



February 26, 2020

Mr. Nicholas Ariniello
Commissioner, Assessing Department
Boston City Hall Room 301
Boston, MA 02201

CITY OF BOSTON
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Dear Mr. Ariniello:

Please realize the following in relation to the benefit of the Museum of Fine Arts to the City of Boston, its citizens and community.

The Museum of Fine Arts is a Massachusetts charitable corporation, whose mission is for the advancement of art and education. The City of Boston is one of the original incorporators of the Museum and the Mayor, Superintendent of Schools and a delegate from the Boston Public Library Foundation all are Trustees of the Museum.

The Museum outreaches on many levels to the people of the city of Boston through the following:

- The Museum is open on Wednesday nights to all free of charge in FY19, and a number of free days (Martin Luther King Day, Memorial Day weekend and Indigenous Peoples' Day, etc.). There were approximately 81,000 visitors attended free Wednesday night, and approximately 59,000 visitors attended a variety of free days during FY19. If admission were to be charged, this would have generated approximately \$3,151,000 of revenue for the year ended June 30, 2019.
- The Museum celebrates its milestone 150th anniversary year beginning in 2019 and continuing throughout 2020. A variety of programs are being offered to the public during the Museum's anniversary year. Visitors who have not been MFA members previously are invited to sign up for one year of membership when attending various Community Celebrations or MFA Late Nites. To date, over 8,000 visitors signed up for a free memberships.

- The Museum has continued the MFA Citizens program, which began in July 2017. This program offers new US citizens living in Massachusetts a free one-year membership to the Museum and enables the Museum to become a place for new Americans to gather, make connections within their community and create bridges across cultures. The first of its kind in the country, MFA Citizens, is in collaboration with New England: Project Citizenship, as well as the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement and the Boston Public Library.
- During the month of June 2019, Boston Public Library cardholders are eligible to receive free admission to the museum (for two adults and up to six children per visit), allowing for Boston residents to view "Toulouse-Lautrec and the Stars of Paris", an exhibition drawn from works of Toulouse-Lautrec via the Boston Public Library, amongst other offerings at the Museum in June. Approximately 4,600 Boston residents visited the Museum under this program. If admission were to be charged, this would have generated approximately \$97,000 of revenue for the year ended June 30, 2019.
- The Museum offers free admission to all Massachusetts community college students, faculty and staff, including individuals from Bunker Hill and Roxbury Community Colleges, as well as other community colleges throughout the state.
- The Museum participates in the Card to Culture program offering Massachusetts residents who present Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards at a ticket desk may receive up to four \$3 tickets. During fiscal year 2019, approximately 3,200 visitors received this special offer. If full admission were to be charged, this would generate over \$72,000 of revenue for the year ended June 30, 2019.
- Under MFA Military Access Program, all active-duty military and veterans and five family members receive free admission year-round. For all military (active duty and veterans) who wish to become MFA members, there is a \$30 discount on MFA membership.
- Currently on view "Black Histories, Black Futures" exhibition is focused on works by 20th – century artists of color. More importantly it is curated by young scholars as part of the MFA's new partnership with local youth empowerment organizations Becoming a Man (BAM), The BASE, and the Bloomberg Arts Internship Boston program. The young scholars, all Boston residents, used skills which they developed as interns in a pilot internship

program at MFA to research, interpret, and design the exhibition. Their work highlights areas of excellence within the museum's collection and lays foundations for the future.

