

Key West
Literary
Seminar



Elizabeth Bishop House

September 2023

Accessibility Advisory Council
Florida Building Commission
Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation

To Whom it May Concern:

We are applying for a waiver of the Florida-specific requirements for vertical accessibility for our property at 624 White Street, Key West, FL 33040. This is a former residential property, the home of celebrated poet Elizabeth Bishop during the 1930s and 40s. Since 2020, we have been restoring the property for use by our 501(c)(3) charitable organization. When complete, the primary opportunity for public participation will be focused around the Elizabeth Bishop Poetry Garden, a public garden with permanent educational exhibits focusing on the life and work of poet Elizabeth Bishop. The 5,000-square-foot garden will be open to the public 5 days a week and will have accessible pathways and an accessible ground-floor restroom facility. The interior of the house will include offices for everyday administrative use and two small rooms (approx. 450 square feet combined) featuring occasional exhibits for the public.

As part of our application, we are supplying the following documentation:

- Letter from Dr. Kyra N. Lucas, Supervisor, expressing the State Historic Preservation Office's opinion "that the property is eligible for the exemption granted Qualified Historic Buildings and Facilities per Section 202.5 of the FACBC, 2020."
- Letter from licensed design professional David J. Salay, our architect for the project, expressing his opinion that "that providing vertical access to all levels of 624 White Street is technically

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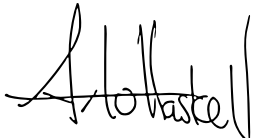
David A. Kaufelt
(1939–2014)

infeasible and would threaten or destroy the historic integrity of the building.”

- Historic Structures Report (part 1): “History of the Elizabeth Bishop House.” Jonathan G. Lammers and James J. Miller, 2020. To provide information on the historic significance of the site.
- Historic Structures Report (part 2). Including structural and architectural assessments, drawings, and photographs.
- Historic Structures Report (part 3). Additional appendices including drawings and related materials.
- First Floor Plan, Accessibility Option One. To provide an illustration of the considered vertical accessibility option referenced in Mr. Salay’s letter.
- City of Key West Sections 122-1151 and 14-361, referenced in Mr. Salay’s letter.

Thank you for considering our application. Please feel free to contact me if I may address any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arlo Haskell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and a long horizontal stroke.

Arlo Haskell
Executive Director