

January 29, 1980

Dr. Paul Bedoukian, Ph.D.
96 Warncke Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

Dear Dr. Bedoukian:

Thank you for your letter dated October 29, 1979, which was received on January 14, 1980, and was presented to the Diocesan Council on January 18, 1980, for their consideration.

We are generally in agreement with the outline of the project you have suggested. One of the areas of concern to the Diocesan Council is the determination and replacement of the Museum's Board of Directors and its relationship to the Diocesan Council.

Based on past experience, the Council has determined it will not enter into agreements with autonomous corporations or groups.

If you find that this provision can be overcome, please proceed to draft bylaws that may be reviewed by our legal counsel.

We encourage you to proceed so that this exciting project can become a reality by:

- a) A document prepared by your attorneys for the approval of the Diocesan Council.
- b) Forwarding any written legal opinions regarding this project which you have previously indicated has been received by you.
- c) Written government opinions, if any, as referred to in your letter.

Thank you for your interest and concern, and we hope to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

PAUL BEDOUKIAN, PH. D.
96 WARNCKE ROAD
WILTON, CONN. 06897

Rec'd
1/14/80
Reviewed
1/17/80

October 29, 1979

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
630 Second Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10016

Your Grace:

On two occasions recently, I was in Detroit and had the opportunity of discussing with Father Paren and Mr. Alex Manoogian the establishment of an Armenian Museum in New York.

At the suggestion of Father Paren, this letter is being written so that it can be presented to your Diocesan Assembly at the next meeting. It outlines the long-range plans for the Museum.

In essence, the Armenian Museum will be a corporation, with all the advantages of a tax-free institution, governed by a Council or Board of Governors who would be responsible for the finances of the Museum. The Council will perpetuate itself by the election of a new member upon the death of one, and by the election of new members when desirable. The Museum will be run as a typical American museum, e.g., the Metropolitan Museum of Art or the American Numismatic Society. It will, of course, be subject to governmental regulations.

It will be an ethnic Museum--its sole purpose the preservation and study of Armenian culture. If for any reason the Museum has to dissolve, its assets will go to the Armenian Church.

After lengthy discussions with my attorneys and government authorities, it was decided to have a council of five in the beginning. It would be helpful if the Diocesan Assembly would appoint someone to be voted into the Council. Mr. Manoogian and I will also be on the Council. Under consideration are two others whose presence on the Council would be beneficial to the Museum.

PAUL BEDOUKIAN, PH. D.

96 WARNCKE ROAD
WILTON, CONN. 06897

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian -2-

October 29, 1979

I appeal to the Diocesan Council to allow us to rent the small hall (the present Diocese Museum space) to be used as the temporary location for the Armenian Museum of America, Inc. We are willing to pay a suitable rental for say a period of five years. Hopefully, beyond that period, the Museum will require much larger quarters.

May I add that it is also the purpose of the Armenian Museum to arrange exhibits for Armenian centers in America or elsewhere.

Time is of the essence. A few more years of delay and it will be impossible to establish a worthwhile Armenian Museum in America. We have now enough material and resources to get started. What we lack is space.

If you wish, we can discuss all these matters at any time convenient for you so that the groundwork can be laid for a definite answer at your next Diocesan Assembly meeting.

Respectfully yours,

P. Bedoukian

November 6, 1981

Mr. Alex Manoogian
32 Winthrop Place
Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236

Dear Mr. Manoogian:

We are in receipt of your letter dated October 13, 1981 regarding the establishment of an Armenian Museum at the Diocesan Headquarters in New York City.

Your letter of October 13, 1981 was considered by the Diocesan Council at its meeting held on Friday, October 23, 1981. The Council responded affirmatively to the request for a museum with the details of the agreement to be worked out to the mutual satisfaction of all parties involved; including such items as location, Museum board bylaws, security, lease terms, etc.

A Diocesan Committee has been appointed to discuss further details for this project. Please appoint a committee in the name of the museum to be established and we shall contact for a convenient date for both committees to meet.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Tprkom Manoogian
Primate

November 10, 1981

Mr. Edward Chapian
501 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1803
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Chapian:

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian has received a letter dated October 13, 1981 from Mr. Alex Manoogian requesting permission to rent space at the Diocesan Headquarters for the purposes of establishing an Armenian Museum.

