

Please return eventually.
Thank you if you would be interested in this L.G.

Chouinard Art Institute

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January 28, 1959

Dear Laura:

Delighted to have your "fightin' " letter--you sound as though you had taken the bit in your teeth and were ready to run. More power to you, and all those in Santa Fe who wish to correct the mistakes of the past.

I do not contend that my recommendations are the final answer to the problem. In fact, I think I made it fairly clear that legal brains were needed to evaluate the puzzle and seek an answer which would be within the legal structure of the State and could be acceptable to those whose interests are at stake. I feel sure that this can be done.

For example, if the Commission as recommended, cannot be established, it is then possible to set up a system of Regents similar to that in the University. Such a body is empowered to enter into contracts and obligate itself with other individuals and organizations. Such an arrangement exists between the Regents of the University of California and the U.S. Government in the operation of Los Alamos. The University of New Mexico enters into contracts and agreements with individuals and organizations, which in turn become binding upon the people of New Mexico. I believe that a similar arrangement can be worked out for the Museum, whereby the Regents can enter into a contract with the School of Indian Arts Fund or other agency which would bring together the interests of the agency and the Museum on terms satisfactory to each. In addition, the custody and authority would be clearly defined.

I believe the ultimate purpose of a better museum operation can be achieved if the people of the State want it. If they are lethargic and permit the decisions to be made by individuals without knowledge and experience, the end may well be another chaotic misunderstanding such as has occurred in the past. I sometimes wonder if the report could ever have been expected to provide a solution. It is really only an index of the problems and the decisions which need to be reached.

Fondest greetings to all. I go east on the 14th of February and will be in New York for two weeks so can report to everyone there on progress. I have a fairly complete clipping file now!

Yours,

Wilder

WILDER