

April 7, 2006



Dear Valued Member of the de Young Museum:

Corporation
of the
Fine Arts Museums

We are writing you today to discuss an issue of great concern to the Museum and to our visitors. Just recently, members of the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco introduced legislation to close John F. Kennedy Drive on Saturdays, similar to its Sunday closure. As you are aware, JFK Drive runs directly behind the de Young and provides access to the Museum from the north and east. In addition, it provides much needed parking for our visitors and volunteers.

Closure of JFK Drive on Saturday has twice been voted down by the electorate and has been shown to be unpopular in polls for the last decade. While Sunday closure is a reality, road closures severely compromise access to the Museum, particularly for seniors, families, persons with disabilities, and anyone who cannot afford the cost of the parking garage.

The de Young has just re-opened to record numbers of visitors and has established itself as an international museum. These international visitors spend time and money in our City, providing much needed revenue and creating jobs for our community. The de Young is a vital contributor to our City's economy and should be recognized and supported as such by our City officials.

We have significant exhibitions planned for this year, such as the current *Arts and Crafts* exhibit from the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The influential *Chicano Visions* exhibition opens in July, along with an exhibition of African-American folk art quilts from Gee's Bend. Additionally, we have an outstanding schedule of future exhibitions. These exhibitions and our public education programs are created to serve our diverse community. Initiating Saturday closure now will result in fewer visitors to these exhibits, making it harder to fund future exhibitions and programs. It could also result in the loss of these exhibitions entirely.

Help us save *Chicano Visions* and the *Quilts of Gee's Bend*. Help us ensure that all people have access to the City's newest and most popular museum. Please call or write your Supervisor today and let them know you oppose Saturday closure of JFK Drive.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you at the Fine Arts Museums again soon.

Sincerely,

John E. Buchanan, Jr.
Director and CEO
Corporation of the Fine Arts Museums

Diane B. Wilsey
President
Board of Trustees

Michela Alioto-Pier - District 2
(415) 554-7752
(415) 554-7843 fax
Michela.Alioto-Pier@sfgov.org

Tom Ammiano - District 9
(415) 554-5144
(415) 554-6255 fax
Tom.Ammiano@sfgov.org

Chris Daly - District 6
(415) 554-7970
(415) 554-7974 fax
dalyweb@sfgov.org

Bevan Dufty - District 8
(415) 554-6968
(415) 554-6900 fax
Bevan.Dufty@sfgov.org

Sean Elsbernd - District 7
(415) 554-6516
(415) 554-6546 fax
Sean.Elsbernd@sfgov.org

Fiona Ma - District 4
(415) 554-7460
(415) 554-7432 fax
Fiona.Ma@sfgov.org

Sophie Maxwell - District 10
(415) 554-7670
(415) 554-7674 fax
Sophie.Maxwell@sfgov.org

Jake McGoldrick - District 1
(415) 554-7410
(415) 554-7415 fax
Jake.McGoldrick@sfgov.org

Ross Mirkanimi - District 5
(415) 554-7630
(415) 554-7634 fax
Ross.Mirkanimi@sfgov.org

Aaron Peskin - District 3
(415) 554-7450
(415) 554-7454 fax
Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org

Gerardo Sandoval - District 11
(415) 554-6975
(415) 554-6979 fax
Gerardo.Sandoval@sfgov.org

de Young
Golden Gate Park
50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive
San Francisco, CA 94118-4501
www.thinker.org