



12 September, 2018

Jean Fraser, Presidio Trust Chief Executive Officer
Josh Bagley, Presidio Trust Chief of Real Estate Development
The Presidio Trust
103 Montgomery Street
P.O. Box 29052
San Francisco, CA 94129

Dear Ms. Fraser and Mr. Bagley :

We appreciate receiving the nine concept proposals for the Fort Scott district and your invitation to comment on them.

Rather than attempting to evaluate the nine concepts, we would like to focus on the requirements for the next stage; the request for proposals. In this last unrestored district, the RFP should emphasize its status as part of a National Park by requiring measures which allow Fort Scott to speak for itself of its long history of the defense of the Nation. To that end additional criteria and requirements should be included.

Criteria:

- A robust program for historic interpretation. The RFQ should be specific about what themes are important and which areas should be open to the public.
- A use which can tolerate and encourage public access. Unlike the Letterman hospital which was demolished for the inaccessible Lucas complex, these buildings are historic and contribute to the NHL. As a part of a National Park, we suggest that the lofty problem-solving goals of the proposers and the history of coastal defense and its defenders which is embodied in Fort Scott, both be conveyed to the public, in cooperation with the Trust. In this way the project can combine being a park and being an office park.
- A use which is both important and unique, and not already provided elsewhere.

The Presidio Trust has always maintained that history resides in the places in the Presidio where it happened and that the Presidio itself is a museum. We think the themes of history that are compelling in Fort Scott can be conveyed wonderfully in a selection of spaces used by the tenants and periodically made available to the public. These themes can be interpreted, either by tours, or by finding uses which encourage regular public access.

Requirements:

- Known areas, events and people of historic importance should be specifically mentioned. Requirements must be clear and enforceable.
- As part of the restoration process, require the identification (using historic consultants) of important areas activities and events for the Trust to interpret.
- Require public access to key areas. Docent led tours should be encouraged.



Locations for public access and historic interpretation themes:

- The murals in building 1216 (from 1956-57 by a soldier, Perin Gruber), which so vividly convey military life during the cold war, should be made accessible and be open to view. We were pleased that one proposal included a museum in that location.
- Food service -- open to the public located in one of the original mess-halls (officer's or enlisted). It might even be possible to serve (perhaps once a week) a menu that servicemen might have experienced. Perhaps some authentic menus illustrating the difference between enlisted men's and officers' food, etc. There could be a discussion of how military food influenced civilian life.
- The stockade, where the Presidio mutineers were incarcerated should have a visual acknowledgement of that history and the issues it raised. Restore the wall paintings, which may still exist, but are apparently painted over.
- Other specific and/or representative locations could also contain illustrations of how military life influenced civilian life.
- The Cold War is another topic which should be discussed in the HQ building which used to house activities associated with Nike Missiles, and possibly also with CIA activities.
- The evolution of coastal defense from the Spanish gun emplacements to the Nike missile

On-going Monitoring

- Any mission driven, problem solving organization will see its mission evolve and its partners change over time. A mechanism needs to be in place to monitor this program evolution to ensure that its goals will always meet the RFP requirements.
- Ensure that public access continues to be provided.

Finally, we are aware of the perilous condition of the murals. It seems unwise to leave this work to the tenants, which could cause a dangerous delay. It would be best if the Trust could undertake the stabilization work as soon as possible. We are pleased to know that construction will not be allowed until the stabilization of the murals has been completed.

Sincerely yours,

Lucia Bogatay, President, Presidio Historical Association