

NORTON SIMON

3660 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90010

April 22, 1974

Pasadena Museum of Modern Art  
Colorado and Orange Grove Boulevards  
Pasadena, California 91105

Gentlemen:

This is to set out the various discussions and understandings between representatives of The Norton Simon Foundation and the Norton Simon, Inc. Museum of Art, and Messrs. Alfred Esberg, Gifford Phillips, Robert Rowan and Coleman Morton of the Pasadena Museum. I personally look forward with great pleasure and anticipation to a joining of our various collections. I have great faith in the possibilities. As to all of our groups, I earnestly believe that each collection will be enhanced by the other by presenting to the general public an historic sweep of the evolution of art. We would plan that items from our two collections would be shown on a long-term basis at the Pasadena Museum. We would expect to utilize 75% of the exhibition space and we would expect the Board to commit to an average use of 25% of the exhibition space for five years for exhibiting modern and contemporary art from the permanent Pasadena Museum collection, the Galka Scheyer collection and other modern and contemporary art loaned to the Museum for exhibition.

The Pasadena Museum would reduce the number of its Trustees to ten. Of these, three will be nominated by what we may call the Pasadena group, four by the Simon group, and the remaining three will consist of public members, to be nominated by the Simon group.

Our hope and expectation is that this move will result in efficiencies of operation and in enhancing of broad public support of the Museum. To the extent required, the Simon group will seek to obtain either contributions, loans, or other funding sources to cover costs of operations, redecorating and outstanding indebtedness. From our review of the financial statements of the Pasadena Museum, it is clear that a preliminary emphasis must be on obtaining a sound financial basis for the Museum.

We would accordingly wish that the Museum be closed promptly in order that it might be redecorated and reopened as quickly as possible, hopefully within six months. This will, of course, necessitate the cancellation of all future exhibitions and the termination of many employees of the Museum, leaving a considerably reduced staff. We understand that the educational program continues through June 15, and we would, of course, expect that the Museum would wish to meet its commitments in this regard.

We have reached this agreement based upon certain written information you have provided us of income and expenses, of lease arrangements, of outstanding obligations, and your audited balance sheet, as well as a copy of the Last Will and Testament of Galka E. Scheyer in regard to the Blue Four Collection. We would wish an audit of the Museum in order to assure ourselves that there are no substantial deviations from the facts and estimates we now have in hand.

If your Board is agreeable to the above, we will immediately move to present this proposal, with my recommendations for approval, to the Boards of The Norton Simon Foundation and the Norton Simon, Inc. Museum of Art, and would then proceed as quickly as possible with plans for a grand reopening.

I feel a sense of tremendous excitement at the potentialities before us.

Sincerely,

*Norton Simon*  
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