

November 1, 2023

Dear Mayor Snook and City Councilors:

The University of Virginia and Thomas Jefferson Foundation manage lands that compose the Commonwealth's only UNESCO World Heritage Site, significant for its joint representation of Thomas Jefferson's political philosophy and architectural talents. The Academical Village and Monticello are historically significant at the state, national, and international level and contribute significantly to the local economy.

While the University of Virginia can protect the historic integrity of the Academical Village within its own boundaries, it has no formal buffer zone. Redevelopment projects near the Academical Village have never proposed new conditions that would diminish the integrity of the site until now. The proposed Verve Planned Unit Development at Stadium Road and Jefferson Park Avenue, with a recommended height of up to 135 feet and 12 stories, could have a major and negative visual effect on the Academical Village component of the World Heritage Site and numerous historic resources listed locally, on the Virginia Landmarks Register, and on the National Register of Historic Places, such as Montebello, Clark Hall, and the Catherine "Kitty" Foster Site.

We respectfully request that the City Council consider the impacts of this proposed project on adjacent and internationally significant historic resources during its review process.

Respectfully,



Alice Raucher, FAIA
Architect for the University



Colette Sheehy
Senior Vice President for Operations and State Government Relations

cc: Charlottesville Planning Commissioners