



WHITMAN-WALKER HEALTH



fivesquares development

Architect Selected for Elizabeth Taylor Medical Center Redevelopment

Selldorf Architects to Design Project

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WASHINGTON— Whitman-Walker Health (WWH) and Fivesquares Development announced today they have selected Selldorf Architects to design the redevelopment of the Elizabeth Taylor Medical Center (ETMC) site.

Last year, WWH announced that it had entered into an agreement with Fivesquares Development to redevelop ETMC via a joint venture partnership model.

Selldorf Architects is a 65-person architectural design practice that was founded by Annabelle Selldorf in 1988. Annabelle Selldorf's award-winning designs span a unique range of projects. These include cultural and gallery spaces; new residential buildings, many in sensitive historic districts in Manhattan; the innovative Sunset Park Materials Recovery Facility on the Brooklyn waterfront; the renovation of a former Studebaker Auto Garage into co-working space and the Berg'n cafe in Crown Heights, Brooklyn; and a recently announced primary school in Zambia.

WWH's Board of Directors and Fivesquares will work with Selldorf on plans for the full-block site over the next several months. The site will include space for WWH and the community, as well as ground floor retail uses and residential units in a truly unique mixed-use development.

"We are thrilled that the redevelopment of the 1701 14th Street site will be the first design in the nation's capital for Annabelle Selldorf and her team," said Don Blanchon, WWH Executive Director. "Selldorf has garnered acclaim for working in close partnership with their clients and designing from the inside out. That's absolutely critical for this project. We knew we needed an architect who would take the time to truly understand Whitman-Walker's unique place within metro DC's LGBTQ community and our unwavering commitment to our patients. I am certain that Annabelle and her team will make the investment of time, talent and heart needed to achieve such understanding."

“The redevelopment of one of the last remaining blocks on 14th Street is a rare opportunity to create something extraordinary not only architecturally but as a new piece of city for the community to enjoy,” said Andrew Altman, Principal of Fivesquares Development, and former planning director for the District of Columbia under Mayor Anthony Williams. “The site demanded a great designer and we are thrilled that Selldorf Architects have joined us. The exceptional quality of their design vision and passion for social issues are perfect for what we want to develop and leave as a lasting legacy.”

“Working with Whitman Walker and FiveSquares on this important corner at 14th and R streets is a privilege for Selldorf Architects,” said Annabelle Selldorf, Principal of Selldorf Architects. “The location has a rich history and architecturally has exciting potential. We believe that we can offer thoughtful and beautiful architecture which will contribute to the urban fabric, respect the legacy of the client, and benefit the community in meaningful ways for years to come.”

ETMC, located at 1701 14th St, NW, currently houses select direct services and staff space to support the health care operations at WWH’s other sites, as well as WWH’s administrative departments. These functions will continue to operate out of ETMC for the next several years.

About Whitman-Walker Health

Established in 1978, Whitman-Walker Health is a non-profit, community health center serving the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Through four sites in the District of Columbia, Whitman-Walker Health offers primary medical and dental care; mental health and addictions counseling and treatment; HIV education, prevention, and testing; legal services; and medical adherence case management. Whitman-Walker Health is committed to meeting the health needs of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community and people living with HIV/AIDS. www.whitman-walker.org.

About Selldorf Architects

Selldorf Architects has worked on public and private projects that range from museums and libraries to a recycling facility, and at scales encompassing large new construction, historic renovations, and exhibition design. Creating buildings that are both contemporary and timeless is a fundamental goal of the firm. The practice designs buildings and public spaces that are an integrated and authentic reflection of the cities and institutions they serve. Projects evolve in response to their specific context and program, drawing influence from local materials and building traditions.

The firm’s clients include cultural institutions and universities such as the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, The Clark Art Institute, Neue Galerie New York, New York University, and Brown University. In addition, the firm has created numerous galleries for David Zwirner, Hauser & Wirth, and Gladstone Gallery among others, and designed exhibitions for Frieze Masters, Gagosian Gallery, and the Venice Art Biennale.

About Fivesquares Development

Fivesquares is committed to elegant, high quality mixed-use and transit oriented development that contributes to the making of great places.