



**Board of Trustees** 

Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco de Young Legion of Honor

August 22, 2013

Mrs. Nancy Bechtle, Chair Board of Directors The Presidio Trust 103 Montgomery Street San Francisco, CA 94129

Dear Nancy,

George Lucas is the master storyteller of his generation. His vision has revolutionized film-making. Now, he seeks to revolutionize museum going. A first-of-its kind institution, The Lucas Cultural Arts Museum is designed to serve as the country's premiere venue for understanding the connections and lineage of illustrative and visual art. From the cave drawings of Altimira to the digital artistry of Industrial Light and Magic, from the Renaissance masters to Norman Rockwell, the Museum is an unprecedented leap forward in the concept of museums.

Conceived by George Lucas, the Museum is based in the filmmaker's passion for education and the role art can play in inspiring young people. The Museum will offer state-of-the-art facilities and unparalleled programming for children, families, schools, scholars, and visiting artists. The Museum's extensive collection includes artists like N.C. Wyeth, Maxfield Parrish, and Norman Rockwell, on through the innovative works of ILM and other San Francisco Bay Area digital companies. The collection ranges from fine art to animation, from fashion to cinematic design and it encompasses works of the great masters of the golden age of illustration through today's digital artists, showing the ways culture is reflected in the popular art of any given time. In addition to George Lucas's personal art collection, the Museum will feature works and traveling exhibits from other collections and institutions. As George has said, "Anthropologically, this is a mythology museum: the mythology of our shared cultural experience as a society."

George has a passionate commitment to the unique national treasure in which he wants to build the Museum: The Presidio of San Francisco. Due in part to his successful development of the Letterman Digital Arts Center, the Presidio is now singular among our National Parks in that it has become a destination for new enterprise and, consequently, is now entirely self-supporting.

Building the Lucas Cultural Arts Museum here will play a substantial role in ensuring the sustainability and viability of the Presidio for the future. The Museum will be entirely self-funded: built and endowed with George's own money. No public or tax funds will be used, and there will be no fund raising to interfere with the efforts of the Symphony, Fine Arts Museums, Opera, or Ballet.

de Young

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When the Presidio Trust invited submissions for the development of a cultural institution here, George leapt at the opportunity. George was born and raised here. He made his films here. He has built several successful businesses here. Now, he wants to leave a legacy for future generations here. The Presidio is the natural choice for the Museum's home. I enthusiastically support the building of the Lucas Cultural Arts Museums in the Presidio. I know Mr. Lucas will be sensitive to the concerns of the myriads of people who offer opinions, warranted or not. I hope the Trust will not lose this golden opportunity to enrich the cultural life of San Francisco and will accept this very generous gift from this talented, philanthropic person.

Sincerely,

Diane B. Wilsey President

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