

Since we, the Maggie Walker Site Selection Team, had originally hoped we could work together on this project with the UDC, we are sending our comments on the plaza to you in the spirit of cooperation. We are supposed to review the area within the concentric circles and you are supposed to review the rest of the plaza. Hopefully you can take our comments to heart and we will do the same for yours.

We are generally very pleased with the way the plaza has evolved. We think that the trees will provide needed shade and will frame the space. Also, we like the smaller plantings, which visually embrace the memorial, and the open space at the north end of the plaza. We also appreciate the way that Brook Road has been acknowledged. We appreciate that the design team has responded to our requests in these aspects, and hope that the UDC and the design team will consider the following comments.

Various team members have reservations about the potential planting materials. We like the idea of low evergreen shrubs.

Some team members still don't like the Dedication Wall. It blocks entry to the plaza from the SE, adds unnecessary expense and reinforces the single direction of the sculpture since it only addresses Broad Street, something we'd rather not stress.

Our main criticisms of the project as it is now revolve around the fact that this location was chosen mainly because it is part of Jackson Ward, Mrs. Walker's neighborhood, and it is considered a gateway to Jackson Ward. We'd like to see that context in the plaza, rather than using elements that differentiate it from its surroundings.

The widespread use of green granite and the street furniture both differentiate the plaza from Jackson Ward. The green granite was chosen without consultation with us because it was Mrs. Walker's favorite color. This seems frivolous since it is more expensive than gray granite, which appears all over Jackson Ward. **Unlike the renderings, the actual plan is to use green granite for all surfaces above ground level—including walls and curbing around the planting beds.** We are all willing to approve some use of the green granite, for the pedestal and perhaps even the surrounding benches. This would focus the green on the part of the plaza that is considered the memorial zone, and would accent its use.

We also feel that the street furniture fails to draw Jackson Ward into the plaza. When we held public meetings for inspiration for the project, we were told repeatedly that the wider community wanted to see a classic, conservative project, a portrait on a pedestal, to honor Mrs. Walker. Most of the members of our team feel that this furniture does not reflect the classic style that was requested. We like that some backless benches have been included, but suspect that backless benches of cast iron that complement those of greater Jackson Ward are available.

We know these are details, and we hope that by offering these comments we are indicating our overall support of the direction of the project. Please consider these three points we've made:

1. The Dedication Wall is an unnecessary expense to some of us.
2. Limit the use of green granite to the zone directly around the statue, both for aesthetics and for economy.
3. Choose a line of street furniture that complements the rest of Jackson Ward.

Thank you so much for your collaboration and your expertise as we consider this important project. We feel that every detail will play a role in its success.

The Maggie Walker Site Selection Team