



5529 South Lake Park Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637 + 773.493.1893

February 18, 2020

Ms. Abby Monroe
Coordinating Planner City of Chicago, Department of Planning and Development
121 N. LaSalle, Room 1000
Chicago, Illinois 60602

RE: Historic Preservation in Jackson Park and the Current Section 106 Review

Dear Ms. Monroe:

Thank you for yet another opportunity to comment on the 106 Review process following the January 23, 2020 webinar meeting regarding the revised AOE report regarding the proposed Obama Presidential Center. As we've said in our previous letters to you, "The Hyde Park Historical Society takes very seriously the preservation of the important historic resources in Jackson Park."

We continue to be concerned about the serious adverse effects the proposed Obama Presidential Center would have on the historic value of Jackson Park's cultural landscape. Jackson Park is public property, part of which would be surrendered to a private corporation for private use. The OPC project not only privatizes **public property**, it treats that property as if it were a 'brownfield' that needed complete removal, remediation and reconstruction. The Women's Garden, Cornell Drive, World's Columbian Exposition archaeological evidence, and 400 mature trees would all be completely destroyed, forever lost to the public to whom they belong. It seems obvious to all that a perfectly fine Obama Presidential Center could be built without this needless waste of historic public assets. Our previous letters from April 17, 2018 and August 30, 2019 are attached to this email for reference.

The Section 106 Review **public process** enacted as part of the National Historic Preservation Act is designed to prevent the needless destruction of historic public resources. There are clear review criteria and procedural requirements to ensure the public that protection would be provided. The recent January 23rd meeting was again deeply flawed and deviated from established practice. We find that no genuine attempts were made in your revised AOE to avoid or minimize these adverse effects of the proposed OPC project on the historic resources of Jackson Park. The superficial and cursory nature of the revised AOE indicates a lack of good faith that compromises the entire 106 process. This is inexcusable, regrettable and dangerous both for Jackson Park and for historic cultural landscapes across the nation.

Hyde Park Historical Society
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We urge you to reconsider your decision to allow the Obama Presidential Center project to destroy historic public property in Jackson Park and to compromise the Section 106 public process.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Respectfully,

Michal Safar

Michal Safar, President
Hyde Park Historical Society, Section 106 Consulting Party

Cc: Matt Fuller, matt.fuller@dot.gov