

**OLD CONVENTION CENTER SITE REDEVELOPMENT
COMMUNITY DESIGN WORKSHOP**

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library
November 8, 2005**

Questions and Comments from Q&A Session

1. What efforts were made to reach out to the community? In order to reach the community, the project team must come out to the community (ANC 2C) and work with us to find out what our needs are.
2. I am concerned about what the final decisions will be with regards to entertainment and retail spaces.
3. When you talk about “affordable housing,” who’s perspective is that from? Can the poor afford the “affordable housing”? What does the average median income mean?
4. How will the three parcels relate to each other from a development standpoint?
5. Is it possible to get a parking lot/garage?
6. What is the Developer’s role in the delivery of the parcel that belongs to the District?
7. Will there be a theater on the site? There are already so many theaters around the city that have a hard time filling seats that it would be ridiculous to build another one.
8. To qualify for affordable housing, is the qualification based on the District’s median income or is it the area’s median income? They are two completely different numbers.
9. Is the District’s parcel designated exclusively for public use if no library is built on the site?
10. How will Chinatown benefit from all of this development? Has any outreach efforts been made to the residents there?
11. How is the overall outreach being conducted? Are there any meaningful efforts to reach the residents in this community?
12. How can the poor afford the affordable housing on-site?
13. The Chinese community is being displaced; there is a need to meet with the Chinese community.
14. I would like to know who approved the demolition of the Old Convention Center. It could have been used to provide housing for the poor.
15. With all of this development taking place in DC, no one is addressing the serious issues of racism, gentrification and the increasing homeless population.
16. Will the homeless population be included as a part of the process?

17. I cannot afford to live in the District, even with the fairly decent income that I make. How will the 20% affordable housing allocation be realized?
18. Will the streetscape be opened before building and construction?
19. How can small businesses get established amid all the large commercial developments? What opportunities will they be given?
20. I really want to commend you on the development plans.
21. The development will be hampered by the presence of the MLK library. Why use the District's parcel to build another one? It makes more sense to use the space for other purposes. What is exciting about the development is that ten acres are being put back on the DC tax roll. A new library is a good idea, but what do you do with this building? Why not use it as an American Institute of Music?
22. I propose building to the maximum height of 130' across the site to create a monumental structure like a mall. My proposal creates up to 50% more building volume than current proposals, thus providing greater function and tax income to DC. It would help our city join other world class cities for modern architectural adventures including Paris, London, Berlin, Rome, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.