



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • (617) 498-9017

OFFICE OF
THE CITY CLERK

September 29, 1983

Mrs. Jacqueline A. O'Neill
Acting Associate Vice-President
Office of Government & Community Affairs
Harvard University
2 Garden Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Mrs. O'Neill:

Please be advised that the City Council is in receipt of your communication dated September 26, 1983, outlining the current status of the new building which will be part of the Fogg Art Museum and the bridge across Broadway to connect the two buildings.

Pursuant to the request of the City Council at its meeting of September 26th, I am writing to extend the Council's invitation to you and those connected with the planning of this bridge to attend a future meeting of the Council in order to discuss this matter in more detail, at a mutually agreeable date, perhaps some time during the month of October.

Your very kind cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated, both by the City Council and this office.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul E. Healy", is written over a horizontal line.

Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

PEH/mh

cc: Mr. Lewis Armistead

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

SEP 26 4 37 PM '83

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

2 GARDEN STREET

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

617-495-4955

September 26, 1983

Mr. Paul Healy
City Clerk
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Healy:

I write to inform you of the current status of the new building which will be part of the Fogg Art Museum at the University. It is currently expected to be completed on March 1, 1984, and plans are for it to open to the public later that spring.

As you know, there has been a strong desire on the part of the Fine Arts faculty and the curators of the museum since the inception of planning to be able to join the new building to the existing one. It is their conviction that the operation of the entire museum would be greatly enhanced by easy and secure access from one to the other. One important consideration in their thinking is that a physical connector would help protect the works of art and individuals passing between them.

The architects for the project and museum officials have been studying possible ways to achieve this goal and have recently finished their preliminary work. One of their conclusions is that, regrettably, an underground connection will not be satisfactory for a variety of reasons, including the fact that the area under the street is already jammed with major utility service lines.

As a result, James Stirling, the renowned architect who designed the new building, has proposed construction of an overhead connector across Broadway. He has also produced a very preliminary design for such a connector. It is for a bridge which would, in effect, become an integral part of the two buildings it joins and provide additional space for public exhibition.

Page 2

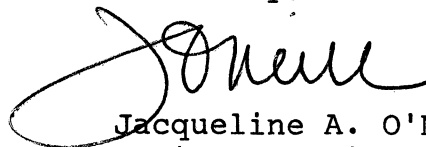
Mr. Paul Healy

September 26, 1983

As you may recall, the president of the Mid-Cambridge Association and others expressed concern about an above-ground connector when the idea was first broached several years ago. In subsequent meetings with museum officials, it was agreed that the members of the association would be willing to consider the matter further when, and if, a proposal was completed. Toward that end, a subcommittee of the association -- consisting of architects Robert Campbell and Hugh Russell, urban specialist John Pitkin, real estate expert Sandra Hudson, designer Charles Rogers, and businessman and art collector Ray Goodman -- was appointed to represent the membership in preliminary discussions. Members of this subcommittee met recently with Mr. Stirling, officials of the museum and me to begin those discussions.

It is the University's intent to continue with a very deliberate and inclusive process of consultation and discussion with a variety of citizen groups before even attempting to initiate a formal process with the City. It has seemed to me that the appropriate place to begin those discussions would be in the neighborhood most immediately adjacent to the Fogg Museum and, if successful, to then widen the audience. If, however, you wish us to proceed in a different or amended fashion, we will be most happy to do so.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline A. O'Neill
Acting Associate
Vice President

/ro

Comm. from Paul E. Healy, City Clerk, transmitting a comm. from Jacqueline A. O'Neill, Acting Vice-Pres., Harvard University Re: status of the new building which will be part of the Fogg Art Museum at the university.

*Letter sent to Jacqueline O'Neill +
Lewis Amistad, Harvard University
inviting them to a future meeting to discuss
the proposed bridge 9/29/83 mh*

In City Council,

September 26, 1983

9/26/83

*Placed on File
Check for
date for meeting*

6#