The letter stated that a seven to nine member board would be formed with the Primate as President. It also stipulated that in the case of dissolution, all the assets of the corporation will be transferred to the Diocese, but during its existence the Museum would operate as an independent entity.

The above was presented to the Diocesan Council on Friday, October 23, 1981 and they agreed affirmatively to the idea with details regarding lease terms, bylaws, security, etc., to be worked out.

The Primate was asked to form a Diocesan Committee to study the pertinent details for such a project and make concrete recommendations for action. The Committee appointed by His Eminence consists of:

Mr. Edward Chapian	Attorney
Father Mampre Kouzoufian	Chairman of Diocesan Council
Frank Avakian Stoneson	Executive Director

Your acceptance of this position is most vital and necessary to the success of this committee and we hope you shall reply favorably.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Avakian Stoneson
Executive Director

August 3, 1983

Lynch Museum Services
1601 Sherman Avenue
Pennsauken, NJ 08110

Gentlemen:

The Diocese is seriously considering the development of a small museum in its Complex in which to exhibit its donated artifacts and treasures representing the heritage and culture of the Armenian Church and its people.

Your professional expertise would be most appreciated in helping us to establish our goal.

Please arrange to send us any literature available from your Company and how contact can be made with a representative from your firm to further discuss our needs.

We await your prompt response.

Respectfully yours,

Frank Avakian Stoneson
Executive Director

Mrs. Nora Ordjanian
FAS:mb

August 3, 1983

ORD Manufacturing Co.
P.O. Box 479-A
Monroe, NC 28110

Gentlemen:

The Diocese is seriously considering the development of a small museum in its Complex in which to exhibit its donated artifacts and treasures representing the heritage and culture of the Armenian Church and its people.

Your professional expertise would be most appreciated in helping us to establish our goal.

Please arrange to send us any literature available from your Company and how contact can be made with a representative from your firm to further discuss our needs.

We await your prompt response.

Respectfully yours,

Frank Avakian Stoneson
Executive Director

bc: Mrs. Nora Ordjanian

FAS:mb

August 3, 1983

Vincent Ciulla Design Associates, Inc.
66 Greene Street
New York, NY 10012

Gentlemen:

The Diocese is seriously considering the development of a small museum in its Complex in which to exhibit its donated artifacts and treasures representing the heritage and culture of the Armenian Church and its people.

Your professional expertise would be most appreciated in helping us to establish our goal.

Please arrange to send us any literature available from your Company and how contact can be made with a representative from your firm to further discuss our needs.

We await your prompt response.

Respectfully yours,

Frank Avakian Stoneson
Executive Director

bc: Mrs. Nora Ordjanian

FAS:mb

August 3, 1983

Litelab
76 9th Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10013

Gentlemen:

The Diocese is seriously considering the development of a small museum in its Complex in which to exhibit its donated artifacts and treasures representing the heritage and culture of the Armenian Church and its people.

Your professional expertise would be most appreciated in helping us to establish our goal.

Please arrange to send us any literature available from your Company and how contact can be made with a representative from your firm to further discuss our needs.

We await your prompt response.

Respectfully yours,

Frank Avakian Stoneson
Executive Director

bc: Mrs. Nora Ordjanian

FAS:nb

August 3, 1983

Lighting Services Inc.
150 East 58th Street
New York, NY 10155

Gentlemen:

The Diocese is seriously considering the development of a small museum in its Complex in which to exhibit its donated artifacts and treasures representing the heritage and culture of the Armenian Church and its people.

Your professional expertise would be most appreciated in helping us to establish our goal.

Please arrange to send us any literature available from your Company and how contact can be made with a representative from your firm to further discuss our needs.

We await your prompt response.

Respectfully yours,

Frank Avakian Stoneson
Executive Director

bc: Mrs. Nora Ordjanian

FAS:eb

For Specific Date Sheet
& Letter of Agreement see 456

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St. John's Armenian Church

OF GREATER DETROIT

REV. FR. HAJK DONIKIAN
ASSISTANT PASTOR

FR. PAREN AVE. 22001
PASTOR

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY
SOUTHFIELD, MI 48075

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY

January 19, 1984

December 21, 1983

Ms. Anoush Papelian
Heritage Collection Committee
St. John's Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, MI 48075

Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Avenue
Dear Ms. Papelian:

We received your correspondence dated December 21, 1983 regarding the Armenian Heritage Collection.

