

## PRESIDIO TRUST PRESS RELEASE: JANUARY 30

The Presidio Trust released a press release today (January 30, 2008) that announced that the 100,000 square foot contemporary art museum of Mr. Don Fisher has been selected as the preferred proposal for a space on the Presidio. The Presidio Historical Association's proposal for the History Center of the Golden Gate, half the size of the art museum, was rejected due to our lack of funding. We had invited the Trust to join with us to explore funding possibilities. Obviously, no large donor will participate in a history project at the Presidio that did not have the support of the Presidio Trust. The Historical Association realistically cannot seek funds without such Trust support.

The press release announces approval of the concept of the art museum, but also shows that the Trust has listened to the Presidio Historical Association and over 300 people who have written the Trust with their opinions concerning CAMP, the Contemporary Art Museum at the Presidio. Those comments, thanks to you, the aware public, were 70 percent AGAINST such a large art museum in the center of Main Post. The press release has responded somewhat to this public outcry by agreeing that the location and design "will be subject to an extensive and thoughtful public environmental review process that will include vigorous environmental studies, design review, and public comment. No final decision will be made until this process is completed." You may be assured that our Association is a vigilant participant in these environmental reviews and counts on you for expressing public support. However, the Board of the Presidio Trust makes the final decision.

Furthermore, the Trust announced that it would finance 5 million dollars for a visitors' center and what they call a "history center," but really is a pathway with wayside exhibits that has been in the planning stage for years. "The Trust's vision for the history center and program is to create a history orientation center and a "museum without walls" in the Presidio's Main Post, which is the heart of the park and its most historic district. The program will comprise historic buildings and landscapes, and will have a "walk through time" as a central feature." The Historical Association sees this as a possibly useful first step towards recognition of the historical significance of the Presidio by the Trust, but this limited approach will have a shallow educational benefit for the public and will not be sufficient to establish the identity of the Presidio as an historical park. The Historical Association will continue to press for a nationally significant historical education institution at the Presidio to show how America's history at the Golden Gate and Presidio defined present day West Coast America.