

Seattle, June 13, 1911.

Mr. Bertram C. Goodhue,
170 Fifth Ave.,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Goodhue:-

So far as my work at San Diego was concerned, I was through as soon as Mr. Allen had completed his estimate of the cost of executing my preliminary plan No. 3, which was in the early part of May, if I remember rightly. I stayed on expecting you to come one month from the 21st of April as you had promised, and when you decided to arrive on the 29th of May, Mr. Allen induced me to stay until that date. Then, when you decided not to come, he induced me to stay until your plan should have arrived. It came on the evening of May 31st and ^{next day} I had a conference with Mr. ^{Allen + Mr.} Gill, and later with Mr. Marston, over the plans which you had submitted and I fully intended to write you my comments that day and get away that evening, but Mr. Marston asked me to attend a committee meeting in the afternoon, so I had no time to write the letter. I left that night, but since then various matters have kept me fully occupied so I have not been able to write you until now.

I will defer comment on your plan for the exposition site in the middle of the Park because I hope that site will not be adopted owing to its excessive injury to the landscape value of the Park.

On your Plan E I submit for your consideration the following comments.

In general, I think your plan is a distinct improvement upon mine in the treatment of the space between the Liberal Arts building and the permanent buildings ^{and} west of the Arcade, and I fully agree with you that a bridge from the Date Street entrance is exceedingly desirable, although I hope it will be feasible to have it 15 or 20 feet lower than you have indicated.

Mr. Allen's estimates indicate very clearly that unless one of both of the proposed permanent buildings to be erected out of the Park Funds shall be abandoned and unless very marked and unexpected economies can be effected in maintenance and other items of his estimate, it would not only be impossible to include the proposed bridge but it would probably be necessary also to omit the curving and other drives ^{and terraces} excepting a single drive from El Rodeo up to the Plaza. If this, upon further study, proves to be the case, I am inclined to think you would prefer, as I did in my plan No. 3, to omit the bridge rather than to omit the two permanent park buildings. My plan showed a practicable, although not altogether satisfactory drive approach from Date Street entrance to the north end of El Rodeo and thence to the Plaza Larga. I think you would prefer to fall back on this rather than to omit the two park buildings.

I suppose you realized that on my plan I had the southerly row of buildings on the center line of Cedar Street; you have moved them further south, I suppose because you do not consider it important as a matter of design that these buildings should relate to the city streets. I felt that the location of the

High School was decidedly open to the objection that it bore no actual relation to Fourteenth Street or to Beach Street and it seems to me it would be a good plan to have the southerly row of buildings on the axis line of Cedar Street. Also you have ignored the center line of Thirteenth Street as a north and south cross axis to be regarded in shaping up the west part of your Liberal Arts building. Also you have ignored my suggestion of having the central north and south axis of that building strike the center of the north side of the High School. I understand that the Board of Education fully intends to erect two buildings north of the High School and equidistant from this axis. If they do so, it seems to me it would be a great pity not to have the center of your Liberal Arts building on this axis, or else to have a gap between the Foreign and Domestic Liberal Arts centered on this axis as on my plan. I do not know whether you fully realize that the drop of the ground from the east end of your Liberal Arts building to the west end is so considerable as to make it expensive and perhaps awkward in appearance to preserve a uniform floor level east and west of the High School axis.

Entrance Plaza.

I cannot help feeling that you are making a mistake in not providing an entrance or outside plaza of liberal area at the Main Entrance. The one shown on my plan may not be sufficiently architectural, yet it would seem that there ought to be an outside plaza of about that area.

Main Entrance.

I believe Mr. Allen agreed with me, as the result of his experience at the Seattle exposition that your outline suggestion

for an entrance gateway indicated an arrangement which would be entirely inadequate to handle the crowds without delay and friction. Possibly you would change this upon further study.

I hope you will remember that one of the finest views to be had in connection with the group of buildings would be that from the north end of Plaza Larga southward over the entrance gates and therefore any building or other construction at that point ought to be kept low enough so the view of the harbor and ocean over ^{it} there will not be obstructed.

In your drawing the proposed plank sidewalks on each side of a 24 foot tar macadam driveway have been omitted. Mr. Allen and I discussed this and agreed that 50 feet was the minimum width allowable for the proper accommodation of the crowds in El Rodeo, as well as to keep the buildings reasonably far apart for effect and for fire protection.

