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HARVARD UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUMS

ARTHUR M. SACKLER MUSEUM

FOGG ART MUSEUM

BUSCH-REISINGER MUSEUM

June 9, 1994

The Honorable William Walsh
26 Hurlbut Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Mr. Walsh,

Following upon our recent and very successful annual Family Night at the Fogg, I write to let you know of recent developments here, which I hope you, your friends and family, and your constituents, will take advantage of.

You may be aware that we have completed construction on the Agnes Mongan Center for the Study of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs. This houses our extraordinary collections of works of art on paper, for which we are internationally known and of which we are justifiably proud. You can visit the Mongan Center and request to see any work in its collections. It is open to the public (no appointment is necessary), starting September 1, Tuesday through Friday from 2:00 to 4:45, and Saturday mornings from 10:00 to 12:45. And we are serious about inviting you to visit. You needn't be a scholar or specialist in a particular field. You need only want to see a work of art or works by a particular artist. And we have assistants to help you learn what's in the collections. All of this is also true for the study room of the Busch-Reisinger Museum, with the exception that this room will not be open on Saturdays.

We pride ourselves on being the most accessible art museums in the greater Boston area. We are open every day of the week, and from Monday through Friday you can ask to see almost any work in any of our collections in any of our museums. With cumbersome or very delicate objects, like large paintings and sculpture or fragile ceramics, you may need to give prior notice, but you will be able to see the work or works you've requested (unless they are among the very few works in conservation at a given time).

There is of course the matter of admission fees. And while we desperately need income from admission, we want to make it possible for Cambridge residents to come free of charge. Thus we are open free to everyone under 18 years of age and free to everyone on Saturday mornings. In addition, we've donated admission passes to each of the Cambridge public libraries. These can be checked out for a day (like a book) and used to enter the museums free of charge.

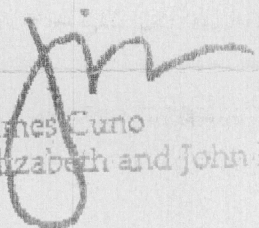
To help Cambridge residents learn what can be seen at the museums, we have also donated our many and various publications to the libraries; these include everything from events calendars to exhibition catalogues. Please know that there is limited free parking available in the Broadway Garage (corner of Felton Street and Broadway); just let the attendant know that you are visiting the Art Museums.

Finally, we are working on two projects which will make us even more accessible to the community. The first is a series of summer projects for children, organized with the staff of the main branch of the Cambridge Public Library. This may not get off the ground for another year, but planning is underway. Second, we are developing an interactive digital catalogue of our collections, with both text and images. This will not be ready for a couple of years, but when it is you will be able to access it from your home by modem (via the internet) or from terminals in public libraries and school classrooms. This is all very exciting and we can't wait for the day that it comes on line.

I hope you get a sense from this letter that we at the Art Museums are very proud of our commitment to full access to our collections. After all, we hold our collections in trust for the public, as well as for the students and faculty at Harvard and around the world. We are both a specialized academic museum and a general public museum. And the one is mutually enhancing of the other.

Please let me know if I can answer any questions. I look forward to seeing you in the museums. With all best wishes for a productive summer, I am,

Yours sincerely,



James Cuno
Elizabeth and John Moors Cabot Director

JC:pm

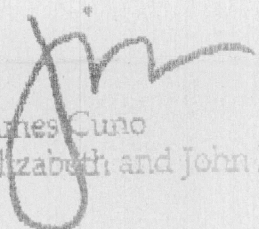
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Elizabeth and John Moors Cabot Director

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City of Cambridge

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IN CITY COUNCIL

June 20, 1994

COUNCILLOR WALSH
COUNCILLOR BORN
VICE MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: The Harvard University Art Museums through its director James Cuno has sent out the following communication notifying the City Council that Cambridge residents may go to the museums free of charge on Saturday mornings and to those residents under 18 years of age, they may go free of charge anytime; and

WHEREAS: Admission passes have also been donated to the Cambridge public libraries which can be checked out daily "like a book" and used to enter the museums free of charge; and

WHEREAS: In addition the museums have donated many and various publications to the libraries of the City; and

WHEREAS: In addition, the museums are contemplating a series of summer projects for children organized with the staff of the main branch library of the Cambridge public library; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That James Cuno and the staff of the Harvard University Arts Museums should be congratulated for opening up the museums free of charge to Cambridge residents and for their on-going endeavors to make the arts accessible to the youth of Cambridge.

In City Council June 20, 1994.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

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June 14, 1994

COUNCILLOR WALSH

- WHEREAS:** The Harvard University Art Museums through its director James Cuno has sent out the following communication notifying the City Council that Cambridge residents may go to the museums free of charge on Saturday mornings and to those residents under 18 years of age, they may go free of charge anytime; and
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Born, Russell, Sullivan,
Joomey.

Consent Order #40

S-293

Councillor Walsh re: Cambridge resident
passes to the Harvard University Art
Museums.

In City Council June 20, 1994