

WILD Equity INSTITUTE

*Building a healthy and sustainable global community for people
and the plants and animals that accompany us on Earth*

The Wild Equity Institute believes that the Presidio Exchange (PX) creates the greatest sense of place by focusing on the beautiful and distinctive Presidio park space, while also housing a cultural and historical center. The proposed Lucas Cultural Arts Museum simply does not embody the spirit of the Presidio or the National Park System. While the Bridge/Sustainability Institute proposal is too generic and does not reflect the GGNRA's unique mission and sense of place.

However, the Sustainability Institute proposal does contain one element that should be explored and potentially adopted by the PX proposal: expanding Crissy Field Marsh and Lagoon into the Commissary property. Due to a variety of constraints, the restoration of Crissy Field Marsh and Lagoon several years ago was limited to a smaller zone than is needed for the lagoon to fulfill its intended ecological functions. **The PX proposal should review the Sustainability Institute's proposal to expand the lagoon and incorporate that element into its project to the maximum extent possible.**

While the PX proposal is the best fit of the three choices for this location, it tries to be too many things to too many people all at once, and in the process short-changes the unique elements of its National Park setting. **The National Park Service's Organic Act**, which established the agency, **includes a non-impairment mandate.** This mandate requires the agency to **"conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."** This is the National Park Service's unique contribution to the multitude of open space agencies in the Bay Area, yet remains a relatively unknown element of park management. **We would like to see the PX live up to this mandate by making a greater commitment to interpreting and explaining the National Park Service's unique mission.**

The former Commissary site at the Presidio has the potential to be a place of magic and beauty where the story of the unique land management mandates of the GGNRA and the Presidio are widely told. The Wild Equity Institute suggests that the Presidio Exchange receive the bid, but that the proposal should be modified to ensure that the programming is fully committed to the mission of the National Park Service.

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This is a copy of comment submitted to Presidio Trust regarding the Commissary