Shipstead-Luce Act, the working drawings will be reviewed again when they are submitted for our advice by the Commissioner's of the District of Columbia before they issue a building permit.

We will be glad to consult further with you on any problems that may arise in the meantime.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Signed
David E. Finley
Chairman

Mr. William Holabird
Holabird, Root and Burgee
180 North Wabash Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

cc- Mr. Robert Sutphin
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Honorable James E. Van Zandt
House of Representatives

EXHIBIT F

D R A F T

85th Congress H. R. _____

A BILL

To provide for suitable works of art in Federal buildings.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) it is hereby declared to be the purpose of this Act (1) to secure suitable works of art of the best quality for the decoration of buildings of the Federal Government, and in this way to reflect our cultural heritage and the continuing development of American art.

(b) As used in this Act---

(1) the term "art" includes paintings, sculpture, and artistic work in other media.

(2) the term "Administrator" means the Administrator of General Services.

(3) the term "Federal agency" means any department, agency, or establishment of the Federal Government.

(c) The Administrator of General Services is authorized to establish a Fine Arts Fund, which shall be available without fiscal year limitation, to be expended at his discretion and with the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts, for suitable works of art in public buildings designed for any Federal agency, and constructed under his supervision. There is authorized to be appropriated to said fund an amount not to exceed $_____*;

EXHIBIT G

Provided, That such fund shall be in addition to any appropriation for the design and construction of public buildings or otherwise provided to General Services Administration or any other agency.

(d) In order to secure the participation of the best possible talent under this Act, there shall be established such procedures as may be deemed appropriate by the Administrator and the Commission of Fine Arts to provide for the award of commissions without competition, as well as for the award of commissions through competitions in which artists are invited to compete and are paid for designs submitted.

*Alternate: "not to exceed 1% of the total sum appropriated in any fiscal year for the design and construction of public buildings."

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

19 December 1957

Dear Colonel Welling:

At the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts today, I read to the members your letter of December 9th, replying to our letter of November 22nd in which we requested that a three dimensional study model be furnished, showing the bridge which the Commissioners of the District of Columbia propose to erect over the Potomac River at Constitution Avenue and also the bridge on 23rd Street crossing Constitution Avenue to the Lincoln Memorial, together with other structures and connecting roadways on both sides of the river. In your letter you state that you do not consider such a model to be of essential value "in the architectural determinations before the Commission" and that you do not expect to furnish such a model.

I should point out that, while the 1954 Act (Public Law 704, 83rd Congress), under which you are proceeding, specifically provides that "plans for any bridge or other structure authorized by this title shall be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for advice with respect to the architectural features of any such bridge or structure, "the Commission of Fine Arts is charged, under the Executive Order of July 28, 1921, with responsibility for advising as to "all important plans for parks and public buildings, constructed by executive departments or the District of Columbia, which in any essential way affect the appearance of the City of Washington or the District of Columbia."

The Commission is concerned, therefore, not only with the design of the proposed bridge across the Potomac River but also with that of the proposed bridge on 23rd Street, which will cross Constitution Avenue and deposit a stream of traffic practically at the base of the Lincoln Memorial. We are also concerned with the effect which the proposed traffic arteries and other structures will have on the setting of the Lincoln Memorial, as well as Theodore Roosevelt Island, the Memorial Bridge, and the Marine Corps War Memorial on the Virginia side of the river.

A monument cannot be considered apart from its setting. Anything that mars the setting, also mars the monument; and this applies with special force to those monuments we have just mentioned. They line the ceremonial route over which distinguished foreign visitors are brought from the airport to the White House. Everything along this route should be appropriate and as harmonious as nature and art can make it. Certainly there should be no intrusions of accidental origin, such as the proposed bridge and its connecting roadways would be.

EXHIBIT H

The proposed bridge over the Potomac River at Constitution Avenue, its roadways, over-passes and other structures constitute a complex project, no part of which can be separated or considered except in relation to each other. These structures are hardly less important than the bridge, itself, in the effect they will have on the appearance of the city. The Commission has been given adequate information covering only one of these elements -- the bridge over the Potomac River, for which you furnished elevation drawings. It was for this reason that we requested a three-dimensional study model, showing the proposed network of roadways and other structures which will cost, we understand, over $14,000,000.

