



Board of Trustees

August 15, 2012

**Fine Arts
Museums of
San Francisco
de Young
Legion of Honor**

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

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