

1984

Letters (1984): Correspondence 58

Frederick P. Walkey

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**NEWPORT ART MUSEUM
AND ART ASSOCIATION**

76 BELLEVUE AVENUE, NEWPORT, RI 02840 (401) 847-0179

Richard Grosvenor
**RICHARD GROSVENOR - PRESIDENT
FREDERICK P. WALKEY - DIRECTOR**

my
APR 23 1984

April 19, 1984

Senator Claiborne Pell
c/o Mr. Sandy Crary
Room 428
Committee on Labor & Human Resources
Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 02510

Dear Senator Pell,

We were delighted that you and your wife came to our opening of our Raku and Smoke Fired Pottery exhibit last Saturday evening. The exhibit has been favorably received and we think that it has contributed to making the public more aware in creativity in the field of ceramics.

At your suggestion I have contacted Mr. Crary and at his suggestion I have sent you this letter to tell you why we have applied to the Institute of Museum Services for an operating grant. Several months ago the governing Council of the Museum voted to change the name of the Art Association to the Newport Art Museum. The reason for the change was to more accurately reflect the activities of the institution. At the present time the by-laws are being revised to make them more consistent with the by-laws of Museums around the United States and at the same time to expand the number of Trustees from 12 to 24. The transformation from Art Association to Art Museum implies a change to a more professionally run organization which, in turn, will require an increase in the operating budget.

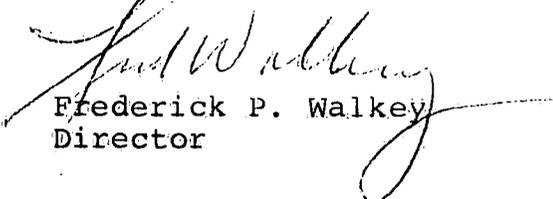
Last year's operating budget was around \$180,000 and we are projecting a minimum of \$250,000 for our next fiscal year and even at that we will be short about \$25,000 to carry on the program which we have projected. We are in the midst of a major membership drive and have established a new category for corporate memberships. A drive is underway to add 50 or more corporate members to our roles.

We need the infusion of cash to enable us to expand our sources of income from other areas. We have not applied for an IMS grant since our successful application in 1979. Last year we dipped into our meager endowment to the tune of about \$100,000 to repair and renovate our buildings and grounds which I am distressed to say had been allowed to fall into a state of considerable disrepair.

Our goals for the new Museum are practical and attainable if the Trustees are willing to provide the leadership and the fund raising required to underwrite the operating costs of this worthwhile project. We have every reason for optimism for we do not believe what we are planning is beyond the capacity of the citizens of Southern Rhode Island to support.

We will be most appreciative for your support both in our application to the Institute of Museum Services and for the Museum itself.

Sincerely,


Frederick P. Walkey
Director