

MCHARRYASSOCIATES

March 7, 2022

Attn: City of Miami Beach
Planning Department

Re: HPB22-0505
Letter of Intent
Collins Park Performing Arts Venue Rotunda
2100 Collins Avenue
Miami Beach, FL 33139
Folio: 02-3226-001-0370

To whom it may concern:

M. C. Harry & Associates, Inc. is the Architect of Record for the planned improvements for the Collins Park Performing Arts Venue Rotunda project. The project is in the Museum Historic District of Miami Beach. The Rotunda is in the portion of Collins Park listed as non-historic in the City's Designation Report, and the building is not considered a Contributing Building.

Background:

The existing Rotunda Building was originally part of the 1962 Library designed by notable Miami Beach architect A. Herbert Mathes which previously existed on the site and has since been demolished. The Rotunda portion of the building was retained largely to preserve the sand cast concrete panels artwork which clads the structure, by artist Albert Vrana, titled "The Story of Man."

When a new Library was constructed on 22nd Street, the old Library was demolished, except for the Rotunda. A major renovation of Collins Park led by M. C. Harry & Associates was completed in 2010. At that time, all interior finishes of the Rotunda were demolished, the fountain around the building was restored, window walls were replaced, new steps provided, and new doors and gates installed. The Rotunda has been used occasionally since then for special events.

Collins Park Performing Arts Venue Rotunda Project:

M. C. Harry & Associates has been contracted to renovate the interior of the existing Rotunda and construct a new addition to bring the building into compliance with all current codes so it may function as a multipurpose performance and arts venue.

The City's goal is to provide a flexible space for music, dance, lecture, art, or any type of performance. The completed building will provide ADA compliant access, conform with all Life Safety requirements, install all necessary mechanical and electrical systems, and provide the required restroom facilities. The interior of the Rotunda will be renovated to support the intended multipurpose function with new acoustical treatment, audio-visual systems, and theatrical supports in the ceiling which will allow customization by each production. The existing window walls will be replaced with hurricane rated glass and aluminum curtain walls.

Resiliency:

The existing Rotunda floor level is 8.75' NGVD, which is 0.25' below the required flood elevation plus freeboard. The new addition will be constructed at the same level of the Rotunda as permitted. The project will request a variance if needed.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. AQUART', with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Craig Aquart, AIA, NOMA, CSI
Principal

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