In an undertaking of this kind, it is important that not only the Commission of Fine Arts, but also the Senate and House Committees on the District of Columbia, the Congress and the public should have a clear understanding of what you propose to do and the effect it will have on some of the nation's greatest monuments, as well as on park lands which will be sacrificed to traffic considerations in the use of the proposed bridge. Since you have refused to furnish the information requested, the Commission is not in a position to advise as regards the proposed structures, except in the case of the bridge over the Potomac river at Constitution Avenue.

Insofar as that bridge is concerned, the Commission prefers that it should be a masonry bridge, such as you have indicated in the design submitted. We would be willing to approve a design of this kind for a bridge to be erected at some other location. In considering the merits of the design, however, it must be understood that the Commission does not, either directly or by implication, approve the erection of a bridge and its network of roadways and other structures so near the Memorial Bridge and the Lincoln Memorial.

The legislation, under which you are proceeding, was passed by the Congress in 1954, without prior consultation with the Commission of Fine Arts. Later when the matter was brought to the Commission for advice, we advised against a bridge at this location and recommended, as the lesser of two evils, a bridge across the lower end of Theodore Roosevelt Island for which we had secured the approval of the Trustees of the Theodore Roosevelt Association, the donor of the Island. We co-operated with your office in making studies for such a bridge. Subsequently a tunnel was recommended by the District of Columbia Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives and was authorized by the Senate, although no action was taken by the House in the closing days of the last session. The Commissioners of the District of Columbia thereupon decided to proceed under the 1954 authorization without giving

the Congress an opportunity to express its will on pending legislation, such as the bill (H. R. 4367) introduced by Representative Broyhill on February 5, 1957, and also the bill (H. R. 9165) introduced by Representative Hoffman on August 7, 1957. Both bills provide for a bridge across Theodore Roosevelt Island, to be known as "The Theodore Roosevelt Bridge." Both bills contain the wise provision that "the bridge, approaches, interchanges, and connecting roads at both ends of the bridge shall be constructed with a view to retaining so far as possible the monumental setting and the artistic design of the Lincoln Memorial, the Arlington Memorial Bridge, and other monumental structures, properties, and park lands in the general area."

The Commission would be willing now, as we have been in the past, to approve a bridge constructed in this manner, with due regard for the amenities involved in an area containing so many of the nation's great memorials. We feel that there should be a clear and present statement of the will of Congress in this matter. In any event, the Commission of Fine Arts does not concur in or take any responsibility for the grave decision arrived at by the District Commissioners to proceed with the bridge in the short time intervening before the re-assembling of Congress.

The views as stated above represent the opinion of the Commission of Fine Arts. You are at liberty, of course, under the law, to disregard such advice. We are not at liberty, however, to give you anything less than our considered, disinterested opinion as to what is best for the City of Washington.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Colonel A. C. Welling
Engineer Commissioner for the
District of Columbia
District Building
Washington 4, D. C.

C O P Y

STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
19 December 1957

For: Immediate Release

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting today, considered the design submitted by the District of Columbia Engineer Commissioner, Colonel A. C. Welling, for a bridge to be erected over the Potomac River at Constitution Avenue. The Commission has made public the following extract from a letter which it has sent to the District Commissioner, giving the views of the Commission of Fine Arts with reference to the proposed bridge and other structures under consideration.

"The Commission of Fine Arts is charged, under the Executive Order of July 28, 1921, with responsibility for advising as to 'all important plans for parks and public buildings, constructed by executive departments or the District of Columbia, which in any essential way affect the appearance of the City of Washington or the District of Columbia.'

"The Commission is concerned, therefore, not only with the design of the proposed bridge across the Potomac River but also with that of the proposed bridge on 23rd Street, which will cross Constitution Avenue and deposit a stream of traffic practically at the base of the Lincoln Memorial. We are also concerned with the effect which the proposed traffic arteries and other structures will have on the setting of the Lincoln Memorial, as well as Theodore Roosevelt Island, the Memorial Bridge, and the Marine Corps War Memorial on the Virginia side of the river.

