

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

THE PENSION BUILDING
441 F STREET, N.W., SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

202-504-2200
202-504-2195 FAX

EXHIBIT A

1 October 1991

Dear Mr. Stanton:

At its meeting on 19 September, the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed the sculpture and site design for the Vietnam Women's Memorial. I am happy to tell you that the sculpture by Glenna Goodacre was approved, and the members were pleased with its quality.

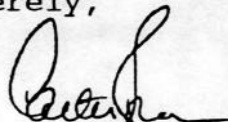
There were some reservations expressed about the paved plaza in which the sculpture will be placed, whether its formality and angular geometry would be appropriate in the informal park-like environment of Constitution Gardens; the circle of trees within the plaza seemed more in harmony with this setting. The rectangular notches cut into the plaza for the planting of these trees were also disturbing because of their hard-edged appearance, and the feeling was that they would be at odds with the flowing quality of the sculpture, even though the spreading groundcover might blur the edges to some degree. The landscape architect was asked to take another look and try to soften the outline and reduce the amount of the paved area as much as possible. Realizing that the submission was for concept approval only, the Commission approved the site design, subject to further design development and review incorporating the above recommendations.

During the discussion of the site design, it was noted that the women's memorial will not exist in isolation, and that some attention should be given to landscaping the north side of the existing path. If this cannot be undertaken by the sponsors, then it should be considered by the Park Service. Additionally, this seems to be the ideal time to

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upgrade the landscaping around the Hart statue. It has never been entirely satisfactory, especially the post and chain element, and needs to be re-examined now in light of the new memorial further along the path.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Carter Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "C".

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Robert Stanton, Regional Director
National Capital Region
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242