



# DC Library Renaissance Project

1530 P Street, NW • Washington, DC 20005 • 202 387- 8030

The Honorable Adrian M. Fenty  
Office of the Mayor  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20004

February 20, 2009

Dear Mayor Fenty:

I write in support of “An Appeal from a Unified Mount Pleasant – Proposed Mount Pleasant Library Renovations,” endorsed by a coalition of elected officials and residents of Mount Pleasant. They are unhappy with the DC Public Library’s process of community inclusion in planning for the restoration and expansion of their historic Carnegie Library.

I urge you to attend their meeting and see at first hand the distress caused by the failure to include the community in a way they feel is meaningful.

As you are aware, my organization has long advocated for a better model of community consultation for library “transformation.” There is no better institution to do this work than the public library. Instead, we have seen one project after another embroiled in controversy: Benning, West End, Tenley, Watha T. Daniel/Shaw, R. L. Christian, and now Mount Pleasant.

These are among the greatest civic projects of our day. With all the talent and money that have been put at DCPL’s disposal, and all the goodwill that exists for libraries, it makes no sense for communities to feel left out. Many groups stand ready to assist DCPL, from the Federation of Friends of the Library to the DC League of Women Voters and beyond. I urge you to heed the call for a better process.

Sincerely yours,

Robin Diener

Director  
DC Library Renaissance Project