"A monument cannot be considered apart from its setting. Anything that mars the setting, also mars the monument; and this applies with special force to those monuments we have just mentioned. They line the ceremonial route over which distinguished foreign visitors are brought from the airport to the White House. Everything along this route should be appropriate and as harmonious as nature and art can make it. Certainly there should be no intrusions of accidental origin, such as the proposed bridge and its connecting roadways would be.

"The proposed bridge over the Potomac River at Constitution Avenue, its roadways, over-passes and other structures constitute a complex project, no part of which can be separated or considered except in relation to each other. These structures are hardly less important than the bridge, itself, in the effect they will have on the appearance of the City. The Commission has been given adequate information covering only one of these elements -- the bridge over the Potomac River, for which you furnished elevation drawings. It was for this reason that we requested a three-dimensional study model, showing the proposed network of roadways and other structures which will cost, we understand, over $14,000,000.

EXHI BIT H (Press Release)

"In an undertaking of this kind, it is important that not only the Commission of Fine Arts, but also the Senate and House Committees on the District of Columbia, the Congress and the public should have a clear understanding of what you propose to do and the effect it will have on some of the nation's greatest monuments, as well as on park lands which will be sacrificed to traffic considerations in the use of the proposed bridge. Since you have refused to furnish the information requested, the Commission is not in a position to advise as regards the proposed structures, except in the case of the bridge over the Potomac river at Constitution Avenue.

"Insofar as that bridge is concerned, the Commission prefers that it should be a masonry bridge, such as you have indicated in the design submitted. We would be willing to approve a design of this kind for a bridge to be erected at some other location. In considering the merits of the design, however, it must be understood that the Commission does not, either directly or by implication, approve the erection of a bridge and its network of roadways and other structures so near the Memorial Bridge and the Lincoln Memorial.

"The legislation, under which you are proceeding, was passed by the Congress in 1954, without prior consultation with the Commission of Fine Arts. Later when the matter was brought to the Commission for advice, we advised against a bridge at this location and recommended, as the lesser of two evils, a bridge across the lower end of Theodore Roosevelt Island for which we had secured the approval of the Trustees of the Theodore Roosevelt Association, the donor of the Island. We co-operated with your office in making studies for such a bridge. Subsequently a tunnel was recommended by the District of Columbia Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives and was authorized by the Senate, although no action was taken by the House in the closing days of the last session. The Commissioners of the District of Columbia thereupon decided to proceed under the 1954 authorization without giving the Congress an opportunity to express its will on pending legislation, such as the bill H. R. 4367, introduced by Representative Broyhill on February 5, 1957, and also the bill (H. R. 9165) introduced by Representative Hoffman on August 7, 1957. Both bills provide for a bridge across Theodore Roosevelt Island, to be known as 'The Theodore Roosevelt Bridge.' Both bills contain the wise provision that 'the bridge, approaches, interchanges, and connecting roads at both ends of the bridge shall be constructed with a view to retaining so far as possible the monumental setting and the artistic design of the Lincoln Memorial, the Arlington Memorial Bridge, and other monumental structures, properties, and park lands in the general area.'

"The Commission would be willing now, as we have been in the past, to approve a bridge constructed in this manner, with due regard for the amenities involved in an area containing so many of the nation's great memorials. We feel that there should be a clear and present statement of the will of Congress in this matter. In any event, the Commission of

Fine Arts does not concur in or take any responsibility for the grave decision arrived at by the District Commissioners to proceed with the bridge in the short time intervening before the re-assembling of Congress.

"The views as stated above represent the opinion of the Commission of Fine Arts. You are at liberty, of course, under the law, to disregard such advice. We are not at liberty, however, to give you anything less than our considered, disinterested opinion as to what is best for the City of Washington."

C O P Y

THE WASHINGTON POST AND TIMES HERALD
1515 L Street, N. W.
Washington 5, D. C.

November 22, 1957

Mr. David E. Finley
Chairman
Commission of Fine Arts
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Finley:

The newspapers have a great deal of difficulty covering the affairs of the Commission of Fine Arts because of its disposition to conduct all of its proceedings in secret. Since the business upon which the Commission is embarked is public business in which all the citizens have a great concern, including those who live elsewhere in the nation, it seems to me that these meetings ought to be open.

As you know, it is a well-known principle of government that the open conduct of such bodies widens the participation of the citizens in the intellectual exercise to be gained by considering the problems of government, the public support for the projects of the deliberative body, and it invites the suggestions and the help of qualified persons outside the board who, in some rare instances, may be even better informed on a particular project than the members themselves.

