

NO ONE WANTS TO HONESTLY TACKLE THE QUESTION, WHY NOT EXPAND THE MENDEL ON SPADINA?

*Rebuttal to [Friday, November 27&nbsp;&nbsp;Star - Phoenix Op-Ed:](#)*

I read John Hampton's opinion piece in today's StarPhoenix (Friday Nov. 27/09). He provides no argument as to why the plan to renovate and expand the Mendel Art Gallery had to be abandoned for the AGS concept at River Landing.

All of the points he makes about future programs and intentions are not unlike what the proposed plan for the growth and development of the Mendel Art Gallery were intended to be at the existing site. Further, he uses the 2006 fire that broke out in the loading dock as evidence of the existing building's "severe limitations" to mislead readers, as the renovation and expansion plan addressed all of the building's current short-comings and proposed a brilliant transformation into a state-of-the-art facility in keeping with its modernist architectural design.

It's misleading to say that the "new gallery builds on Mendel legacy" when it's clearly a diminishment of Fred Mendel's significant cultural contribution because it dramatically reduces his legacy from an entire art gallery that he gifted to the citizens of Saskatoon to a singular and static gallery space.

~ by Martin Lerner