

Juliet Hartford  
137 E. 66 St.  
New York, NY 10021

Jan. 21, 1997

Dear Mr. Hawkins,

This month New York City will decide the fate of 2 Columbus Circle the building my father Huntington Hartford built as a museum called The Gallery of Modern Art. Would you be willing to write a brief letter in support of the Dahesh Museum's bid for the building?

The Municipal Arts Society and the architect Robert Stern wish to preserve the building as well as many others. The structure was designed by the renowned architect Edward Durrell Stone as the Gallery of Modern Art in 1963. Mr. Stone was also the architect for the Kennedy Cultural Center in Washington D.C. and the American Embassy in New Delhi as well as the Modern Museum of Art in New York. My father donated the building to Fairleigh Dickinson University when he was developing Paradise Island in the Bahamas.

It would be beneficial to New York City if 2 Columbus Circle were to continue serving the community as a museum. Mr. Stone designed the building with excellent gallery space and it has a lovely theater that seats about two hundred people. Furthermore, the other parties bidding on the building want to tear it down or alter it. What they would replace it with will be quite ordinary. It now is of cultural interest.

The Dahesh Museum has a beautiful collection and a very community minded staff organized by its director David Farmer. It is the only institution in the United States devoted to 19th-century European academic art and in only two years has developed an active exhibition schedule and public programming. It has already established an educational partnership with a public high school. It has the funds to purchase, renovate and maintain the building. With this building, the Dahesh Museum could expand all programs and create a vibrant cultural presence on Columbus Circle.

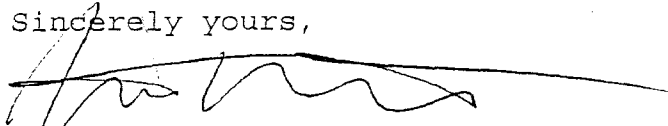
The Dahesh Museum's bid is supported by museum professionals in America, France, England and Spain, as well as architects, architectural preservationists and the community. As I already mentioned, one such professional is the noted architect, Robert Stern but another is the wonderful writer Tom Wolfe. Your letter would help to persuade the city's Economic Development Corporation to agree on the bid from the Dahesh Museum. However, it needs to be sent soon and I apologize for not being able to give you more time. Your letter would be most appreciated by the people at the

Dahesh Museum as well as me.

Something you might appreciate, before I was born, my father in the sixties tried desperately to save the old Metropolitan Opera House. He spent a great deal of money keeping the wrecking ball away from it on a daily basis but eventually, he was forced to give up by a court order. However, he was successful in helping Vivien Leigh save a theater in London sometime in the fifties.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 212 794-2345 or Mr. Farmer at 212 759-0606. Your note in support of the Dahesh Museum's bid for 2 Columbus Circle can be mailed to me at my address or to Mr. Farmer at the Dahesh Museum's current address, 601 Fifth Ave. New York, NY 10017 and we will forward it to the Economic Development Corporation's office. Or, if you prefer, you may write directly to mayor Rudolph Giuliani at the City Hall, New York, NY 10007.

Sincerely yours,



Juliet Hartford