While I realize that the Commission has extensive legal powers, I am sure you will agree that in the long run the maintenance to the kind of standards to which it is dedicated largely depends upon public support. That public support may not be forthcoming some time when it is badly needed if in the intervals between crises the board exhibits contempt for the public's right to know.

These matters were brought especially to our attention by your most recent meeting. Only with difficulty did the press discover that the meeting was being held at all; the Commission of Fine Arts did not release any agenda of the things to be considered at the meeting; when the meeting was concluded it declined to give the press anything on what had been discussed or what decisions had been reached.

Sincerely yours,

Signed
J. R. Wiggins
Executive Editor

EXHIBIT I

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

5 December 1957

Dear Mr. Wiggins:

I am sorry that, owing to absence, I have been delayed in replying to your letter of November 22, 1957, making certain criticisms and suggestions as to the functioning of the Commission of Fine Arts. The Commission is always glad to have such suggestions, especially when they come, as in your case, from one who has at heart the best interst of the City of Washington.

I shall read your letter to the members of the Commission at our next meeting on December 19. Meanwhile I should point out that some of your criticisms arise from what is evidently a misconception as to how the Commission has always functioned and must function if it is to discharge the responsibilities imposed on the members by the Act of Congress creating the Commission and by the other Acts and Executive Orders which further enlarge and define the Commission's authority.

Our primary duty is to give careful, disinterested advice within our terms of reference; and to do this we must consider each case as it arises, with a full interchange of views among members of the Commission and those officers and agencies having responsibilities for the matter in question. There is no secrecy about the proceedings of the Commission. The date of the meeting is fixed always a month and sometimes two months in advance, and notice is sent to all those having business to come before the Commission.

The seven members of the Commission who, as you know, are appointed by the President and serve without pay, meet once each month for one or two days as may be required to advise the Congress, heads of Government departments and agencies, and Federal and District officials concerning the designs and plans for public buildings, monuments, and other structures, parks, etc., constructed by Executive Departments or the District of Columbia, that "in any important way affect the appearance of the City of Washington." The law requires that such designs and plans shall be submitted to the Commission for advice. Although that advice is not mandatory and the official concerned is not obligated to follow it, in the great majority of cases the advice of the Commission has been followed.

The Commission comes to its conclusions after discussions with the Federal or District official, his staff, architects and others, who have a part in the project in question. The Commission frequently invites suggestions and the help of qualified persons who, as you point out, may be even better informed on a particular project than the members themselves. The Commission usually communicates its advice to the official

directly concerned who in many cases wishes to make his own public announcement regarding the project of which he is in charge. In fact, in many instances, the Commission is not at liberty to make such announcements.

For instance, at the November meeting of the Commission, we met with Dr. Leonard Carmichael of the Smithsonian Institution and discussed with him and his staff, and also with the architects and with representatives of the General Services Administration, the plans for wings to be erected, enlarging the Natural History Museum; also the design for the building to be erected for the Museum of History and Technology. We approved these plans and have so advised the Commissioner of Public Buildings and Dr. Carmichael. We made no public announcement of this action as Dr. Carmichael and the General Services Administration wished to make their own announcement of their plans after the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts had been received. This procedure is usually followed by us in matters coming under the jurisdiction of the Office of General Services, particularly in cases where there must be discussions at several sessions before a final decision is reached.

This procedure was followed in the case of the bridge to be erected over the Potomac River in the neighborhood of Constitution Avenue. We had a discussion with the Engineer Commissioner, Colonel Welling and his staff, and the architects and engineers regarding the design of the bridge. The Commission felt it was not in a position to advise concerning the plans for this project until it had received further information about connecting roadways and their impact on the nation's memorials in the affected areas. We asked Colonel Welling for such information and hope to receive it in time for discussion at the next meeting of the Commission on December 19. I so informed both The Post and The Star following our meeting on November 21.

Other business that came before the Commission at the last meeting was either of a routine nature or such as required further study. There was nothing secret about any of these matters; and in cases where the Commission has felt that a public statement of its position was necessary or helpful, I have made such statements, sometimes to the Senate and House Committees, as in the case of the location of the proposed bridge over the Potomac River near Constitution Avenue. At stated intervals the Commission makes reports to the President and the Congress concerning projects that have come before the Commission since the preceeding report.

