

From: Elizabeth Kostelny [<mailto:ekostelny@preservationvirginia.org>]

Sent: Monday, October 05, 2020 11:59 AM

To: Richmond300; Olinger, Mark A. - PDR; Pechin, Maritza - PDR

Subject: Richmond 300/ September Final Draft Master Plan Preservation Virginia Comments

Good Morning,

On behalf of Preservation Virginia and our members in the City of Richmond, I want to thank you for the time and attention you have devoted to producing the Richmond 300 Master Plan.

Preservation Virginia notes the following additional comments:

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- We support Historic Richmond's suggestions
- about revising Goal 5. Ensuring greater transparency and opportunities for public participation will build public confidence by having ample opportunities for real engagement and opportunities for improvement.
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- We remain concerned about the level of
- public participation given that citizens who might normally attend in-person meetings have been unavoidably focused on health, safety, and economic concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the protest for social justice and equity. Adopting a master
- plan that does not anticipate strong public participation in future processes will erode the effectiveness of the Master Plan and public confidence in general.
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- We share Historic Richmond's concerns
- about the conversion of "Neighborhood Mixed Use" to "Destination Mixed Use" since the 2020 draft plan to the Future Land Use Map for Shockoe Bottom. While I was not able to attend the most recent Shockoe Alliance meeting focused on land use, I was surprised
- by the survey that followed that meeting concerning acceptable building heights. The survey choices included only building heights of five stories and higher. While that density may be appropriate for other areas of the City, this allowable minimum height
- of five stories would have an adverse impact on the historic character of Shockoe Bottom and in particular near the area planned for the African Burial Ground, Shockoe Memorial Park, and museum complex. This neighborhood needs to be approachable and walkable.

- **We recommend that the area be changed back to “Neighborhood Mixed Use”.**
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We support the additional comments raised by Historic Richmond and Partnership for Smarter Growth.

Preservation Virginia appreciates the work that has gone into this planning effort--especially during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

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Elizabeth S. Kostelny
CEO
Preservation Virginia
204 West Franklin Street
Richmond, VA 23220
804.648.1889 ext. 306