Your proposal was read and discussed with members of the Strawberry Festival Committee and it was recommended that presentation of such an outstanding exhibit would become more effective if given at a future date rather than during this year.

We thank you for your response to our inquiry and shall contact your Committee in the future.

showing respect and

Respectfully yours,

We look forward to hearing from you very soon.

On behalf of the Armenian Heritage Collection Committee,

Sincerely yours,
Frank Avakian Stoneson
Director of Finance

Anoush Papelian
Heritage Collection Committee

FAS:mb

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St. John's Armenian Church
OF GREATER DETROIT



REV. FR. HAIK DONIKIAN
ASSISTANT PASTOR

VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
PASTOR

VERY REV. FR. PAKEN ANOUSHIAN
STUDENT PRIEST

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY

★ PHONE: 569-3405 ★

SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

December 21, 1983

Mr. Frank Stoneson
Executive Director
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Dear Mr. Stoneson,

We are very pleased to be given the opportunity to present the Armenian Heritage Collection in New York for the Diocese once again. For your convenience we have enclosed our "General Information Sheets" which should provide the basic data needed for initiating the performance.

Since our only contact with you has been by phone we would appreciate a prompt written reply from you with all of the particulars concerning the proposed showing in New York.

We look forward to hearing from you very soon. On behalf of The Armenian Heritage Committee, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Anoush Papelian

Anoush Papelian
Heritage Collection Committee

GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET

THE ARMENIAN HERITAGE COLLECTION IS SHOWN NOT AS A FASHION SHOW BUT AS A DRAMATIC PRESENTATION, A STUDIED STEP BACK INTO ARMENIAN HISTORY THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF DRESS. THE TWENTY-SIX COSTUMES ARE SHOWN IN ALTERNATING SCENES ON TWO SEPARATED STAGES; EACH WITH THEIR OWN REGIONAL CUSTOMS USING APPROPRIATE PROPS. THE PRESENTATION, WHICH LASTS SIXTY FIVE MINUTES IS ACCOMPANIED BY TRADITIONAL ARMENIAN MUSIC, SLIDES OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS, AND A RUNNING NARRATION ON TAPE. (THE COLLECTION MUST BE PRESENTED IN ITS ESTABLISHED FORMAT, i.e., BACK PROJECTION, SPECIAL EFFECT LIGHTING, SOUND TRACK AND STAGING.)

1. EXPENSES

- A. For the use of the costumes, props, tapes, projector and slides, shipping and insurance, a fee of \$1000.00 will be charged for a single performance. Any additional performances will be charged at the rate of \$250.00 each, provided that they are held in the same place using the same models.
- B. Travel expenses and accommodations (lodging and food) for four women accompanying the Armenian Heritage Collection shall be borne by the sponsoring organization. It is necessary to provide accommodations for three nights preceding the performance and for the evening of the performance itself. In the event of a second performance on the following day, an additional night's accommodation must be provided.
- C. It is required that you purchase from us copyrighted program covers at our cost of \$.20 per copy. The paper stock number and printing ink color will be supplied so that you can prepare your own inserts.
- D. In addition to the above expenses, keep in mind that you must have the professional advice and services of a qualified technician or technicians who will be able to carry out the lighting, sound, and projection necessary for this presentation. The equipment involved is listed on page three of the Specific Data Sheet.

THE PRESENTATION SHOULD BE AN EVENING AFFAIR OR ONE THAT IS HELD IN A ROOM THAT CAN BE TOTALLY DARKENED, KEEPING IN MIND THAT IT OFTEN LIGHTS UNTIL 9:00 p.m. IN THE SUMMER.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOU CONSIDER THIS PRESENTATION FOR YOUR CITY IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE TWENTY-SIX MODELS WHO WILL. WITHOUT EXCEPTION, ATTEND ALL REHEARSALS: THREE EVENING REHEARSALS AND A FINAL DRESS REHEARSAL ON THE DAY OF THE AFFAIR.

October 10, 1985

Ms. Olympia Shahbaz
167 Columbus Road
Demarest, NJ 07627

Dear Ms. Shahbaz:

We have received your handwritten note on the recent Diocesan Appeal letter sent to you, enquiring about the Cathedral Museum.

