

BESSER FOUNDATION

P. O. BOX 515

ALPENA, MICHIGAN
JANUARY 22, 1970

MR. JESSE BESSER
ALPENA
MICHIGAN 49707

DEAR MR. BESSER:

THIS LETTER IS A REPORT ON THE MEETING IN FLINT THAT RICHARD BOYCE, NORMAN FOSTER AND I HAD WITH MESSRS. HERBERT J. BOOTH, JAMES P. RICKER AND ARTHUR SARVIS WHO ARE AFFILIATED WITH THE FLINT ART INSTITUTE, ALFRED SLOAN MUSEUM AND A NUMBER OF OTHER CULTURAL CENTERS LOCATED ON THE CAMPUS OF FLINT COLLEGE OF UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AND THE FLINT COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

OUR PARTICULAR INTEREST WAS IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FLINT ART INSTITUTE AND FLINT BOARD OF EDUCATION. THE INSTITUTE RENTS A PORTION OF THE DEWATERS ART CENTER FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION. THE RENT IS BASED UPON OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE BOARD WHICH INCLUDES HEAT, LIGHT, POWER AND JANITORIAL. THE TOTAL COST OF THESE ITEMS IS ESTIMATED AT \$38,000 IN THE CURRENT ANNUAL BUDGET.

ALSO, THE INSTITUTE'S DIRECTOR AND OTHER EMPLOYEES ARE PAID THROUGH THE BOARD'S PAYROLL AND THE INSTITUTE REIMBURSES THE BOARD FOR ACTUAL PAYROLL EXPENSES. THE PURPOSE OF THIS PROCEDURE IS TO ELIMINATE PAYROLL RECORDS AND TO GIVE THE INSTITUTE EMPLOYEES THE BENEFIT OF THE BOARD'S RETIREMENT AND HOSPITALIZATION PROGRAMS.

OTHER THAN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION PAYING CERTAIN BILLS OUTLINED ABOVE THE BOARD HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE OPERATION OF THE ART INSTITUTE, DR. HODGE, TAKES HIS DIRECTION FROM THE INSTITUTE'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND IS RESPONSIBLE ONLY TO THEM.

MR. BOYCE AND I SUGGEST THAT THE ALPENA MUSEUM ASSOCIATION CHANGE ITS CHARTER AND BY-LAWS TO BECOME THE ASSOCIATION RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OPERATION OF JESSE BESSER MUSEUM. ITS BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHOULD BE ENLARGED TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF PERSONS INTERESTED IN HISTORICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY AND ARTIFACTS, ART (PAINTING, SCULPTURE, ETC.) AND POSSIBLY PERFORMING ARTS AS WELL AS PERSONS INTERESTED IN A BROAD SPECTRUM OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

JB

IN ADDITION THE ALPENA MUSEUM ASSOCIATION SHOULD DEVELOP A LIST OF DUES PAYING MEMBERS.

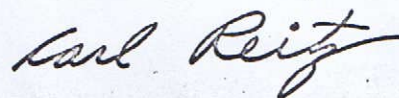
THE ALPENA MUSEUM ASSOCIATION WILL ENTER INTO A LONG-TERM LEASE FOR THE JESSE BESSER MUSEUM BUILDING WITH THE ALPENA PUBLIC SCHOOLS. THE ANNUAL RENTAL TO BE \$1.00 PLUS OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS THAT MAY BE INCURRED OR ASSUMED BY ALPENA PUBLIC SCHOOLS. I WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN CONSIDERATION FROM THE ALPENA PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR THE \$300,000 PLUS THEY RECEIVED IN MATCHING MONEY FROM THE STATE WHEN THE MUSEUM WAS BUILT. RECOGNIZING THE \$300,000 PLUS WINDFALL THAT ALPENA PUBLIC SCHOOLS RECEIVED IT SHOULD FURNISH SOME SERVICES SUCH AS SNOW REMOVAL, LAWN MAINTENANCE, ETC. AT NO COST.

THE LEASE SHOULD COVER SUFFICIENT LAND AREA FOR ADEQUATE PARKING AND A NEW EXHIBIT BUILDING WHEN AND IF NEEDED. AT SOME POINT THE MUSEUM WILL REQUIRE STORAGE SPACE IN ORDER TO KEEP SHIFTING AND CHANGING ITS EXHIBITS.

THE FUNDING OF THE ASSOCIATION'S EXPENSES WILL BE PROVIDED BY A COMMITMENT FROM BESSER FOUNDATION AND JESSE BESSER FUND. THE BESSER FOUNDATION (ASSUMING IT WILL BE THE SUCCESSOR FOUNDATION TO JESSE BESSER FUND) WILL RETAIN THE RIGHT TO APPROVE ANNUAL BUDGET REQUESTS AND MUST SATISFY ITSELF THAT THE MUSEUM ASSOCIATION CONDUCTS ITSELF IN SUCH A MANNER AS NOT TO JEOPARDIZE IT OR THE BESSER FOUNDATION WITH RESPECT TO INCOME TAX REGULATIONS GOVERNING CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS.

IF YOU APPROVE OF THIS COURSE OF ACTION KINDLY SIGNIFY YOUR APPROVAL BELOW AND I WILL PASS COPIES TO BESSER FOUNDATION AND ALPENA MUSEUM ASSOCIATION AS YOUR REQUEST TO EMBARK UPON THIS ACTIVITY.

SINCERELY YOURS,



'APPROVED FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION BY:
ALPENA MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
AND BESSER FOUNDATION

