

The Next Phase to Protect Our National Heritage at the Presidio Has Begun The Power of Public Opinion Will Decide

The Presidio Trust has issued another massive set of documents in its attempt to explain why a hotel, contemporary art museum and multiscreen movie house should be constructed at the heart of a national historic landmark and a national park. The attempt fails.

There indeed have been some changes in these documents.

HISTORY PLAN. A history display (Heritage Center) is supposed to be placed in the old Officer's Club, the building that remains from the 1776 Presidio. We don't know if the vague plan is a half-hearted effort forced by the Trust's claims that contemporary art would "bring back the heart of the Presidio," or if it is a genuine attempt to respond to the massive number of public comments that called for history to be explained at what has been called the most exceptional historic site on the West Coast of the United States. Who on the Trust staff or Board has the museum experience and competence with public educational programs to design such a program? Many questions about this new proposal remain to be answered. Is this real? Will it work in that location? Who curates the displays? Where is the visitors center that has been missing for ten years?

CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM. The Fisher Museum goes half underground and part of it is removed to across Moraga Avenue. It still is the wrong building, of the wrong size, at the wrong site, for the wrong purpose. It remains 100,000 square feet with parking now above ground. It remains a very modern glassy structure that would command the head of the Main Parade only a few hundred yards from El Presidio and the flagpole. Together with the 85,000 square foot hotel and a modern addition to the theater that is bigger than the theater itself, the cumulative effects of these proposals with past and planned changes guarantee that the Main Post plans of the Trust and Mr. Fisher will fail in the regulatory process and in any court action that may become necessary.

A BAD IDEA. We remain convinced that a contemporary art museum is not permissible in a national park. The *PURPOSE* is misplaced, no matter what the design may be. The *LOCATION* is wrong in the historic center of the site. There is no demonstrated *NEED* to inflict any adverse effects on the historic site other than the whims of the Trust Board and Mr. Fisher.

VIOLATES COMMON SENSE AND THE LAW. We need much more information about the revised CAMP and the hotel on the parade ground in order to comment specifically on design, colors, textures, etc., and we have not seen renderings or dimensions about the part of CAMP to be built across the street. The Presidio Historical Association has begun a detailed review. We know that the proposals violate the laws that established our national parks, ignore the restrictions on construction in National Historic Landmarks, and were presented to the public in a confusing and misleading process that violates the National Environmental Policy Act.

Watch this web site for future information and our detailed analysis