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Robin Pell

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July 1

Dear Sandy:

Here is our design grant proposal for the National Endowment for the Arts--at least those portions of it which you requested. Anything Claiborne can do to help ease it along would certainly be appreciated.

It was nice chatting with you at the Hamiltons the other evening. I also saw Nuala and Claiborne in Newport last weekend and had a chance to talk with her about her new job with Christies in Washington. Very interesting.....

I hope that the attached information is what you need and again, thank you for your assistance.

My best,

Robin Pell
The project is the design of two adjacent areas in Central Park in New York known as the Mall and the Rumsey Playground. The former is subject to intensive public use and has been considerably altered from the original designs by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux; the latter is subject to light use and, since it is the site of the Central Park Casino, demolished in the 1930s, it has been almost totally altered from the original. The goal of the project is to determine, through research and design, how to transfer some of the public use from the Mall to the Rumsey Playground, restoring the one to its original state and redesigning the other to accommodate its new functions. The project thus addresses the problem of mingling, in a major work of American landscape architecture, the goals of historic preservation and contemporary social usefulness. The funds requested will be applied to the design from basic historic and social research through the preparation of construction documents. Construction funding will be requested from the capital budget of the City of New York through the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the architects' and landscape architects' construction supervision fees will be requested from the same source.
Summary Description of the Mall Restoration Project
of the Central Park Administrator's Office

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The goal of the project is to determine, through research and design, how to transfer some of the public use from the Mall to the Rumsey Playground, restoring the one to its original state and redesigning the other to accommodate its new functions. The project thus addresses the problem of mingling, in a major work of American landscape architecture, the goals of historic preservation and contemporary social usefulness.

The funds requested will be applied to the design from basic historic and social research through the preparation of construction documents. Construction funding will be requested from the capital budget of the City of New York through the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the architects' and landscape architects' construction supervision fees will be requested from the same source.

The landscape architects will be Philip N. Winslow & Assoc., who have experience in the Park through the restoration plans for the Ramble and Cherry Hill. The architects will be Peter L. Gluck and Assoc., who have designed the renovation of Cherry Hill Concourse and the restoration of Bethesda Fountain and Conservatory Water. The user-needs survey will be provided by Project for Public Spaces, Inc.

Summary Budget

- Architectural Services: $35,000
- Landscape Architectural Services: $20,000
- User Analysis: $17,500
- Project Administration: $7,500

Total Project Costs: $80,000
Total Amount Requested from the NEA: $30,000