



Jennifer Munson <jmy@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: St Lawrence Arts Center

1 message

Barbara Barhydt <bab@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Jan 22, 2018 at 3:08 PM

To: "Munson, Jennifer" <jmy@portlandmaine.gov>, "Donaldson, Helen" <hcd@portlandmaine.gov>

Public comment for St. Lawrence ARts

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From: **nini mc manamy** <ninimaine@aol.com>

Date: Mon, Jan 22, 2018 at 3:04 PM

Subject: St Lawrence Arts Center

To: sgo@portlandmaine.gov

Cc: Hilarydbassett@gmail.com, jlarry@portlandlandmarks.org, Karine Snyder <karsny@yahoo.com>, mswnola@gmail.com, "rob@whittenarchitects.com" <rob@whittenarchitects.com>, bab@portlandmaine.gov, alandsberg@aol.com, jhurley@cspinet.org, vana carmona <vanacarmona@gmail.com>

As a longtime fan of the Arts Center and its significant contribution to the community, I am pleased to see the project progressing. However it still presents considerable problems, all resolvable, as presented.

1. The parking and transportation plan is inadequate. I fully support staff recommendations. A three hour parking deal with a single garage is inadequate in length. While theatregoers can choose to park longer, they need more garage options.

As a neighborhood resident I am extremely concerned about the presence of large delivery vehicles and charter buses for extended periods of time. There is the matter of pollution from idling engines, the loss of highly coveted neighborhood parking, and traffic hazards. Commercial vehicles, including daytime delivery by catering or beer trucks, need to be restricted to curb parking and the same kind of restrictions imposed on city hall events.

Finally, Metro service is unreliable. One needs to get to the show on time. Having an app that tells you how late the bus is doesn't solve this problem. Often I have tried to take Metro home from downtown, given up, and walked home on Congress St before the bus gets there. At night, this presents safety concerns. In addition, the lack of shelter at the stop nearest the Temple St garage makes the bus an unappetizing option in bad weather. I would note that the bus schedule doesn't specify the time the bus reaches the corner of Atlantic and Congress: if big cities can put arrival times on a stop sign, so can Metro. And something needs to be done to police sidewalk conditions much better.

2. With the ferment and momentum around preserving the built character of the Hill, the proposed building needs some tweaking with respect to surface treatment and roof lines. It is not clear what the surface material will be, but a corrugated metal siding or yellow brick would be grossly out of character with the existing built fabric of the neighborhood. Why is there no stone facing on this building, recalling not only the former church, but the current parish hall? Why is there no window work recalling the glorious stained glass of the church? No artwork? We have artists in this community who can create beautiful windows. Nothing about this building says Munjoy Hill—it is entirely generic and reminds me of Boston City Hall.

I hope that the Historic Preservation Commission can address some of the design concerns, but the Planning Board is influential and has considerable control over the impact of this facility on the neighborhood.

Thank you.
 Sincerely,
 Jean (Nini) McManamy
 10 Willis St.

Sent from my iPad