

5-11-1991

Letters: Outgoing (1990-1994): Correspondence 51

Tom R. Chambers

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3-11-91

The Honorable
Claiborne Pell
Senator (RI)
428 Dirksen Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

As you may know, I've been looking to relocate to the Washington, D.C. area to work in my field (communications/visual information) and to pursue my personal work (documentary projects/mixed-media/installation/etc.). I've noticed in the Federal Career Opportunities job listings that a Supervisory Visual Information Specialist (#91-3046) position with The National Museum of American History/The Smithsonian Institution is currently open (closing date: 3-21-91). I've perused the job duties (enclosed) and I'm very interested in this position.

On September 19, 1990 you wrote a very nice letter (copy enclosed) to me encouraging me to remain active in the arts and to continue to pursue my various activities (projects, etc.), and also offering me your support of my candidacy for any future positions that I may wish to pursue. As a visual artist, I'm honored to have received this letter from you, the 'Father' of NEA, and I'm grateful for your personal encouragement and support; and as a communications/visual information professional, I would be honored once again if you write a letter of recommendation for me to the Director of The National Museum of American History/The Smithsonian Institution re: the current opening (#91-3046).

I've enclosed, for your information, an exact copy of my SF-171 application forms sent to the Office of Human Resources/The Smithsonian Institution re: the position. My work experience (resume) as a communications/visual information professional is listed in detail. Also, I've enclosed, for your information, my bio/credits; and my personal work experience as a 'Fine Artist' is listed in detail.

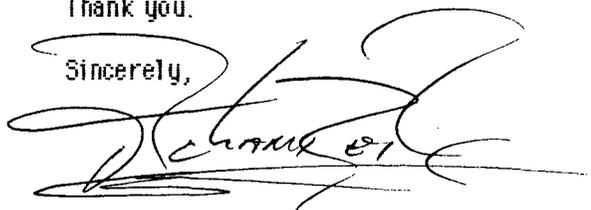
Putting my visual information skills aside for a moment, one of the reasons that this position with The Smithsonian interests me, is the fact that I would be working with museum exhibitions that are about our American History. I've always had a special interest in our country's history, and these last few years in Rhode Island, as you may know, I've conceptualized and implemented, via exhibition design/installation, projects that 'take a look' at America's early history ('Descendants/350: A Photographic Tribute to the First Settlers of Rhode Island'; a unique look and study of the State's (RI) early history, as it relates to images (photographs) of contemporaries/Descendants as icons or symbols to pay tribute to and talk about their Ancestors'/First Settlers' trials and tribulations through text, extracted from The Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island) and that 'take a look' at America's recent history ('Hot City: Photographic Documentation of Providence and Its People, 1985 to 1989; a look and study of a city, its people and its activities during a certain period of time from a unique perspective ... from within its city government and as a part of its political process) ('In Black and White'; a look and study of the Afro-American community in Providence, RI; an off-shoot from the 'Hot City' project).

*Should address all
sections in the job
application. I have
enclosed a letter
to the Director
of the Smithsonian
re: the current opening
(#91-3046).*

I feel that my interest in American History, my sensitization via projects re: early and recent American History, my skills as a communications/visual information professional and my innate skills as a visual artist would be an asset for The National Museum of American History/The Smithsonian Institution. I also feel that my association with The Smithsonian would help to nurture my personal growth-curve as a 'Fine Artist' (note: At this date, I have 25 personal exhibitions to my credit; I've performed curatorial duties for nine, other exhibitions; I've received nine grants for my projects; I've received two Proclamations (Gubernatorial (RI) and Mayoral (Providence, RI)) for my projects; my work has been reviewed locally, regionally and nationally; one of my projects, 'Descendants/350', was accepted as a part of The Rhode Island State Archives' Permanent Collection and for Traveling Exhibition; and a recent work of mine, 'Mother's 45s', was accepted (via national competition) for show as a part of the upcoming 'Parents' exhibition at The Museum of Contemporary Art, Wright State University ... Spring, 1992; etc.).

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom R. Chambers', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Tom R. Chambers
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