

February 2, 2015

Karin Goodfellow, Director
Boston Arts Commission
Mayor's Office of Arts, Tourism & Special Events
Boston City Hall, Room 802
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Ms. Goodfellow:

I write this letter to express the Melville Park Associations unequivocal support for VietAID's proposal to fabricate and install the public art sculpture "Freedom Home" by the artist Juanjo Novella in the plaza on Town Field. This artwork pays tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom and democracy and will serve as an inspiration for the neighborhood's aspirations for freedom from poverty and crime. It is our hope that "Freedom Home" will boost civic pride and help to transform Fields Corner into a cultural destination, making Dorchester and Boston a better and more interesting place to live and work.

The Melville Park Neighborhood Association is made up of residents who live between Dorchester Avenue and Washington Street and between Park Street and Center Street. We have always been very supportive of Fields Corner progress and developments. Evelyn Darling came to our last month's meeting and gave an excellent presentation on the art sculpture. There was only one constructive comment from a neighbor who thought that children would be able to climb on the art structure. Evelyn reassured the group that this was reviewed and some improvements have been made in the structure. I did not see this as a lack of support from the Association but just a fear that such a wonderful structure would be abused. I think the lighting on the sculpture would help with this problem should it arise.

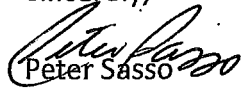
VietAID has a long history of working with diverse community groups in an effort to revitalize the Field Corner neighborhood. Over the last 20 years VietAID has turned abandoned and underutilized property into a thriving community center and built over 100 affordable housing units and several commercial spaces for locally-owned businesses.

Consistent with its reputation, VietAID worked diligently with local community members as well as civic and political leaders throughout the planning and selecting an artist for this public art project. The project engaged many residents from diverse backgrounds in the Fields Corner neighborhood through displays at the Fields Corner Branch Library, online and at public meetings. It brought together community members and leaders to talk not only about the form of the artwork and the selection of an artist but also to discuss broader community concerns and visions for Town Field and Fields Corner.

This project deserves your full support. I look forward to its successful completion.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 617-282-4122

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Sasso", written in a cursive style.

Peter Sasso
Melville Park Association President