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THE
NEW YORKER
25 WEST 43RD STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10036



EDITORIAL OFFICES
(212) 840-3700

Dear Alanna:

Here is a copy of my note to Ed, along
with an annotated copy of your letter to Herb Rick-
man. You must acquire an editor and proof-reader !

Yours ever,

Bruce

December 20th, 1979

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THE
NEW YORKER

25 WEST 43RD STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10036



EDITORIAL OFFICES
(212) 840-3700

Dear Ed:

This is to endorse the sentiments expressed in the attached letter, which Alanna Heiss sent to Herb Rickman. (My copy of the letter bears a certain number of corrections; it turns out that my beloved Alanna is a shaky grammarian and that somebody else is a poor typist!)

I know that the Institute for Art and Urban Resources has value in your eyes; we remember the honor you did us in holding one of your inaugural ceremonies at P.S. 1, in Long Island City. Now the life of the Institute has been thrown into jeopardy by the fact that our Manhattan headquarters, the Clocktower on Leonard Street, is in danger of being taken away from us. It is ideally unsuitable as space for anything except an art gallery and studio-space and it would cost the city a great deal of money to make it over for any ordinary office purpose; what is more important in my eyes is that the Clocktower has achieved fame as an putpost of contemporary art and is known for its exhibits not only from coast to coast but throughout Europe. It stands as an outward and visible sign of the

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high estate of art in this city and, as such, it is also proof of the degree of interest that your administration is prepared to demonstrate on behalf of cultural activities in general. It would be a cruel irony indeed if at this very moment, with visitors to the Clocktower coming from thousands of miles away, it were to be suddenly destroyed. You are of course absolutely correct in your determination that the city should make full use of the property that it already possesses, but here is a case where the city might risk damage to its excellent reputation in the world of art in the very act of doing good.

Please spare the Clocktower! I know that Henry Geldzahler, Barbaralee Diamondstein, and other members of your administration and of your Committee for Cultural Affairs join me in this plea. We have much good work to do together in the many years of your administration that lie ahead; the Clocktower deserves to be your beacon.

Yours ever,

Brendan
Brendan Gill

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THE INSTITUTE FOR **ART AND URBAN RESOURCES**, INC. EXECUTIVE OFFICE: THE CLOCKTOWER, 108 LEONARD ST., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10013
AREA CODE 212/233-1096 BRENDAN GILL, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ALANNA HEISS, PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PROJECTS: WORKSPACE / PROJECT STUDIOS ONE (P.S. 1) / THE CLOCKTOWER / NEW URBAN LANDSCAPES / SURPLUS MATERIALS

ADVISORY BOARD

December 7, 1979

Mr. Herbert Rickman
Special Assistant to the Mayor
Mayor's Office
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mr. Rickman,

Two weeks ago, Edward I. Koch presented me with The Mayor's Award for Arts and Culture, principally for my work in organizing and operating The Institute for Art and Urban Resources. The IAUR's two important physical components are The Clocktower and P.S.1. One week ago, we received an eviction notice at The Clocktower from the Department of Real Estate.

At a meeting with Max Kaufmann, Deputy Commissioner of Real Estate, we were told that the Mayor's office had requested the Dept. of Real Estate to provide administrative City Space of their choice--and that their choice was The Clocktower. Before discussing the cultural implications of evicting the Institute, I should like to call to your attention The Clocktower's failing as a suitable space for anyone, let alone for a Veteran's Group. It is the west half of the thirteenth floor of an old City office building at Leonard St. and Broadway. It is inaccessible by elevator other than indirectly by freight elevator. It has no working toilet facilities. Most of the Institute space is used for the artists' studio program and is dingy with little light. It would have to be totally renovated for office use.

The Tower itself, a McKim, Mead and White production, is very beautiful exhibition space but ludicrous for offices. It is a towering white cube with peculiar acoustics and virtually no windows.

The Clocktower is known throughout New York, the U.S.A. and Europe as a most important center of solo exhibitions for contemporary artists.

Opened in March 1972, the Clocktower has been since that time, the site of over one hundred ^{and} twenty-eight shows, including well known artists such as Mark di Suvero and John Chamberlain, as well as unknown artists.

2. The Clocktower is the first alternative space in the U.S. to attract arts funding from the Federal Government; with assistance from the National Endowments for the Arts and New York State Council for the Arts for over \$35,000 of gallery improvements and other physical improvements which have been made to the building over the last seven years. Funding from these

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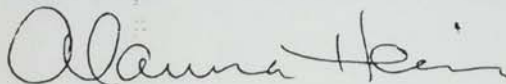
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The City has attracted attention of local and international press. The late Tom Hess in New York Magazine stated, "...the most perfect show of the season is in an old clocktower..." New York Times called the Clocktower, "...an out-post in the sky for the Avant-Garde." Newsweek claimed, "IAUR is a determined patron of young vanguard artists. It is offering the first public showing of drawings and sculpture. The works are a delight and well worth the climb to the Clocktower."

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or most imaginative way of meeting the Veteran's Upgrade Center's need for City Office Space is to dislodge the IAUR from the Clocktower. Surely the City administration has within its physical resources other locations which would satisfy the Veteran's group requirements. This would avoid the needless sacrificing of the interests of our organization and the constituency of artists at the Clocktower which it serves.

By writing to you I hope to enlist your aid in untangling the knot of crossed communications between several city units which has caught us in a potentially grave predicament. Thank you for your attention to this problem.

Sincerely,



Alanna Heiss
President and Executive Director, IAUR, Inc.

cc Brendan Gill
Barbaralee Diamondstein
Allard Lowenstein



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THE INSTITUTE FOR **ART AND URBAN RESOURCES**, INC. EXECUTIVE OFFICE: PROJECT STUDIOS ONE (P.S.1), 46-01 21ST STREET
L.I.C., NEW YORK 11101 AREA CODE 212/784-2084 BRENDAN GILL, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ALANNA HEISS, PRESIDENT
AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PROJECTS: WORKSPACE / PROJECT STUDIOS ONE (P.S.1) / THE CLOCKTOWER / CITY-WIDE EXHIBITIONS

Dear Brendan:

And what, pray tell, is a putpost ?

Yours ever,

Alanna

January 3rd, 1980

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City Hall
New York, New York 10007

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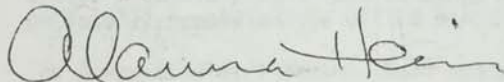
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Barbaralee Diamondstein
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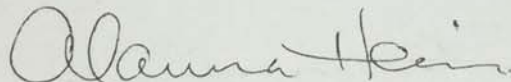
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