The museum houses a variety of items of significance to Armenian culture, paintings, lacework, miniatures, coins, old manuscripts, etc.

The Diocese would be pleased to accept gifts for the museum of any recognized worth of appreciable historical value.

Thank you for your interest, and if we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

With prayers,

Fr. Khajag Barsamian
Vicar General



*Rev. Manoogian -
I am interested in knowing
about your Cathedral Museum.
Although I do not attend
the Cathedral, I am
interested in knowing
what type of items
you have in the
Museum, and what
other things you would
welcome having.*

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DIocese OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA 1630 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016-4885 212 686-0710

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

*Sincerely,
Olympia Shahbaz*

*Olympia Shahbaz
167 Columbus Rd.
Demarest, NJ
07627*

September 1985

Dear Friend:

"The Armenian Church is the unyielding fortress of our fathers' faith." Time and again, those words by Vahan Tekeyan reverberate with victory in our hearts as we think about the birthplace of our spirit, the Armenian Church.

If you care about how your church operates, then how it supports itself must be of concern to you. However, the reality of the Armenian Church is that you are its support. Without your support, St. Vartan Cathedral and the important programs sponsored by the Diocese cannot be sustained and certainly cannot develop.

The Diocese, therefore, has created a fund-raising program which you have already heard about through our first mailing. The program allows the Armenian community to help sustain the various programs of the Diocese, under one umbrella, the Diocesan Annual Appeal. Hopefully, through your generous participation in this Appeal, sufficient funds will be raised to strengthen and improve vital programs such as:

1. Religious Education
2. The Armenian Language Lab and Resource Center
3. Social Services
4. Bema
5. ACYOA
6. St. Vartan Camp
7. Clergy recruitment and education
8. Church choir
9. The Cathedral Museum
10. The Data Center
11. Youth Ministry

As Armenians we must realize that the success of these programs are our assurance for the future that what has been developed over generations by our forefathers shall continue with our youth.

We look forward to a positive response for this need by your generous contribution. Please send your gift now if you have not already done so.

Prayerfully,
Abp. Torkom Manoogian
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

July 3, 1991

Mr. Alex Yemenidjian
Lincy Foundation
9333 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 302
Beverly Hills, California 90210

Dear Mr. Yemenidjian:

The Headquarters of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America has recently inherited a major collection of art - 66 original works of Arshile Gorky left to us by the artist's sister. Along with 115 works of Rupen Nakian already in Diocesan possession, we have suddenly acquired quite a collection.

It is our fervent hope to convert a floor at Diocesan Headquarters into a museum/gallery. Due to the calibre and value of the collection, we want to see it professionally planned and designed and are anxious to give the collection the beautiful showcase it deserves.

Towards that end, we are in dire need of an endowment that would not only help house the works properly but would provide for their care and maintenance as well as for an ongoing security system.

We thought that the Lincy Foundation might be able to provide such assistance or that perhaps Mr. Kerkorian himself might choose to become involved to perpetuate the memory of his parents. Such a gift would have a great and enduring impact, making it possible for some of the best works of 20th century art to be preserved and available and at rest in the spiritual home of the artists, the Armenian Church.

I would be very grateful for your gracious consideration of this matter and look forward to hearing from you.

God bless you and may His Spirit imbue you and your Foundation with wisdom and grace.

With prayers,

Bishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate

July 3, 1991

Mr. Alex Yemenidjian
Lincy Foundation
9333 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 302
Beverly Hills, California 90210

Dear Mr. Yemenidjian:

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God bless you and may His Spirit imbue you and your Foundation with wisdom and grace.

With prayers,

Bishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate

July 3, 1991

Mr. Larry Gagosian
Gagosian Gallery
980 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Mr. Gagosian:

I tried to reach you at your office a few times but was unable to get through and felt it best to drop you a note.

The Diocese of the Armenian Church of America has just inherited a major collection of art and it is our fervent hope to convert a floor at Diocesan Headquarters into a museum/gallery. Due to the calibre and value of the collection, we want to see it professionally planned and designed and are anxious to give the collection the beautiful showcase it deserves.

Towards that end, I would be very grateful for any suggestions and advice you could provide as an established professional.

I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Syraun Palvetzian
Executive Director