

FRIENDS of the BARNES FOUNDATION

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BARNES FOUNDATION STAGES POLITICAL THEATER FOR SPONSORS AND POLITICOS DESPITE LEGAL CHALLENGE TO THE BARNES MOVE

MERION STATION, PA, U.S.A. – Sept. 15, 2011) A lawsuit pending in Montgomery County Orphan’s Court that challenges the dismantling of the Barnes Foundation in Merion is inspiring more political theater by the Barnes Foundation administration. Today at 2pm Barnes Executive Director Derek Gillman presented as a done deal – the move of the Barnes Foundation to downtown Philadelphia – something that is currently in litigation.

The lawsuit currently under review by Montgomery County Orphan’s Court **Judge Stanley R. Ott** contests the legality of the proposed move based on new evidence that the Court was misled in earlier hearings. The complainant in the case is Friends of the Barnes Foundation, advocates for permanent preservation of the Barnes Merion site and other petitioners, represented by **Samuel C. Stretton, Esq.**

Friends of the Barnes Foundation Steering Committee member Evelyn Yaari commented on the Barnes Foundation’s press conference today. “This announcement is just another piece of theater, performed in front of political puppet masters and their wealthy, elitist supporters. They claim that the proposed move would make the Barnes more accessible to everyone, but the proposed admission price of \$20 is among the highest entrance fees in the country. This might help offset the huge budget of the Parkway operation, but it makes the art inaccessible to the people of modest means that Dr. Barnes wanted his collection to serve. Meanwhile, by

dismantling Merion, the Barnes Board is trying to run a steamroller over the unique Barnes site that is revered around the world and where the cost of operations are moderate and sustainable. This is a picture of what happens when arrogance and short-term political gain blind influential people to everything but their lust for the Barnes treasure. Those involved as ‘benefactors’ feel entitled to the social benefits of philanthropy, but in this instance, they couldn’t be more wrong. They deserve public scorn, not admiration. The Barnes Foundation in Merion is part of the country’s cultural heritage. It wasn’t intended to be moved around like a pawn on a political chess board.”

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Friends of the Barnes Foundation is an international organization of citizens, artists, educators, museum professionals, historic preservationists, and others whose mission is the permanent preservation of the Barnes Foundation in its historic Merion, Pennsylvania setting. Additional information is available at www.barnesfoundation.org