

Arnold Lehman
Director

June 12, 2009



Dear Friends:

I am writing today to bring you up to date on the Museum's progress in addressing the current economic crisis. As previously reported, we undertook a number of cost-saving measures, including ones that had a direct impact on our employees. We implemented a freeze of vacant positions starting this past February; offered a voluntary separation package to all employees; asked our more highly-paid, non-union staff members to take sliding scale salary cuts beginning in July; implemented a one-week, all-staff furlough to be taken during the months of July and August; and instituted a moratorium on staff travel. Additionally, and since my report to you in April, our Trustees have committed to helping raise additional funds toward reducing our overall deficit for this year and the next.

These measures were taken in the sincere hope of reducing personnel costs sufficiently to avoid or minimize any layoffs, while keeping the Museum a vibrant and meaningful destination for our visiting public. While we are fortunate that, as a result of the Trustee fundraising commitment and the other significant personnel expense reductions, we have been able to limit the number of layoffs, it was nonetheless necessary to release twelve staff members from departments across the Museum. These layoffs, together with the frozen positions and departures due to voluntary buy-outs, have resulted in an approximate 10% reduction in the level of the Museum's work force.

We deeply regret that circumstances have required us to take these measures that affect our valued employees and their families, but believe that they are necessary to keep the Brooklyn Museum open, active and a place of tremendous service to this community and all our visitors. As ever, I thank you again for your support of the Museum and encourage you to visit us often in the coming months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arnold', written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brooklyn Museum

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