



Presidio Trust, Board of Directors  
Mr. Craig Middleton, Executive Director  
34 Graham Street, P.O. Box 29052  
San Francisco, CA 94129

March 12, 2008

**Re: Proposed Fisher Contemporary Art Museum on the Main Post of the Presidio**

Dear Members of the Board and Mr. Middleton:

The Cow Hollow Association (CHA) represents a district of 1,800 households in the residential neighborhood immediately to the east of the Presidio. We write to express our complete opposition to the proposed placement of the Fisher Contemporary Art Museum on the Presidio Main Post.

The CHA has passed the following resolution:

*The Cow Hollow Association (CHA) is opposed to the Fisher Contemporary Art museum being located on the Presidio Main Post. The proposed enormous size, incongruous style and outside art displays are profoundly inconsistent with the historical character of that Park site. The increased traffic both inside and outside the Park, insufficient parking and consequent noise and pollution would be detrimental to the natural environment of this National Park.*

*The CHA recognizes the civic-mindedness of the Fisher family, and hopes that this art collection will be placed in the City of San Francisco. The CHA represents over 1,800 households in the area adjacent to the Presidio and is directly affected by this proposed very significant expansion of Presidio activities. We submit this both as neighbors to the Presidio and as citizens of the City of San Francisco.*

Our opposition is part of a much larger public opposition to the Fisher on the Parade Ground, many also opposing it anywhere on the Presidio, including the Main Post: the Presidio Historical Association, the distinguished landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, former Presidio Trust Board Member and Secretary and CEO of the Smithsonian Institution, Michael Heyman, some 70% of the written comments on file in the Presidio library, many of the oral comments at the December 2007 Presidio meetings on the Fisher proposal, the February 27 letters to the editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and most recently, the February 26 letter to the Presidio Trust by the Neighborhood Associations for Presidio Planning (NAPP) consisting of 11 neighborhood associations adjacent to the Presidio, all opposing the Fisher on the Main Post.

CHA is a member of NAPP, and our opposition is largely expressed in NAPP's February 2008 letter to the Presidio Trust. We write separately here to emphasize our opposition to Fisher on the Main Post as follows:

- It would be plainly anomalous to put a contemporary art museum on the Main Post of the Presidio. Such a museum would have nothing to do with either the Main Post's valued history, its long-standing traditions or the natural environment of the site. In sum, we oppose a contemporary art museum being placed on the Main Post of the Presidio, regardless of its configuration. The Main Post, including the Parade Ground, is the heart of the Presidio. It is hallowed ground due to its Hispanic heritage, rich military history and the memories and sensibilities of so many San Francisco residents and visitors.
- By CHA's opposition to the Fisher on the Main Post, we do not imply that we would or would not oppose it being placed at some other site on the Presidio. We are expressing our opposition here to the specific Fisher proposal to put it on the Parade Ground. Mindful of the Presidio Trust's recent claim that "the exact site is to be negotiated", our resolution makes clear that we oppose it being placed on or nearby the Parade Ground, that is, elsewhere on the Main Post. As to whether some other Presidio site would or would not present the same serious deficiencies (so well detailed in NAPP's recent letter to the Trust) in the same or varying degrees, we presently reserve comment.

In light of this opposition and the serious objections of the many other individuals and organizations who have publicly commented on the Fisher proposal, the Presidio Trust should not approve placement of the Fisher on the Main Post.

Sincerely,

Lori Brooke  
President, Cow Hollow Association  
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cc: Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi  
Cow Hollow Association Membership  
John Pelka, NEPA Coordinator  
Kyri McCellan, Mayor's Office, Base Reuse and Development  
Mayor Gavin Newsom  
NAPP Delegate Associations  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier