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NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

The Federal agency that supports the visual, literary and performing arts to benefit all Americans.

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Visual Arts

January 27, 1995

Matthew Runci President Manufacturing Jewelers & Silversmiths of America One State Street 6th floor Providence, RI 02908

Dear Mr. Runci:

DESIGN—of products, services, communications, and environments—is a strategic national resource whose full potential has yet to be realized.

Certainly, there is a breadth of talent and energy being devoted to enhancing American design excellence, but because efforts are diffused, the message about the value and power of design to help achieve America's economic, social, educational, and environmental goals rarely reaches the appropriate audience, coordination of programs and strategies is difficult, and overall, opportunities to take advantage of design resources simply go unexercised. What is lacking is focus and leverage to maximize design as a national resource.

Responding to this situation, the National Endowment for the Arts is organizing a national forum on design. I hope that you will help us in this important endeavor, and I am writing to ask you to be a member of the planning committee. The planning committee—to be composed of approximately 25 people—will have representatives from the corporate and business community, design and business schools, and federal agencies. The first meeting of the committee is scheduled for March 3-4 in Providence and Newport, RI. The meeting will begin at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, March 3rd, with lunch at the Rhode School of Design in Providence and end with lunch at the home of Senator Claiborne Pell in Newport on Saturday, the 4th. The purpose of the meeting is to develop a program and format for the forum. We want to discuss themes and topics, potential speakers and presentations, and the venue and structure of the forum or series of events.

For further information about the forum and planning meeting and to respond to this invitation, please contact Samina Quraeshi, Director of the Design Program, or Tom Grooms, Program Manager, Federal Design Improvement, at 202/682-5437.

Thank you for your commitment to design excellence and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely, Terand Jane Alexander

Chairman

The Nancy Hanks Center 1100 Pensylvania Ave. NW Washington, DC 20506 202/682-5400