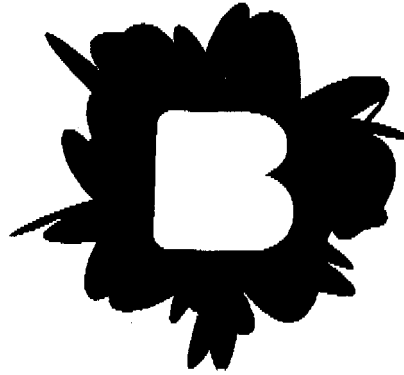


March 26, 2009



Memorandum of Support

The Brooklyn Institute of Arts & Sciences (the Brooklyn Museum) supports the "non-profit homeland security preparedness act" (A.1247/S.1743) which will establish a New York State non-profit homeland security grant program. This legislation is critical to non-profit organizations, such as arts and cultural organizations that serve an important function in communities and provide services to thousands of residents and visitors from across the nation and the world each year.

Today's climate has increased security concerns among visitors and for public institutions in general. Non-profit organizations, such as arts and cultural organizations are important public spaces that provide multi-purpose educational and cultural enrichment functions in communities throughout New York. Arts and cultural institutions in Brooklyn, many of whom are stewards of landmark buildings, are world-renowned and host thousands of residents, visitors, and school children each year. Their prominence makes them potential targets for terrorist activity. The Brooklyn Museum hosted more than 400,000 visitors in FY 2008, and this volume of activity demands expanded security in order to allow the Museum to oversee the safety of its visitors, and its world-class collections.

New York is recognized throughout the nation and the world for its arts and cultural institutions. Given the uncertainty of federal funding, a New York State fund is critically important to ensure organizations have adequate resources to address security needs. The Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences (the Brooklyn Museum) supports the passage of the "non-profit homeland security preparedness act" (A.1247/S.1743).

Brooklyn Museum

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