

Smith, Dianne [BOARD]

From: Koppin, Sheila Doyle [BOARD]
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 9:53 AM
To: Bonnie Campbell; Craig Lang; Dave Miles; Downer, Robert; Harkin, Ruth; Jack Evans; Johnson, Greta A; 'imgartner@iowacubs.com'; Rose Vasquez
Cc: Donley, Robert [BOARD]; Berg, Brad [BOARD]; Brunson, Marcia R [BOARD]; Clayton, Aimee [BOARD]; Cook, Timothy B [BOARD]; Evans, Thomas A [BOARD]; Gonzalez, Diana [BOARD]; McCarthy, Ann M [GOV R]; Murphy, Joseph D [BOARD]; Racki, Joan [BOARD]; Saunders, Keith [BOARD]; Sayre, Patrice [BOARD]; Smith, Dianne [BOARD]
Subject: FW: From Stephanie Wiles, Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College
Attachments: Miles-Board of Regents President.pdf

Regents,

Please see the attached letter to President Miles.

Sheila

*Sheila Doyle Koppin
Regent Communication Officer
Board of Regents, State of Iowa
11260 Aurora Avenue
Urbandale, IA 50322
(515) 281-3332*

From: Stephanie Wiles [<mailto:swiles@oberlin.edu>]
Sent: Friday, February 18, 2011 4:20 PM
To: miles.david.w@gmail.com
Subject: From Stephanie Wiles, Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College

To the attention of the Board of Regents President, David Miles.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Wiles

Stephanie Wiles | John G.W. Cowles Director
Allen Memorial Art Museum | Oberlin College
Oberlin, OH 44074 Tel: 440.775.6872
Follow our blog: <http://amamblog.tumblr.com/>

OBERLIN

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February 18, 2011

David W. Miles
Board of Regents President
State of Iowa
11260 Aurora Avenue
Urbandale, IA 50322

Dear President Miles,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the College and University Museums Committee of the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD) to applaud your support of the art collections held in trust by the University of Iowa and your strong statement that legislation requiring the University of Iowa to sell Jackson Pollock's *Mural* is a "profoundly bad idea."

As you know, the University of Iowa's Pollock painting is not only an artistic treasure presented as a gift to the people of Iowa but also a key cultural and educational resource intended for all past, current, and future University of Iowa students and the general public. Its presence within an academic museum is transformative, and the art historical, philosophical, cultural, and aesthetic significance of it and other works like it are used to foster a deeper understanding of the diversity of the world's cultures. It is not an overstatement to say that a masterpiece like the Pollock adds a crucial dimension to students' specific areas of study and to their successful lives at the University of Iowa and beyond.

The story of this gift is a uniquely American tale in which visionary philanthropist Peggy Guggenheim sought to champion our country's ingenuity and creativity by protecting "the art of her own time." In 1943, Ms. Guggenheim gave Jackson Pollock his first show at her gallery Art of This Century in New York City. She also commissioned his largest painting, *Mural*. Her gift of *Mural* to the University of Iowa was made to support the university's educational goals and to reaffirm the deep understanding that great works of art in all media can inspire and teach future generations of American students.

Along with other great American philanthropists such as the Rockefellers, the Mellons, the Fords, the Morgans, and the Fricks, Ms. Guggenheim devoted much of her life to ensuring that America's cultural heritage and treasures from other cultures were protected and presented as "gifts to the nation." Indeed, as you well know, many educational institutions today are widely supported by the ongoing goodwill of the foundations created by these families.

I am writing now to lend our support in articulating to others the central and ongoing role art collections play in fundamentally serving and enhancing an academic institution's broad, interdisciplinary educational mission, and the irreversible damage I believe would be caused if legislation requiring the University of Iowa to sell *Mural* proceeds.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Wiles
John G.W. Cowles Director