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Robert M. Lawrence, FAIA
President

October 20, 1982

Mr. J. Carter Brown
Chairman
Commission of Fine Arts
708 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Brown:

I appreciated the opportunity to appear last Wednesday before the Fine Arts Commission to offer testimony on the proposed additions to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The conduct of that meeting set a high standard for public discussion of design issues and enabled those in attendance, as well as the general public, to better understand the question before your Commission.

I would like you to know that The American Institute of Architects supports the action of the Fine Arts Commission in rejecting the "compromise" plan for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial as proposed by the Secretary of the Interior. We fully support the Commission's recommendation to locate the statue, flagpole and directory as part of a new, carefully conceived site plan at the southwest end of the memorial site.

The Fine Arts Commission has provided the public, through an open forum, the opportunity to participate in a decision-making process that at last offers a solution which sensitively addresses the concerns of all. By recommending a complete separation of the disparate design elements, the Commission has preserved the integrity of Maya Lin's award-winning design. An admirable balance has thus been struck between a recognition of service and comradeship as well as an acknowledgement of sacrifice.

Together with you, we look forward to this November and the dedication of this country's memorial to those who served in Vietnam.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Lawrence, FAIA
President