



April 14, 2010

Dear Museum Director:

I am writing to invite you to join the National Endowment for the Arts in an exciting new initiative - the **Blue Star Museum** program, a collaboration with Blue Star Families' *Operation Appreciation*. Blue Star Families is a non-profit organization that works to support America's military families from all branches of the service.

The goal of the Blue Star Museums program is to offer free admission to museums across the country for active duty military personnel and their families. The initiative will begin on Memorial Day, May 31, 2010 and extend through Labor Day, September 6, 2010.

"Over a million Americans have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, over 900,000 children have said goodbye to a parent at least once since the fighting began, many have endured 2, 3, 4 or more deployments. These families often feel that their sacrifices may seem to go unnoticed. The Blue Star Museum program says to our nation's military families that the arts community recognizes and honors their contribution, by opening the doors to our nation's art treasures to those who have been serving so long and so faithfully. Blue Star Families is thrilled to be a partner with the National Endowment for the Arts in developing and promoting the Blue Star Museum initiative, and hope you will join us in bringing the beauty and inspiration of your collection to military families this summer".
Blue Star Families

We hope you will partner with us in Blue Star Museums* and join us in this effort to share the resources and richness of the arts with military families all across the nation. The process is simple: just send us a copy of the attached Letter of Agreement (LOA) signed by the museum's executive director (or designee) by fax at 202.682.5064 or email at bluestarmuseums@arts.gov by no later than **April 23rd, 2010**. If your institution is already offering a similar program, please complete the Letter of Agreement and return it to the NEA. We will then send you a welcome information package outlining the military IDs which qualified families will use to access the museum.

We plan to announce all participating museums on or before Memorial Day 2010 as the Blue Star Museums Honor Roll and we would be deeply appreciative if you would join us in *Operation Appreciation: Blue Star Museums*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rocco Landesman".

Rocco Landesman
Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts

***Blue Star Museums, List in Formation**

Birmingham Museum of Art
Art Institute of Chicago
Dallas Museum of Art
Detroit Institute of Arts
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
Indianapolis Museum of Art
Los Angeles County Museum of Art
New Orleans Museum of Art

Museum of Modern Art, New York
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk
Please Touch Museum, Philadelphia
Phoenix Art Museum
Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence
San Diego Museum of Art
Queens Museum of Art