



M O H R & S E R E D I N

Landscape Architects, Inc.

January 23, 2017

Ms. Deb Andrews, Historic Preservation Program Manager  
Department of Planning and Urban Development  
Portland City Hall, Fourth Floor  
389 Congress Street  
Portland, ME 04101

**RE:** Proposed Site and Landscape changes at the Portland Museum of Art Sculpture Garden on High Street

Dear Deb,

On behalf of the Portland Museum of Art (PMA) we submit this letter and the attached plans for consideration by the Portland Historic Preservation Board at their February 1, 2017 meeting. As previously discussed with you, this item will be placed on the regular agenda for the meeting so that the details for the project can be discussed with the Board Members. We will attend the meeting with Andrew L. of PMA to answer any questions should the Board members request additional information beyond what is depicted on the attached plans.

As part of their long range plan for the museum, the PMA board and staff want to add to the sculpture collection in the High Street Sculpture Garden, and to open the garden to the public with access directly from High Street. Currently access into the Sculpture Garden is on a limited basis and is only possible from the interior of the building or from a small gate at the McLellan House. PMA wants to be able to open the gates on to High Street and allow daily access in and out of the Sculpture Garden during normal museum hours, without the need to pass through the Museum.

As can be seen in the attached proposed plans the spacing and layout of the existing ornamental fence posts and fence sections remain as existing after the new access gate is constructed. The two 6 foot hinged gates will create a 12 foot wide portal when the gates are open. We have worked very closely with the PMA staff to design the new entry gates so that the existing character and visual integrity of the fence remains, and the museum staff will have a functional gate which the staff can open on a daily basis. The new gates will be wood fencing supported by a steel frame painted to match the fence color. A bottom panel will be added to both gates and be painted to match the existing granite base of the existing fence.

Integral with the direct access to a public street are the required changes in the Sculpture Garden to assure universal access throughout the garden. The connections at High Street and at the PMA building have both been designed as new stone entry pads, and an ADA compliant walkway is proposed in the interior of the garden to replace the red crushed stone walkway. The new walk will be either aggregate with brick edging, or a brick walkway.

The vegetative changes within the garden will be minimal. Overgrown shrubs are proposed to be pruned, several diseased and dying plants will be removed, and the existing plant materials will be fertilized for vigor, and new plantings will be installed to be consistent with the character of the existing garden. Conduits will be installed for future lighting of additional sculptures in the garden and no new general site lighting is proposed for the garden.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need additional materials. As always, we appreciate your assistance and guidance.

Yours truly,



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