

# CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS GROUP

September 22, 2008

Governor David A. Paterson  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

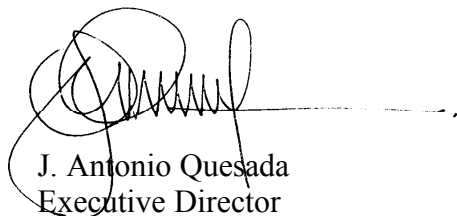
On behalf of the 34 members of the Cultural Institutions Group (CIG), we urge you to sign A.9683-A/S.6721-A., the "Nonprofit Homeland Security Preparedness Study Act," which was delivered to your office on September 15, 2008.

The legislation directs the state office of homeland security to study the efficacy of existing local, state and federal programs providing assistance to non-profit organizations. Additional security monies are needed to compensate for the increase in protection costs affecting cultural institutions and other cultural organizations, which are struggling to meet a host of new costs related to security, visitor safety and maintenance in the post-9/11 environment. Lack of adequate funding will impact the safety and security of our institutions, the public, the employees, and the rich cultural treasures many of these institutions hold.

The 34 members of the Cultural Institutions Group are important public spaces that provide multi-purpose educational and cultural enrichment functions in communities throughout New York City. All of our institutions are stewards of landmark buildings that host millions of residents, visitors, and school children each year. Their prominence makes them potential targets for terrorist activity. Last year alone, our institutions hosted more than 26 million visitors, and this legislation is essential to ensuring that we are doing all we can to keep them safe

This legislation has no state budgetary impact, and indeed may save the state money by identifying additional untapped federal resources or proposing greater efficiencies in existing programs. We urge you to sign the Nonprofit Homeland Security Preparedness Study Act.

Sincerely,



J. Antonio Quesada  
Executive Director

Arnold Lehman  
Chair

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JULIAN ZUGAZAGOITIA, VICE CHAIR

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