



CALIFORNIA
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES

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San Francisco, California 94118
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September 9, 2013

Mr. Greg Moore
President & CEO
Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Greg:

California Academy of Sciences is excited to be a program partner with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and the National Geographic Society at the Presidio Exchange (PX).

The Academy's mission is to Explore, Explain, and Sustain Life, and the Bay Area's parks and open space provide remarkable learning environments that connect our communities and our visitors from around the world to the lessons of history and natural life that these places contain in abundance. These program partners are closely aligned in our work to inspire people to learn from and care for our natural world, and together we can bring these accessible places and their diverse plant and animal habitats to life for many more people.

The Presidio Exchange (PX) will offer a vibrant, national park-based showcase for the best of the Presidio, national parks, and protected areas worldwide, and we believe it is the best and most appropriate proposal for the site. While celebrating these places, the PX will also offer a hub for public education and school programs that build deeper awareness of the wonder and importance of our world's biodiversity.

Together we will build on the successful BioBlitz model, which engages students and the public in citizen science: the community-based collection of valuable data about species that promotes science education, on-the-ground learning about biological diversity, and a stronger long-term conservation commitment by participants.

We commend the Parks Conservancy for the creativity and collaboration represented in your proposal for the Commissary. Given your track record in the parks, you are well positioned to bring an exciting long-term public use to this amazing site, and we are excited to join with you in the effort.

Sincerely,

Gregory C. Farrington, Ph.D.
Executive Director and William R. and Gretchen B. Kimball Chair