

Mr. Orville Simpson II
December 4, 1984
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equipment, and so on, from both private and public sources. What it badly needs are longer-term investments that permit projects to unfold and ramify over the course of several years. Our work is rather like your own design for Victory City, which certainly did not materialize overnight.

How valuable it would be if we could have an annual forum to discuss urban futures, or utopian urban design. This would be analogous to an endowed annual lecture series (The Simpson Lectures in Urban Studies, to coin a title), or an annual fellowship (The Orville Simpson II Fellowship in Urban Geography, for example, which might offer summer support to a graduate student whose research involved forecasting urban development), or an annual student prize (The Orville Simpson Prize for Utopian Urban Design, awarded for the best undergraduate project that met the specifications of the award, as determined, I should think, by the Foundation). None of these ideas are meant to imply that the University does not need one-time donations for its library collections (earmarked, perhaps, for books on urban futures and related subjects), or for design studio equipment which would enable students to explore urban futures--for example, through computer graphics and computer simulation.

Ultimately, the educational model which I have tried to sketch above will best guarantee continuing concern for the goals and approaches of the Victory City project if it is managed with as much flexibility and sensitivity as possible. The Foundation, I believe, has a very significant responsibility as well as a great opportunity. At the University, it seems to me that the best we have accomplished in creative and continuous management of endowments has been the Taft Fund, about which Greg Land assuredly knows more than I do. It is used by a restricted group of Departments to sponsor research (mainly in the humanities), provide graduate student fellowships, bring celebrated speakers to Cincinnati, and so on. What it chooses to support is determined by the faculty members who make up the Taft Committee. They have the wonderful flexibility to seize opportunities as they emerge. Over the years, the Taft Fund has underwritten some internationally acclaimed work. Very distinguished professors have also been honored with endowed Taft Chairs in their fields of study. ~~Both the Taft Committee and these Taft Professors are expected to carry on the terms of the endowment.~~ It is a system that works because designated individuals are expected to keep the project proposals coming down the pipeline. I commend the idea to you, and hope you will discuss it with Greg Land.

Finally, you should know how intrigued my colleagues were by the Victory City plans that I brought back from your apartment. Their hope, and mine, is that you will accept our invitation to come to the University and talk about them with us, and with our students. We have a seminar room set aside on Monday afternoons, expressly for any visiting speakers. That would be an admirable opportunity for us to hear you, if you were willing. I very much hope you will accept the invitation.

As you can probably tell from the length of this reaction, your ideas have given me a lot to think about. Much of it is still in my head, buzzing around. Perhaps we could meet again, or with your fellow trustees, if you would like