

East Cambridge
ECPT
Planning Team

Thomas Evans
Executive Director
Cambridge Redevelopment Authority
255 Main Street
Cambridge, MA 02142
April 17, 2016

Re: Foundry Building - Shared East Cambridge Planning Team & East End House Uses

Dear Tom,

As you know the East Cambridge Planning Team (ECPT) has played an active role in the long process to gain control of and repurpose the Foundry Building for significant community and civic use, and we are excited that the CRA is moving towards the final selection of developer and program for the building. This letter does not aim to address the larger question of the overall uses of the building, developer selection or on-going programming and management – as we have previously provided feedback on those topics and look forward to continuing that discussion. (In fact, at our last meeting on April 13 the membership requested that the Foundry RFP respondents present their proposals to ECPT for further feedback. Please consider this an invitation to have respondents present at the May 11 ECPT Member Meeting. Thank-you.)

From the very first conversations with Alexandria, the ECPT Board expressed a desire that the Foundry provide some space for East End House (EEH) to relieve the over-crowded condition at its Spring Street building. The EEH is in many ways the heart of the East Cambridge neighborhood - supporting so many of the aspects of our community that make it a wonderful and diverse place to live and bring up families.

The East Cambridge Planning Team has been a long-time user of various spaces in the EEH too, and we have experienced many of the over-crowding and functional challenges that the EEH faces daily. A couple of weeks ago our board met with EEH President & CEO, Michael Delia to explore possible space sharing arrangements between our organizations at the Foundry Building. It would be wonderful for the neighborhood to keep the close ties of EEH and ECPT in a new space that would both alleviate some pressure on the old Spring Street facility and give both organizations the modern and accessible facilities that we need to better serve the community. From the ECPT's point of view, the combination of administrative and multi-use

space that EEH needs nicely overlaps with ECPT needs, which would include the shared use of the following:

- A meeting room that could comfortably accommodate between 30 and 100 people, with the ability to sub-divide the space depending on the size of the meeting. Additional, simultaneous use space for child-care would also be appreciated. (These spaces would almost always be scheduled for ECPT use in evenings and weekends when EEH is not conducting core programs.)
- Audio-visual equipment for presentations to the group meetings.
- A smaller meeting room for up to 10 people for board meetings and smaller working groups.
- A desk and filing cabinets for ECPT administrative help, archives and documents.
- A mailbox.
- Shared use of a printer/photo copier and other typical office equipment/supplies.
- ADA accessibility and better accommodations for the hearing and sight impaired.

It is to the benefit of the community that the long-standing and mutually supportive relationship between the ECPT and the EEH is further fostered.

As representatives from both the CIC/Graffito SP and Industry-lab/btcRE partnerships bidding on the Foundry have reached-out to ECPT and requested communications regarding specific ECPT desired uses, we have copied them on this communication. It is our understanding that Michael Delia from EEH, will circulate a separate letter outlining in more detail the needs of his organization. Of course, we would be happy to discuss any of this further with you, perhaps in a small group including Michael.

Thank you for your consideration, we are excited to see the Foundry reborn as an innovative and creative space for the neighborhood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Crawley".

Peter Crawley
President

cc: Michael Delia, East End House
CIC/Graffito SP (Jesse Baerkahn)
Industry-Lab/btcRE (Brian Iammartino)