

## **Background Information**

### **Question 1**

The Museum understands that significant development of the design is required in terms of arriving at an architectural expression for the proposed new buildings that is appropriate to the historic resources, the site and the neighborhood. We would like to pursue this development within the framework of the plans presented at the November 9 meeting, which we believe provides a solid foundation for continued development. The proposal responds to the Museum program, the site and sustainable design issues while providing significant opportunities for development of an appropriate design expression that responds to and honors the El Pueblo Viejo Guidelines.

### **Question 2**

We presented two approaches to the design vernacular of the proposed new buildings at the November 9 meeting. Alternate 1 was an illustration of the potential to develop the design based on a traditional design language. Alternate 2 was an illustration of the potential for a contemporary design. The Commissioners' indicated that it was critical for the Museum to develop an architectural character consistent with the EPV Guidelines. However, we did get an impression that there may be opportunities for some elements to have a more contemporary expression. For example, there was an expressed interest in taking advantage of opportunities to increase transparency, blurring the boundaries between inside and outside in order to connect the site and the program.

### **Question 3**

The proposed massing of the new buildings utilizes flat roofs for a number of reasons:

- The zoning limits building heights to thirty feet. Due to the sloping nature of the site, the volume required for exhibits and the two-story volumes on the west end of the complex, flat roofs are required in many cases. Even with flat roofs, the floor-to-ceiling heights in the two story wings, which contain labs, shops, the library, a gallery and offices are limited to ten feet or less, which is barely adequate for these functions.
- The use of the Astronomy Courtyard, or plaza, for stargazing activities requires that the buildings on the south side of the central space have a parapet to allow views out toward the night sky.
- Flat roofs minimize the mass and scale of the new buildings, playing a key role in maintaining Fleischman Hall's presence as the tallest building on the site.
- The Museum is committed to reducing its carbon footprint. Harvesting the power of the sun is a critical part of its alternative energy strategy, which is aimed at achieving Net Zero. These goals are appropriate to the Museum's mission and consistent with City of Santa Barbara and State of California policies. Flat roofs allow the Museum to optimize the area available for photovoltaic arrays on the one hand while minimizing their visual impact on the other.

Flat roofs are consistent with Spanish Colonial Revival Style architecture and are part of the expression of the original Museum structure.