

November 11, 2015

Ms. Lesley Hoffarth, P.E.
Forest Park Forever
President and Executive
5595 Grand Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63112

Dear Ms. Hoffarth,

Thank you for your continued and diligent work in making Forest Park an ever more beautiful, accessible and sustainable environment.

I am writing on behalf of the AIA St. Louis Board of Directors to comment on the proposed gates for Forest Park:

Each entry to Forest Park has its own character, scale and context. Their common characteristic is that they are openings into the park's landscape.

Design solutions of a landscape nature rather than using architectural elements would be more appropriate and more welcoming. They could also reflect the uniqueness of each of entry most effectively.

We understand the temptation to relate to the historic private street gate structures in St. Louis. But Forest Park in 2015 needs broad, welcoming and individually unique entries, not the suggestion of gates. It also seems unimportant to formally identify the edges of the park or announce the entries since both edges and entries are apparent.

We hope that Forest Park Forever will try again to find welcoming and unique landscape designs for each of the entries to this magnificent park. This is the time to reach beyond the ordinary to find the best and the most appropriate designs. Should you wish to discuss, we would be happy to meet with you.

Sincerely,

Michelle C. Swatek
Executive Director