



April 20, 2013

Craig Middleton, Executive Director
Tia Lombardi
The Presidio Trust
103 Montgomery Street
P.O. Box 29052
San Francisco, CA 94129

Re: Commissary decision

Dear Craig and Tia;

The Presidio Historical Association is disappointed that none of the proposals for the reuse of the former Commissary building centrally addresses the history and historical significance of the Presidio itself. The Presidio is a National Historic Landmark District, yet there is virtually nothing currently on the Presidio devoted to its history--a history central to development of the American West and America's role in the Pacific. The plans for a Heritage Center at the old Officers' Club mark a welcome beginning for presenting that history. However, the small amount of space allotted to history in the plans for that center, in comparison to the amount of space for a restaurant and meeting rooms, indicates the Heritage Center will be able to do little more than introduce the complex history of the Presidio.

The RFCP for the Commissary asked for proposals that would enhance *visitors' experience of the Presidio*. Since the Presidio is a National Historical Landmark District, the PHA interpreted the RFCP as requiring treatment of Presidio itself, especially its history and historical significance. And we see the Commissary as the best current opportunity for the Trust to give the history of the Presidio appropriate treatment.

We were disappointed that three of the final projects could easily be located anywhere and proposed nothing to address the Presidio itself. While we had hoped that history would be prominent, even preeminent, in all the final proposals, we are pleased that two of the finalists included more than passing treatment of the history of the Presidio in their proposals: the "Altered Lands" proposal (KV+Associates) and the "Presidio Exchange" proposal (Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy).

We see in both these proposals some potential for a fuller treatment of the Presidio's history and its historical significance. We encourage the Trust to give careful consideration to these two

proposals, perhaps encouraging them to pool their efforts with other applicants, and above all to encourage the final proposers to greatly expand their treatment of the history and historical significance of the Presidio and Crissy Field.

We at the Presidio Historical Association stand ready to work with either or both of them toward this goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Widman".

Gary Widman
President

Cc:

Kay Voyvodich

Greg Moore

Michael Boland

Amy Meyer

Rebecca Evans

Wm. Shepard

Neal Desai

Frank Dean

Anthony Veerkamp

PHA Board members