



**SOUTH ORANGE
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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Jill Faherty, Director

September 20, 2022

Dear South Orange Village President and Board of Trustees,

The Board of Trustees of the South Orange Public Library (SOPL), the SOPL Building Advisory Committee (BAC), and the Director of SOPL, Jill Faherty, recommend Andrew Berman Architect (ABA) for Architectural Consulting Services associated with Phase 2, Phase 3, and Phase 4 of the Renovation, Repair and Improvement of the South Orange Municipal Library Complex.

An extensive search and thorough vetting of proposals, submitted by thirteen architectural firms in July 2022, was conducted by the BAC. Based on their library architectural experience, design, positive references, work ethic, and more which became apparent in their interview and thorough review, ABA was undoubtedly the best fit for the project and community. The SOPL Board is assured that ABA's design will get the library where it should be programmatically for the community.


"Andrew is an excellent architect, has a great aesthetic and understands libraries. That's why I hire him a lot, as much as I can," said Risa Honig, VP of Capital Planning at NYPL. ABA has worked on five projects with NYPL to date.

Leslie Burger, Director Emerita of Princeton Public Library, and all of the ABA's references, noted that they had "full access to Andrew", the Principal Architect. Burger also noted "He and his team are very creative. He is a good listener and communicator, responsive, careful, and always gives his full attention. He builds on your ideas, designs them. He is also careful how much he takes on so he can work directly with each project."

It was also noted, by Richard Kong, Director of Skokie Public Library (IL), that ABA came in under budget and on time. The other references confirmed that their budgets and timelines were met as well. The fees originally proposed by ABA were not as competitive as the other proposals, but when discussed, the firm was able to accommodate and provided a manageable budget for the project.

Designing a welcoming and useful link between two inherently different buildings, built in two different centuries, would be a challenge for any architect. Based on the design ideas that ABA brought forward in their interview with the BAC, their past work with expanding Carnegie buildings in Brooklyn and New York Public Libraries, their spatial and civic design, and much more, the Board of Trustees of South Orange Public Library is confident that they have selected the best architect and recommends Andrew Berman Architect for this project.

Respectfully yours,


Jill Faherty, Director

*The mission of the South Orange Public Library is to meet educational, informational,
and cultural needs of its community.*