

FRIENDS of the BARNES FOUNDATION

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MEDIA ADVISORY/PHOTO OPPORTUNITY OF PROTESTORS AT BARNES FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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PROTESTORS OPPOSE BARNES GALLERY CLOSING WITH RALLY SUNDAY JULY 3 AT 10 AM

(MERION STATION, PA, U.S.A. – July 2, 2011) **Friends of the Barnes Foundation** members will gather at the Barnes gates on **Sunday, July 3, 2011 at 10 am** to protest the closing of the Merion galleries. The citizen advocates for preservation of the Barnes Merion complex as a **National Historic Landmark** will take the occasion to speak out against the closing of the galleries, the plan to dismantle the historic, integrated setting of art, architecture, and horticulture revered by people around the world, and the misleading information issued by Barnes Foundation administrators about the widely-discredited plan.

Since 2005, Friends of the Barnes Foundation has organized opposition to the plan to transfer the art collection of Albert C. Barnes from the purpose-built gallery building designed by Paul Philippe Cret in Merion to a massive, costly structure on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia, less than five miles away. Several members of the group are petitioners in a legal challenge currently under review by **Judge Stanley Ott**, in Montgomery County Orphans' Court. On **August 1**, West Chester, PA attorney **Samuel C. Stretton** will present the case in **Oral Arguments** before Judge Ott.

Friends of the Barnes Foundation is an organization of citizen advocates whose mission is the permanent preservation of the Barnes Foundation in Merion, a nationally significant cultural and historic site of art, architecture, and horticultural bequeathed to the people of the world by Albert and Laura Barnes. For more information, visit <http://www.barnesfriends.org>

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