

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 6, 1969

Dear Miss Gilpin:

Time has a way of moving on and with it come changes. Sometimes these are difficult accommodations to make because of accompanying trauma; sometimes the changes are not accompanied by challenge so we enjoy the respite but search for the next mountain to climb; sometimes the change catapults us into a larger sphere and we hope desperately to be able to meet the new opportunity. Since we have been in touch because of the Nancy Kefauver days of the Art in the Embassies Program, I have had experiences in each of these areas, as you quite likely have.

You must know that as Nancy and I valued our relationship with you, I continue to do so. And this is why I am prompted to take this Saturday night to write as I have wanted to over the past months. I want to keep in touch because what you are doing matters. Hopefully, we can continue to work together on the appropriate occasion.

As you no doubt know, on June 11 President Nixon appointed Leonard Garment as his Special Consultant with particular responsibility in significant areas, including the arts. On July 11 I was fortunate to join Len as his Assistant for Cultural Affairs.

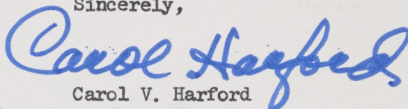
We are particularly concerned with providing a White House cultural contact which private organizations and Government agencies can call upon for information necessary to implement effective programs. When asked for help, we try to be the catalyst toward coordination. We are also exploring the need, value and feasibility of increased White House representation in appropriate cultural affairs, and are hoping to increase the attention to cultural sensitivities in the visits of foreign heads of state. At the same time, we serve as liaison with Government agencies which have programs in the visual and performing arts.

As you would readily recognize, there are many dimensions to these facets. I hope that whenever you feel like sharing your perceptivity that we may have the benefit of hearing from you, not only in the areas I have mentioned, but in others to which you feel that we should address ourselves.

The President's quiet appreciation for the arts is of course apparent or our office would not exist to support this new White House approach to respected responsibilities for cultural affairs.

I hope that all is well with you as you continue your vital contribution to the development of the arts in our country. With every best wish for all that you are doing,

Sincerely,



Carol V. Harford
Assistant for Cultural Affairs

Miss Laura Gilpin
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