

January 9, 2016

Ms. Heather Bleemers
Los Angeles City Planning Department
200 N. Spring Street, Room 763
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: ENV-2016-2580-MND, 3700 Wilshire Boulevard, (Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park)

Dear Ms. Bleemers:

The 2.5-acre, open space at 3700 Wilshire Boulevard is a classic example of Peter Walker's minimalist, reductive style. A full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is needed prior to the approval of any project that would adversely impact this building and its park.

One of the leading landscape architects in the Modernist movement, Walker, a Pasadena native, was chosen to help design and build the National 9/11 Memorial in New York City. He has received over 70 design awards in the regional, national, and international sphere, including the coveted Cooper Hewitt National Design Award, the Honor Award of the American Institute of Architects, and the American Society of Landscape Architects Medal. In 2005, he was the inaugural winner of the Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Award from the International Federation of Landscape Architects, the highest honor given to a landscape architect.

In past conversations with Peter, he spoke of his involvement with Liberty Park. The site is an early example of Walker's desire to create multiple interactions by focusing on a few objects and a few meaningful materials. People progress from the 11-story, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill designed office into a plaza, down steps, and into a central lawn with a granite-wall perimeter frame. The symmetry is punctuated by an off-center circular space with Canary Island Pines and boulders. Walker's spare design provides much needed open space and shade in Koreatown and is a strong contrast to the Wilshire Colonnade - the Edward Durell Stone, Roman-inspired building - that was being built at the same time directly across the street.

The city must reject MND's finding that the project will have "no impact" on historical resources and request an EIR. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (213) 384 3844 or mia@mlagreen.org, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mia Lehrer, FASLA
President