Board of Trustees

Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco

de Young
Legion of Honor

August 15, 2012

The Honorable Katherine Feinstein
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California
County of San Francisco
400 McAllister Street, Room 008
San Francisco, CA 94102-4512

Dear Judge Feinstein:

I have received and read with great interest the report of the 2011–2012 Civil Grand Jury Report "Where There's Smoke . . . The Need to Strengthen the Art Commission's Stewardship of San Francisco's Cultural Legacy." The report presented a fair, accurate and detailed assessment of the San Francisco Arts Commission's organization and management. As the President of one of the City's oldest arts organizations, I have an avid and vested interest in the vitality of all San Francisco's arts institutions. I have also served on the SFAC, so I have had the opportunity to study this Commission closely.

The Fine Arts Museums were asked to respond to Finding 5, "SFAC has not created a high-profile community identity for itself as an important contribution to San Francisco's cultural heritage." I agree with this finding wholeheartedly. Public visibility has not been a primary goal of the Commission, and perhaps it would serve them well to have a higher profile in the community.

Although the report did not specifically ask for the Museums' response to your findings about the Arts Commissions' governance, I do strongly agree that the Commission would benefit by having Commissioners with backgrounds in finance, management and fundraising in addition to Artist/Commissioners.

I am so pleased that the City and State convene Grand Juries each year to look behind the scenes of San Francisco's public business, and I support the Juries' role in effecting positive and productive change in our chartered organizations.

Sincerely,

Diane B. Wilsey
President
Board of Trustees

/mab

cc: Mario Choi, Foreperson Pro Tem
2011 – 2012 Civil Grand Jury

de Young

Golden Gate Park
50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive
San Francisco, CA 94118-4501

Tel 415.750.3669
Fax 415.750.7686

www.thinker.org