



## The Barnes Foundation

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## **VIA U.S. MAIL AND E-MAIL**

Jean H. Cutler
Director, Bureau for Historic Preservation
Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

Re:

ER 08-2335-101 - GBO: Barnes Foundation Project, Construction of New Museum

Building at 2020 Pennsylvania Ave., Philadelphia

Dear Ms. Cutler:

I am writing to thank you for the opportunity to consult with you and Ann Safley on Friday, May 6, 2011, about the Barnes Foundation project in Philadelphia and our plans for the Merion facility. Derek Gillman, Bill McDowell, and I enjoyed meeting with you and sharing the Foundation's vision for furthering our educational mission and expanding public awareness of the history and importance of the Foundation's Merion location in a manner that preserves and respects its historic integrity.

We were pleased that you appreciated our sensitivity to the historic importance of the Merion campus. As we discussed, our current plans for Merion include (1) expanding the facilities for our extensive archives to make them more accessible to the public and scholars than has been previously possible, (2) ongoing stabilization and renovation of the buildings, including the Cret-designed Tea House, and (3) the continuation of the horticulture program and possible development of expanded educational and public

programming. We strongly believe that these plans – along with our archival and special exhibition activities on the Parkway focusing on the historic importance of Merion – will all serve to increase public awareness of the history and importance of the Merion facility, its relationship to the Collection which will be housed in our new building in Philadelphia, and the Arboretum which was established many years before Dr. Barnes acquired the Merion property.

As the Barnes crystallizes its plans to further its mission through its activities in Merion, we will keep your office appropriately apprised, particularly to the extent that any new or expanded uses may impact the structural configuration of the interior spaces in the Merion Gallery building.

If you have any additional questions or if we can otherwise be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you and best regards.

Sincerely,

Brett I. Miller

cc:

Derek A. Gillman

Stephen J. Harmelin, Esq.

William McDowell Dr. Bernard C. Watson