



Mr. Robert C. DiMaio
Executive Director
The Artist Archive
www.theartistarchive.org

Re: The Artist Archive Presentation at P.S.163 of the film: **The Art Works of Don Gummer**

Dear Robert:

As you know, I am a member of the Parent Teacher Association and the School Leadership Team (for ease of reference, both the executive board of the PTA and the SLT are collectively referred to herein as the "PTA"), representing the approximately 600 students who attend P.S. 163, the Alfred E. Smith School ("P.S. 163"). The student population at P.S. 163 is majority minority and 60% or more are eligible for the federal free and reduced lunch program.

I had the pleasure to meet you at a very recent PTA meeting and learned about your Artists and Leaders film project, the purpose of which is to encourage parents and children to discuss art because, among other reasons, it fulfills significant community and creative purposes, but is often ignored because many parents feel uncomfortable discussing art with their children as they have no relevant background. At our school, given its demographics noted above, this dynamic is certainly prevalent.

Against this background, and given your excellent short film called *The Art Works of Don Gummer*, your strong commitment to the advancement of our school community's discourse about the arts has led our school community to embrace this project. We are in the process of scheduling a week long program in February 2016 where children, who attend art class one time per week, would be able to, with their parents, watch your short movie with an arts educator who would facilitate a discussion about arts, its critical importance to our society and the future of our children, and allow parents and children to enjoy and discuss art together, including the street art prevalent in our City, without inhibition or fear. What a great asset this will be for our school!

We would also like to recognize the Juilliard School students for composing such a terrific soundtrack for the film, the Broadway Mall Association for promoting arts in our neighborhood and of course Don Gummer for creating the magical art. Each of them is responsible for significant contributions to our community, including preserving the standards that make New York City the cultural center of the world.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rene Kathawala".

Rene Kathawala; rkathawala@orrick.com; cell: (304) 281-7363
Parent-Teacher Association, P.S. 163, The Alfred E. Smith School
P.S. 163 School Leadership Team
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