



To Preserve And Promote Our Historic Lifestyle

February 14, 2013

Ms. Randall Vega
Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts
10 East Baltimore Street, 10th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202

Ms. Vega:

The Federal Hill Neighborhood Association (FHNA) fully supports the South Harbor Renaissance (SHR) grant application for its project to renovate the playground in Federal Hill Park. FHNA welcomes SHR's initiative, both as a partner and as an advocate for long overdue plans now being implemented to improve the amenities of Historic Federal Hill.

SHR's playground design will recognize important events and features in Federal Hill's unique history through miniature historic icons to be represented in the play equipment including:

- "The Federalist" ship, which was built for the 1788 Celebration when Maryland ratified the US Constitution and for which Federal Hill is named;
- "Signal Hill Tower", which stood watch for merchant ships in the 1800s in Federal Hill Park, as important to Baltimore's mercantile and military heritage as ships are to its maritime past;
- "Baltimore and Ohio Railroad", which established Baltimore's preeminence as a commercial and transportation thoroughfare, as it continues to be; and
- "Fort Federal Hill", the extensive military installation that dominated this Hill during the Civil War.

FHNA commends SHR and their designers for their creative interpretation of these icons in a unique display of public art. Through its collaborative relationship with Baltimore City and the State, SHR also will reinforce the Governor's objective to foster public-private partnerships in addressing Maryland's open space and recreation needs. In addition, this supports Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake's initiative for ten thousand families moving to Baltimore City.

Our community association strongly urges BOPA to approve SHR's application. If you have questions, please contact me directly at costello.eric@gmail.com or 607-743-8926.

Sincerely,

Eric Costello, President
Federal Hill Neighborhood Association

CC: Sandy Apgar, SHR, President
William H. Cole IV, Baltimore City Councilman, 11th District
Eric Costello, FHNA, President

BCC: Karen Angelici, FHNA, Member
Anne Apgar, SHR, Board Member
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Mellisa Colimore, FHNA, At-large Director
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Claire Johnson, FHNA, Member
Maggie Kennedy, SHR, Board Member
Jody Martin, FHNA, At-Large Director
Bob Merbler, FHNA, Secretary
Gayle McClure, FHNA, Treasurer
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