

Board of Directors

Robert Meckfessel
PRESIDENT

Katie Horak
PRESIDENT-ELECT

Meredith Arms Bzdak
VICE-PRESIDENT

Todd Grover
VICE-PRESIDENT

Flora Chou
TREASURER

Barbara Yanni
SECRETARY

Jesús (Chuy) Barba Bonilla
T. Gunny Harboe
Eric Keune
Rachel Leibowitz
Anna Mod
Robert Nauman
Theodore Prudon
Robert Pullum
Michelangelo Sabatino
Monica Schaffer
Barry Solar
Bradford J. White

Liz Waytkus
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Docomomo US Chapters

Chicago/Midwest
Colorado
DC
Florida
Georgia
Hawaii
Michigan
Mid Tex Mod
Minnesota
New England
New Orleans/Louisiana
New York/Tri-State
Northern California
North Texas
Oregon
Philadelphia
Southern California
Western Washington
Wisconsin

Friend Organizations

CF3 Cincinnati
Houston Mod
Indiana Modern
Landmark Columbus
Modern STL
Palm Springs Modernism Week

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Liz Waytkus

E: info@docomomo-us.org

P: 347-688-2177

Docomomo US and the Paul Rudolph Institute for Modern Architecture (PRIMA) are jointly responding to the August 24, 2022, announcement by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on the designation of Leggat McCall Properties as the redevelopment partner for the Charles F. Hurley Building also known as the Boston Government Services Center originally designed by the world-renown architect Paul Rudolph and opened in 1971.

We see the announcement and the attached renderings as just one step in the process of determining the best outcome for the Hurley building and the overall site. We are frustrated that the proposal does not fully preserve and restore the site that the Massachusetts Historical Commission describes as a “significant cultural resource.” The proposal lacks many details in terms of just how much of the original building and its significant features will be removed. While the proposal does not call for total demolition of the building, we will continue to ask the state to maintain as much of the original fabric as possible.

From the current renderings, the two new towers do not seem compatible with one another or the historic building (different materials, colors and massing) and appear to be separate blocks that have “landed” on the Hurley rather than integrate with the original structure or each other. Our suggestion would be that the team consider reviewing Paul Rudolph’s original design guidelines for the site and work to better integrate any new construction with that methodology.

We are pleased to see the street wall that faces Staniford Street maintains the look and feel of the original design and retains the site's character defining features including the massive colonnade of concrete piers.

We anticipate seeing improved and expanded details that will show how the proposal respects the cultural heritage of the site. From the minimal details provided: the landscaping does not go far enough to be respectful; the announcement included no



mention of the conservation of the Costantino Nivola murals; the proposal lacks to a description of how the parking garage will be integrated; nor does the announcement detail the Lindemann stairs that were said to be restored with this proposal.

Speaking on behalf of Docomomo US, Liz Waytkus stated that, "The interventions at the Government Center need to harmonize with the historic site. The announcement yesterday lacked a lot of information as to how that is going to happen. Docomomo US will continue to follow along and engage in this process."

"Rudolph's building is a monument to the government's service to its people and their confidence in the future of Boston," said Kelvin Dickinson, President of The Paul Rudolph Institute for Modern Architecture. "Using spatial motifs that reference Boston's historic connection to the sea, the Government Center is a unique symbol of its time and place. The revisions proposed in yesterday's announcement need to better show how they are consistent with the design guidelines Rudolph established for the site. The Paul Rudolph Institute will follow and encourage this throughout the design process."

###