

Henry Amick
25 NW 23Rd PL, Ste6-350
Portland, OR 97210

April 22, 2016

Planning & Sustainability Commission
1900 SW Fourth Ave, Ste 7100
Portland, OR 97205

re: County Courthouse Proposal

Dear Planning & Sustainability Commission:

Thank you for asking for my assessment of the proposed Multnomah County Central Court House Project.

While I am unable to give this project the full attention it deserves, I am happy to share some thoughts.

- 1) As a degreed professional in historic preservation, I am concerned about the height of this proposed structure. It is incongruent with the context.
- 2) As a practitioner of biophilia (and environmental psychology evidenced based design in general), I cannot support the current proposal.
 - a. It is inconsistent with fostering the human potential, key to the biophilic principle (and with positive environmental psychology in general). If however, the point of such a towering edifice is to reign down fear on all who pass its portal, then, by all means it is affective. However, I cannot condone that mentality.
 - b. Better that the county work a little more at acquiring additional land, over multiple blocks, and include green spaces such as healing gardens. (One green space should provide a calming view for mediation and reconciliation; a second should provide a healing environment for victims and their families).
- 3) The assumption that the 2035 plan is not only a done deal but also good for us, is offensive.

Thank you for asking my professional opinion. I cannot condone the existing proposal. I recommend strongly that the County revise their plans accordingly.

Respectfully,

Henry Amick, MS

www.henryamick.com