The location you select for the band stand, while it looks fine on the plan, is open to the serious objection that a large part of the audience would face the disagreeable, low, afternoon sun. The grading about there called for by your plan appears to be very formidable and it is possible that we may decide that it cannot be afforded. I know that the site I suggested for the band stand at the center of the Plaza Musica would be decidedly unsuitable as a permanent location after the exposition is over because of the necessity of driving around it, but during the exposition the driving there will amount to so little that it need not be considered. No driving would, of course, be permitted during the greater part of the day during the exposition upon this central drive

One advantage of having the band stand in the center of Plaza Musica, which I may not have fully explained to you is that I conceive of the north and east sides of the Plaza being occupied by State and Foreign Government buildings of comparatively small ~~comparatively small~~ size and largely devoted to social and official intercourse. My thought is that these houses would be more like city houses (in solid blocks) than State Buildings usually are in an exposition, with usually some small exhibit in the public rooms on the ground floor and with parlors and social rooms in the second story opening upon a level terrace over the Arcade, which could be more or less covered with awnings, vines, etc. and would become a sort of lounging place and gallery for overlooking the Plaza and the people moving about on it, and for hearing the concerts. I should not object even to a third story with private bedrooms for representatives of the Latin republics and their clerks, families and friends. It is quite likely that if the Exposition should provide some of these houses free some republics would provide representation that would not otherwise do so.

I do not feel altogether satisfied with the reduced size of the Plaza Musica but if, after further discussion with Mr. Allen and the Committee as to capacity for crowds, etc., you still insist upon it, I should not be disposed to raise any serious objection. I feel that it ought to clearly express the idea of a central city square or Mexican town plaza. On your plan it doesn't look to me enough larger than the Plaza Larga to fully express this idea.

I feel you did not quite appreciate my purpose in carry-

ing the Arcade across the junction between Plaza Larga and Plaza Musica. I had a grade of 4 per cent in the former, which may possibly be increased a little, and only 1 per cent in the latter and I think that in looking up the length of the former toward the latter, this change of grade would stick up and not be altogether agreeable unless the two plazas are partially separated by the cross arcade. If there were to be a tall tower at the north entrance of Plaza Musica, this objection of change of grade would probably not be felt so much. I hope that upon further consideration you will find merit in my idea.

The cafe and restaurant shown in your plan are good suggestions but are open to the very decided objection that the outlook is toward the west and the terraces are on the west where the low rays of the sun would be felt to be very disagreeable. Everyone in San Diego who thinks of such matters knows perfectly well that verandas, terraces, etc., and principle living rooms should face the east, and I think the arrangement you suggest would therefore meet with severe criticism. I somewhat question the propriety of sacrificing so much of the expensive Arcade frontage to restaurants instead of to Oriental ^{the} *bazaars* buildings which I had suggested, and to exposition buildings. Of course, I see much merit in your scheme notwithstanding the objections and all I desire is that such matters should receive full discussion on the part of the Committee before they are finally passed upon.

Although Col. Collier, I understand, expects to get a government appropriation for a government building, it is very doubt

ful whether he will succeed and it strikes me therefore that it would be poor policy to leave all that stretch of Arcade without an exposition building in case there is no government building. I think it would be a much better policy to assign the government building to the site shown on my plan, where its omission would not be felt to be a very serious blemish in the scheme.

I think it would be well to double the size of the restaurants. The A. Y. P. exposition had, as nearly as I can figure it, about 43,000 square feet of ground covered by restaurants. The biggest day, I believe, was the opening day, when there were 69,000 admissions. I think it would be safe to figure on about one-fourth to one-third as many at San Diego. As affecting the determination of the drives and walks exclusive of ~~The~~ Rodeo and ~~outlying~~ parks, you may like to know that the crowd on opening day at the A. Y. P. of 69,000 had an average of $2\frac{1}{2}$ sq. ft. per capita of drives and walks, which they filled completely but did not overflow onto adjoining grass plots and plantations. At all other times the area of drives and walks was very ample.

You should provide for two more cross drives from the Plaza Larga to the service drive east of the buildings. These are needed for vehicular circulation and especially for fire apparatus.

You certainly ought to omit the electric railway east of the buildings, as the Building Committee and especially Mr. Marston, are very much opposed to it. If they should be obliged to consent to it later, it is obvious that the matter could be taken up independently of the present plan, if we simply keep it in

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mind while planning, as a possibility.

I have just learned that Mr. Gill is not to start from San Diego until the 16th inst. and as I do not think you will have your revised plan ready while he is as far east as Chicago, I shall advise him not to plan for a conference during his present trip.

If I think of anything more I will write you further - I hope within a few days.

Yours very truly,

JW