



AIA
Dallas

A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

October 22, 2018

Dear Mayor Rawlings and members of the City Council:

As the City of Dallas prepares to approve a contract for the management of Fair Park, AIA Dallas wants to emphasize its continued support for any and all efforts that strengthen the significance of Fair Park as an asset to the surrounding neighborhood, the city, and region as a whole. AIA Dallas reiterates our positions that this endeavor is an opportunity to:

- (1) Protect, maintain and preserve the historic buildings and grounds in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior Standards. Developed in the late 1960's as mandated by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the Secretary's Standards are the universally proven and accepted guidelines for the treatment of important historic structures and sites.
- (2) Continue with designation as a City of Dallas Landmark and follow the established Preservation Criteria developed specifically for Fair Park. As a Dallas Landmark, the Dallas Landmark Commission should continue to be the primary regulatory entity protecting the historic integrity of Fair Park.
- (3) Encourage a high level of year-round community use and access to the site and the buildings, and broaden that access where possible and where consistent with the appropriate preservation of Fair Park.
- (4) Make funding for the repair, maintenance and restoration of the buildings and assets within Fair Park a top priority. Over the past several decades, the park has been underfunded in these areas and the consequences are readily visible across the site. Without significant, timely intervention, we risk losing historic elements of Fair Park and impair our ability to use the facilities.

AIA Dallas also underscores the opportunity that this effort presents to work in partnership with the surrounding neighborhood to realize a mutual benefit between the park and the community. As the sixth largest chapter of the American Institute of Architects, AIA Dallas has a membership base of more than 2,300 members and 300 architectural firms in the Dallas area. Our architectural and design expertise allows us a unique perspective on the current discussions of the future of Fair Park, and we are excited about the future of one of city's most iconic assets. We encourage you to approve this contract with Fair Park First and allow the progress to begin.

Sincerely,

Mike Arbour, AIA
AIA Dallas President

Jan Blackmon, FAIA
Executive Director
AIA Dallas Chapter and Architecture and Design Foundation