- The Museum has had a multi-year free partnership with the Boston Public Schools, where school children visit the Museum during the academic year, free of charge. The Museum has established partnerships with several public schools in the City, through the *Thinking Through Art Partnership Program* working with these schools to engage students in a the Visual Thinking Strategies program, utilizing art as a tool to enhance critical thinking by students.
- The Museum supports Arts Educators in the Boston Public Schools including tuition to Teacher Workshops, student attendance at the MFA films, Boston Public School use of art studios, special exhibition tickets, etc., as well as our *MFA for Educators* website.
- The Museum provides a series of other continuing educational opportunities through free talks, tours and artist demonstrations. The Museum has continued to expand its existing City Talks program, an open, public discussion with Boston area thinkers, entrepreneurs, activists and artists on current Museum exhibitions' prevalent themes that affect the City culturally, socially and politically.
- The Museum provides a series of free accessibility programs including visitor centered, interactive tours designed for groups with physical or cognitive disabilities. These programs include:
 - *Access to Art: Second Saturdays*, a specialized program for individuals with memory loss or dementia, as well as their care partners,
 - *Feeling for Form*, a tour program designed for all ages of visitors who are blind or have low vision, providing an opportunity to tour the collection via tactile exploration of selected objects, verbal description and other tactile graphics, and
 - *A Hand's Reach to Art*, a selection of gallery tours, performances and demonstrations presented in or interpreted through American Sign Language (ASL). Additionally, the Museum hosted ASL Night during Deaf Awareness Month in September 2019 featuring ASL tours, art making, performances and spotlight talks.
- The Museum has also hosted various cultural celebrations throughout the year. Working with a variety of cultural groups in the City of Boston, the

Museum and these groups have created events to celebrate Lunar New Year, Diwali, the Indian Festival of Light, Nowruz, the Persian New Year, Juneteenth, the commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States, and Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights.

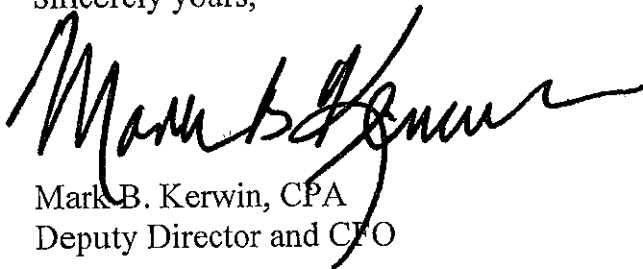
- The Museum has several programs for teens in Boston. The Museum's Teen Arts Council, a leadership development program for Boston teens, offers participants the opportunity to learn about art, culture and history, develop workplace skills and provides a broad range of exposures to a variety of career paths. The Council participates in the creation of programs for their teen peers and the general public. The Council has been in place for more than twenty years. Additionally, the Museum's STEAM Team program, based on the STEAM education platform (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) was developed in 2017 also for teen participants. Participants in the program have an opportunity for hands on learning in each of the five disciplines, both at the Museum and at local businesses and organizations.
- The Museum has an ongoing relationship with the Boys and Girls Club of Boston, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester, United South End Settlement, the West End House, Boys & Girls Club of Allston-Brighton, etc. Through the *Community Arts Initiative* program, the Museum partners with numerous community sites, including many Boys and Girls Clubs in the City to engage individuals at after-school programs. These programs allow participants to access the Museum collection, as well as the art-making process through the creation of an original work of art displayed at the Museum.
- The Museum partners with several local hospitals in its *Artful Healing* program. The program brings art-making workshops to patients and their families, providing a fun and creative experience for patients undergoing medical treatment.
- The Museum maintains the landscaping, including tree maintenance, and snow removal of a variety of properties near the Museum, which are owned by the City of Boston. These properties include land between The Fenway and the Museum, the park on which the Endicott Memorial is located, Huntington Avenue. Additionally, the Museum has been donated annually to the Avenue of the Arts beautification projects to maintain the "greenscape" along the avenue.

- In addition, the Museum, under its agreement with the Boston Redevelopment Authority, contributes approximately \$42,000 each year over a twelve-year period to the Housing Exaction Program.

The Museum is woven into the fabric of the city. The above listed programs and efforts by the Museum demonstrate highlights of the efforts, which are taken to benefit the City of Boston and its citizens. The dollar value of these programs demonstrate the community effect and benefit which the Museum provides to the City and support the community service credit received under the PILOT agreement.

Please call if you have any questions on the matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark B. Kerwin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark B. Kerwin, CPA
Deputy Director and CFO