

The Museum of Modern Art

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A delegation from The Museum of Modern Art, New York, presented petitions signed by more than 3500 people to leaders of the New York State Legislature today (February 26) supporting Governor Wilson's request for \$30.5 million for aid to the arts.

Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd, President of the Museum and a Co-Chairman of the Concerned Citizens for the Arts, which has organized hundreds of arts organizations to lobby in Albany for the bill, headed the Modern Museum representation. Richard E. Oldenburg, Director of the Museum, John Limpert, Jr., Director of Membership and Development, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director of Public Information, accompanied her and presented the petitions to Senators Anderson, Conklin, Zaretski, Marchi, Ohrenstein and Bellamy; and to Assemblymen Duryea, Kingston, Steingut, Stephens and Blumenthal. Names will be gathered daily and sent to the legislators in the coming weeks, Museum officials said.

"The Museum of Modern Art serves a wide and diverse audience," Mrs. Rockefeller noted, "as can be seen from the addresses of the people who signed petitions in our galleries last week. They came from Albany, Warwick, Oswego, Utica, Syracuse, Valley Stream, and dozens of other towns and cities. Other people throughout the state see our shows when they travel, and of course thousands of New York State students regularly use the research facilities in our library and study centers. More than ⁷⁰40% of our members are residents of New York State.

"Private, corporate and public support for the arts, working in concert, seem the only viable way cultural institutions in our state can survive and meet the demands of our growing public. New York State has led the nation in its recognition of the need for state support of the arts and our Council on the Arts has done an outstanding job in distributing these funds in the interests of the people of the entire state. We are urging all our visitors to express their support of an increased appropriation that will be made available to cultural institutions as direct support."

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information.