I fear this is rather a long letter. I have tried to answer the points raised in your letter and would be glad to discuss these matters in person

if you will lunch with me some day in the near future when I can tell you more about the nature of the Commission and how it operates in carrying on its work.

Sincerely yours,

Signed
David E. Finley
Chairman

Mr. J. R. Wiggins
Executive Editor
The Washington Post and Times Herald
1515 L Street, N. W.
Washington 5, D. C.

C O P Y

GALAXY INC.
1218 Connecticut Avenue
Washington 6, D. C.

December 17, 1957

Mr. David Finley,
Chairman, Fine Arts Committee,
The People-to-People Program,
Corcoran Gallery of Art,
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Finley:

As you know, Fritz has been borrowed by the Joint Congressional Committee on Washington Metorpolitan Problems to act as its Staff Director.

Although he has been entirely relieved of his duties here, I have followed with interest his work on the Hill. It has occurred to me that the Committee has a very lonely job in this pioneering effort which it is making. The members of the Committee, with the exception of Hyde and Beall of Maryland, come from far distant points. You are only too aware of the problems of the District which have the Congress of the United States as its board of aldermen.

On the other hand there are now in this capital many nation-wide organizations who have their headquarters here. They have a stake in the success of this committee's work. Their stake is the proper setting for their national headquarters, and the work to be carried out by their headquarters.

It appears to me that a good deal could be accomplished by calling together the resident operating heads of these organizations, and acquainting them with the importance of the work that is now going on in regard to the future of the national capital. This is of direct interest to them, because many of them have substantial real estate and employment interests here.

I believe that you are in a position to spearhead such a movement. I should like to discuss this with you in some further detail.

I would appreciate hearing from you as to when it might be convenient for you to see me, and discuss the matter at some greater length.

Sincerely yours,

Signd.
Robert Ware Straus,
President.

RWS/gnw

EXHIBIT J

It was decided not to write to Colonel Welling, requesting a report on the lighting standard problem, since we received a phone call from Mr. Herbert A. Friede, Electrical Engineer, D. C. Department of Highways, on 11 February 1958, in which Mr. Friede said he would have the report ready to submit to the Commission of Fine Arts at its 27 March 1958 meeting.

EXHIBIT K

13 January 1958

Honorable F. Moran McConihe
Commissioner of Public
Buildings Service
General Services Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. McConihe:

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts met on 19 December 1957 with Mr. L. L. Hunter, and with Mr. Porter and Mr. Denton, the architects, who are designing a new Men's Dormitory and a Cafeterial Service Building respectively, at Gallaudet College.

The architects presented preliminary drawings which outlined their ideas of the way the designs should progress. The members of the Commission expressed their satisfaction with the designs as presented and invited the architects to return when their plans have been developed. Submission of the design at this early stage was greatly appreciated.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

L. R. Wilson
Secretary

EXHIBIT X

EXHIBIT X

WITNESSES APPEARING BEFORE THE MEETING
OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS ON 19 December 1957
IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOLLOWING SUBMISSION

- -

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
PUBLIC BUILDINGS SERVICE

a. Gallaudet College
1. Cafeteria and Service Building
Mr. L. L. Hunter, Asst. Comm'r. for Design and Construction
Public Buildings Service

Mr. C. F. Hagemann, of Public Buildings Service

Mr. William N. Denton, Architect, of Wilson & Denton

2. Men's Dormitory
Mr. Hunter and Mr. Hagemam of Public Buildings

Mr. James Porter and Mr. Steve Porter of
Irwin S. Porter & Sons, Architects

3. Central Intelligence Agency
Mr. Hunter and Mr. Hagemam of Public Buildings

Mr. Max Abramovitz of Harrison and Abramovitz, Architects

SHIPSTEAD-LUCE (Preliminary)
1. Headquarters building for Veterans of Foreign Wars

Mr. William Holabird and Mr. Helmuth Bartsch
of Holabird, Root & Burgee, Architects
Chicago
Mr. Omar Ketchum and
Mr. Robert F. Sutphin, representatives of the Veterans
of Foreign Wars