



SAN FRANCISCO ARTS COMMISSION

April 3, 2009

GAVIN NEWSOM
MAYOR

LUIS R. CANCEL
DIRECTOR OF
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Dennis Bartels
Executive Director
Exploratorium
3601 Lyon Street
San Francisco, CA 94123

PROGRAMS

CIVIC ART COLLECTION
CIVIC DESIGN REVIEW
COMMUNITY ARTS
& EDUCATION
CULTURAL EQUITY GRANTS
PERFORMING ARTS
PUBLIC ART
STREET ARTISTS LICENSES

ARTS COMMISSION GALLERY
401 VAN NESS AVENUE
415.554.6080

WWW.SFARTSCOMMISSION.ORG

ARTSCOMMISSION@SFGOV.ORG

Dear Mr. Bartels:

On behalf of the San Francisco Arts Commission, we are pleased to offer our support for the Exploratorium's proposed move from the Palace of Fine Arts to the Embarcadero Piers 15 and 17. The purpose of the move and the aim of the Exploratorium seem to be aligned with the goal of the Arts Commission: equal access for all communities to the cultural resources of San Francisco. The Exploratorium is an essential landmark that makes the City a tourist destination, a favorite for visitors from around the country and around the world—and a treasure for those of us fortunate enough to live here.

We applaud your effort to keep neighbors in the surrounding area abreast of the project's milestones and your due diligence with the individual governing bodies of the city and the state. We appreciate the difficulty of mediating all the expectations that weigh in from the different interest groups involved in a development project of this magnitude. Your staff has done a fine job of listening to community concerns and incorporating suggestions into your design that appeal to the widest range of constituents.

Not only will the museum's move bring one cultural asset to the center of San Francisco activity, it will rehabilitate another—the historic Piers 15 and 17, both severely dilapidated. The Exploratorium's plan to seismically retrofit Pier 15 will ensure future generations the opportunity to walk along a piece of history. The planned addition of the glass and concrete Observatory building on Pier 15 is a welcome compliment to the existing building, a subtle balance of old and new.

We at the Arts Commission eagerly await the Exploratorium's arrival at Piers 15 and 17 and the welcome improvements made to the waterfront.

Sincerely,

Luis R. Cancel
Director of Cultural Affairs



CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO