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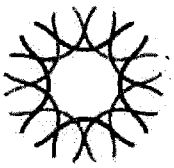


CALIFORNIA
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES

August 8, 2012

The Honorable Katherine Feinstein
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of San Francisco
400 McAllister Street, Dept. 206
San Francisco, California 94102-4514

Re: Response to 2011-2012 San Francisco Civil Grand Jury Report "Where There's Smoke..." Dated June 2012

Dear Judge Feinstein:

In the City and County of San Francisco's Civil Grand Jury Report dated June 2012, and entitled "Where There's Smoke..." (the "Report"), the California Academy of Sciences ("Academy") was requested to respond to Finding No. 5 which reads as follows:

F5 SFAC has not created a high-profile community identity for itself as an important contributor to San Francisco's cultural heritage.

Academy Response

The Academy values its relationship with the City and other cultural institutions in San Francisco and the surrounding Bay Area. As a member of the City's cultural community, the Academy is very aware of the importance of the work of the San Francisco Art Commission ("SFAC") and believes that the SFAC is, in fact, an important contributor to the City's cultural heritage. The Academy coordinated successfully with the SFAC over a five-year period commencing in 2005 on the implementation and design approval of two works of art for the California Academy of Sciences' Public Art Project, including the commission of renowned artist Maya Lin for the artworks. Appropriate signage is displayed with each piece of artwork referencing the collaboration between the Academy and the SFAC on the Academy's Public Art Project which was also well marketed within the City.

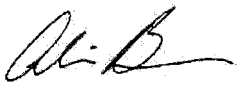
As noted in the Report, the SFAC is not generally responsible for art located at the Academy. As the Academy is located in Golden Gate Park, the Academy's primary City interface is with the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department and Commission. Our work with the SFAC has been limited to coordinating the design of the Academy building and the exterior public art at the Academy. As noted above, that interaction has been very positive.

55 Music Concourse Drive, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California 94118

The Academy agrees that a high profile community identity for the SFAC, and for the City's cultural institutions that it supports, is a worthy goal. The Academy would be pleased to cooperate with the SFAC and other institutions on efforts to reinforce the SFAC's community identity.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Alison Brown
Chief of Staff and CFO

cc: City and County of San Francisco, Civil Grand Jury
Jill Manton, San Francisco Arts Commission, Director of Legislation and Initiatives

55 Music Concourse Drive, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California 94118