

FRIENDS of the BARNES FOUNDATION

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FRIENDS OF THE BARNES FOUNDATION URGES GOVERNOR TO GIVE BACK \$30 MILLION RESERVED FOR PHILADELPHIA BARNES PORK BARREL PROJECT IN SUPPORT OF HARRISBURG ARTS RALLY

(MERION STATION, July 14) Today hundreds of Pennsylvania arts activists will rally in the Capitol Rotunda in the Pennsylvania State House in Harrisburg. Friends of the Barnes Foundation supports the efforts to secure funding for the arts in Pennsylvania, beginning with a “give back” of the \$30,000,000 currently held in reserve for one single project: a Philadelphia Barnes, widely understood to be a huge Philly-style pork barrel project.

Friends of the Barnes Foundation Steering Committee member, Evelyn Yaari said, “For even a penny of these taxpayer funds to be used toward the needless, destructive dismantling of the Barnes art collection at the behest of a powerful clique is crime enough. For it to occur while hundreds of arts, culture, and historical institutions flounder and gasp for funding and scores of Pennsylvanians lose their jobs is obscene. Governor Rendell must let go of the \$30,000,000 of taxpayer money he pledged toward the deeply-flawed Barnes project. He should return the money for allocation to statewide arts and culture and drop the Barnes move now.”

Since the Barnes Foundation Trustees got Court permission for the move from Merion to Philadelphia in 2004, a chorus of writers in the international press has decried the plan. The current economic situation magnifies how the move needlessly imperils not only the Barnes Foundation, but countless other regional arts institutions. Local public officials, including candidate for Governor Jim Gerlach, State Senator Daylin Leach and Representative Mike Gerber fully support the Friends’ mission of permanent preservation of the Barnes Foundation as an intact cultural site in its historic home.

Additional information is available at <http://www.barnesfriends.org>

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