



Group Makes Last-Ditch Plea to DRPA to Stop Barnes Move

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by KYW's Hadas Kuznits

A group that opposes moving the Barnes Foundation from Merion, Pa. to Philadelphia attended a Delaware River Port Authority board meeting on Wednesday to try to get the DRPA to reconsider allocating funds for the move.

The "Friends of the Barnes Foundation" showed up at the monthly DRPA meeting with protest signs. Sandy Bressler was one of about a dozen people asking the board to reconsider the \$500,000 they pledged to help fund the Barnes Foundation's move from Merion to Philadelphia:

"DRPA funds should not be used to dismantle a national cultural treasure."

Her colleague Costa Rodriguez said the project is sure to be a money-sucker:

"Four to five-hundred million dollars are spent for this move. It's ridiculous! Taxpayer money!"

(Bressler:) "This project is not in the public interest. The Barnes is a major economic asset of Merion and Montgomery County."

Rodriguez argued most visitors to the Barnes usually travel through Philadelphia anyway, so the city would be getting minimal benefit by moving the art collection into town:

"Paris has Versailles right outside the city. Rome has Vatican City."

Some in the group suggested a bus service between the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Barnes' current location.

The board agreed to consider the group's plea.

(Photo by KYW's Hadas Kuznits)