

# National Peace Corps Association

1900 L Street, NW, Suite 610

Washington, D.C. 20036

*Draft* of February 21, 2016

Carrie Hessler-Radelet  
Director, Peace Corps  
1111 20th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20526

Dear Carrie:

*“Settlement house: a neighborhood center providing educational, recreational, and other health and family social services to the community.”*

As the NPCA moves forward towards development of Peace Corps House, after our recent discussions with Peace Corps’ Office of Strategic Partnerships, my board of directors, and supporters of Peace Corps House, I am writing you on behalf of the National Peace Corps Association because the following are essential:

First, from our original Concept Paper: “To be founded by the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA), Peace Corps House will also raise the profile of the Peace Corps locally among policy makers, provide a natural focus for ongoing involvement of local RPCVs, and not least, help revitalize its neighborhood.” We believe it will be good for Peace Corps itself.

Second, Peace Corps House, as managed by NPCA with a world-class professional leadership, will be *entirely self-supporting* through our own fundraising. We understand that typically 75-80% of the funding in neighborhood centers comes from existing local, state, and federal social service programs. Getting it below 80% with grants (private, corporate, and foundations) means a House has some support for infrastructure and innovation. In any case, Peace Corps will *never* be asked to financially support its operations. That said, a strategic partnership could develop as Peace Corps House moves ahead.

Third, while it’s obvious that the words “Peace Corps” in its name are essential, we understand that if the management of Peace Corps House was to go awry—become a liability—Peace Corps would be within its rights to say, “Shape up or shut down.”

Fourth, after our upcoming “windshield tour” of Washington neighborhoods with Irma Rodriguez and Michael Zisser, settlement house leaders from New York City, we hope to meet with you, perhaps over lunch. Such an informal discussion would be both useful and interesting to them and you and I.

Fifth, as NPCA, RPCV/W and several prominent settlement house professionals have endorsed our plan, we also believe we are giving Peace Corps the opportunity to be a part of something big that is already gaining traction.

And finally, because Peace Corps House appears, at this remove, to be the right thing to do for our own home town, after the NPCA and Peace Corps House survives the many hurdles ahead, I am confident that the then-director of the Peace Corps will attend our ribbon cutting. For myself, I hope that both you and I will also be volunteering there.

Sincerely,

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Glenn Blumhorst  
President & CEO