

BOSTON PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

July 19, 2019

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Executive Director

Gregory J. Galer, Ph.D.

Tim Czerwienski
Boston Planning and Development Agency
Boston City Hall
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Mr. Czerwienski,

The Boston Preservation Alliance is Boston's primary, non-profit advocacy organization that protects and promotes the use of historic buildings and landscapes in all of the city's neighborhoods. With 40 Organizational Members, 125 Corporate Members (including the Boston Red Sox), and a reach of 35,000 friends and supporters we represent a diverse constituency advocating for the thoughtful evolution of the city and celebration of its unique character. We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on projects that impact the historic character of the city.

We have had several opportunities to review and provide feedback on this project at meetings of the Boston Civic Design Commission, the Boston Landmarks Commission, and directly with the proponent. We feel that the Red Sox have been cooperative and responsive throughout the process, incorporating many suggestions that have enhanced the proposal. The theatre will add life and vibrancy to the area throughout the year and we feel the design of the new building complements its surroundings. We are pleased with the relocation of the endcaps of the garage building, preserving more of the historic fabric and character as the use of this structure continues to evolve. We are satisfied with the bleacher overlook portion of the project and appreciate the proponent's modifications to reduce the number of bleacher rows that will be removed. Though the project does introduce a new element to this iconic setting, we feel that the design is consistent with the historic expression inside the ballpark and will provide valuable amenities to the users of the space.

The Alliance supports the proposal and appreciates the robust review process and cooperative dialogue with the proponent.

That said, because the proposal does include losses to the unique historic features of the nationally significant park, and because the Red Sox organization will benefit financially from these losses, we urge the BPDA to require the proponent to donate \$146,000 (\$1 per square foot) into the independent Legacy Fund for Boston historic preservation fund, established to provide support for historic resources throughout the city. Managed by the Boston law firm Hemenway & Barnes and established to receive funds from both the Back Bay Station Gateway and Winthrop Square projects, an LLC and an operating agreement establishing an independent grant review board are in place and established to receive mitigation just of this type. The Alliance has approached the proponent directly with this request, and we ask the BPDA to support that request within the mitigation package for this proposal.

Sincerely,



Greg Galer
Executive Director

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CC:
David Friedman, Boston Red Sox
Rosanne Foley, Boston Landmarks Commission
Lynn Smiledge, Boston Landmarks Commission