



University at Buffalo
The State University of New York

Office of the Dean
School of Architecture and Planning

November 9, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

The University at Buffalo Solar Strand is innovative in its planning, design, and implementation. It began as a ground mounted solar power plant and is now a 15-acre land art entrance to our campus designed by the artist Walter Hood.

The project is multidimensional and cross-disciplinary, merging teaching, learning, art, research, sustainability and community engagement into a complex and powerful resource for the campus and the community. The artist was selected through an international design competition and worked throughout the design build project with the engineers, contractors, New York State Power Authority, and the professional and academic staff of the University.

The Solar Strand moves beyond just obtaining carbon neutrality and reducing our environmental footprint. It also welcomes students, faculty, staff and community members to campus through a connected cultural and natural landscape. It is a fully accessible array where the public can both see it and be in it.

The Solar Strand will generate enough carbon-free energy to power approximately 700 student apartments. It has created outdoor classrooms for future learning and instruction with pre-K through post-graduate students. It employs recycled concrete sidewalks as the "flagstone" of gathering areas, brings new riparian areas to manage the drainage, and invites the public to learn about solar, art, and ecology.

I affirm this projects' innovative nature as outlined in the STARS 1.1 Technical Manual.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Shibley', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert G. Shibley FAIA, AICP
Campus Architect
Professor and Dean