The original documents are located in Box 46, folder "President - Medals Medal of Freedom - Calder, Alexander" of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Grand Rapids. Home town of the 38th President of the United States, Gerald R. Ford. A city of furniture factories, and old-country craftsmen. And a high degree of conservative, pragmatic, "typical mid-America" thinking.

Is this all there is to Grand Rapids? No!

There is another aspect: a dynamic, little-known force. It has become what many believe to be the most influential factor in the surge of civic interest, pride, and cultural appreciation now enveloping the community.

That force is the Arts. Not only the traditional arts of gallery paintings, public square statues, auditorium concerts and legitimate stage productions. But other visible and involving arts. Such as the focal point of the City's fifty-million dollar urban renewal project: Alexander Calder's stabile, "La Grande Vitesse." Standing immediately in front of City Hall, set on a broad expanse of plaza, it already is a traditional gathering place for couples and crowds and causes.

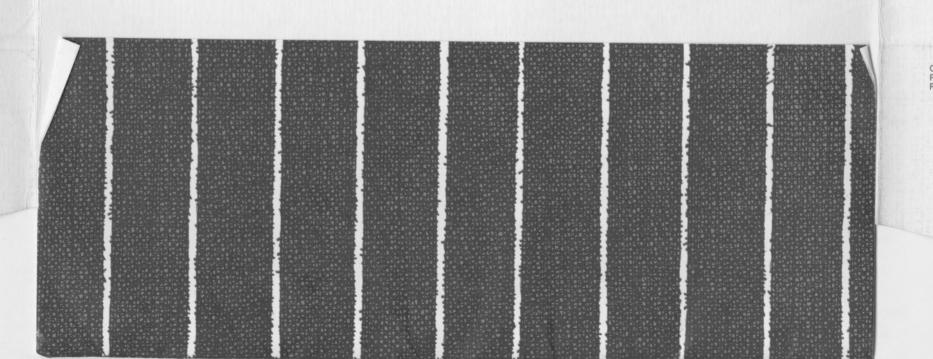
There is an annual Arts Festival on the Calder Plaza that attracts more people than one-third of the population of the City and suburbs. A bigger-than-life series of "Sculpture Off The Pedestal" recently occupied significant plots in the downtown governmental/financial district.

There is a unique earth sculpture in a midcity park. The marvel of a fish ladder on the Grand River is both architecture and sculpture. A new Civic Theatre and new Music Hall also will rise from the flanks of the rapids. And myriad performing groups, art associations and crafts workshops are in unusual abundance in the area.

The Arts represent a regenerating presence in Grand Rapids. Participation in one or more aspects is nearly 100%. Contrary to the perspective allocated to most mid-western communities, the Arts have become a stimulating force here. Not just a sustaining, subtle alternative to the work-a-day world. Even City Hall, with its somber exterior of black marble and glass, is alive inside with paintings, sculpture and prints.

Calder's 42-ton fiery-red stabile was the catalyst of an explosion of artistic energy that has graced and motivated the City in the most unexpected places. Where it is obvious. Where it is influential. Where it is sensed, felt, used. And where it can be appreciated and experienced by everyone. Not just the social elite, the intellectuals or the artisans. But everyone. In much of what they do.

To know the real Grand Rapids, you need to know its arts. Their significance and their influence are Grand Rapids' unexpected dimension.



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November, 1974

THE ARTS IN GRAND RAPIDS

STABILE by ALEXANDER CALDER

The stabile, LA GRANDE VITESSE, that Alexander Calder created for Grand Rapids, is the first work of art in American history to be jointly commissioned and financed by federal (\$45,000) and private funds (\$85,000). No local tax monies were used.

The premier grant for monumental civic sculpture awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts came to Grand Rapids through the intervention of our Congressman, Gerald R. Ford.

Dedicated June 14, 1969, the Calder has become the unique symbol of the City as well as the focal point of the central City's urban renewal.

Ford, addressing the House of Representatives, once stated, "I can assure the members that a Calder in the center of the City, in an urban renewal area, has really helped to regenerate Grand Rapids."

LA GRANDE VITESSE can be translated to mean "The Great Swiftness" or "The Grand Rapids." It is 55 feet long, 43 feet high and weighs 42 tons. It is painted a vibrant "Calder red."

The "CALDER-ON-THE-ROOF!"

The rooftop of the three-story Kent County Administration Building, which is adjacent to City Hall and the stabile, is brightly embellished with the world's largest painting by Alexander Calder.

The painting, which is 127' x 127', was designed especially for the rooftop and was given to the County by Calder.

The "Calder-on-the-Roof!" was completed on June 7, 1974, in time for Festival '74 and to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Grand Rapids Calder stabile.

The red, white and black roof can be seen from at least ten buildings surrounding Vandenberg Center and Calder Plaza.

The rooftop paint was specially formulated by Guardsman Chemical Coatings, Inc. and applied by Kooi Industrial Painting, both firms from Grand Rapids.

The ARTS FESTIVALS

Every spring since 1970, during the first weekend in June, the people of Grand Rapids celebrate the arts. The openair, free festivals were begun and continue to be sponsored by the Arts Council of Greater Grand Rapids.

The Festivals are held in Vandenberg Center where the Calder stabile is located. They continue for three full days, and every arts organization in the community participates.

Volunteers organize and run the Festivals. This year, Festival '74 attracted well over 100,000 people, which represents one-third the metropolitan population.

The KINNEBREW FISH LADDER-SCULPTURE

An innovative combination of art and the environment has resulted in the design of a unique fish ladder-sculpture for the Grand River, which runs through the City.

The fish ladder-sculpture is the creation of Grand Rapids sculptor Joe Kinnebrew, who has designed an artistic solution to a necessary river element which will allow the Coho and Chinook salmon to return upstream in the Grand River every year to spawn.

The functional sculpture, which affords people a place to walk across the ladder and watch the salmon leap over the rapids, is a pre-fabricated mortar platform bolted to the top of the concrete, box-shaped fish ladder.

The fish ladder-sculpture, which will be completed by November, 1974, has been financed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the National Endowment for the Arts and local gifts. Total cost of the project is \$240,000.

The fish ladder-sculpture has received the strong endorsement of President Gerald R. Ford.

The GRAND RAPIDS CIVIC THEATRE

The Grand Rapids Civic Theatre will be the first arts organization in the City to build a new facility in nearly a century.

\$1,250,000 has been contributed by the community to build the \$2,000,000 building. The new Civic Theatre, on the west bank of the Grand River downtown, will initiate the final stage of Grand Rapids urban renewal, and it is the key to the improvement of the west bank itself.

The Civic Theatre is the oldest community theatre in Michigan and the tenth oldest in the United States. It has mounted 326 productions in 48 consecutive seasons.

Civic Theatre's season ticket holders number 5,000 and live in 53 West Michigan communities. The Theatre entertains an annual audience of more than 50,000 adults and children.

Paul Dreher, Civic Theatre's artistic director for 15 seasons, is credited with the high standard of theatre production and the Theatre's commitment to community outreach. Dreher and the full-time, professional staff of 5 work with over 1,500 actors and production volunteers to present the season of six adult plays, two plays for children and two in-school touring troupes.

The new Civic Theatre will open during the 1976 season which will be the Theatre's 50th anniversary, the City's Sesquicentennial, and the Nation's Bicentennial.

The GRAND RAPIDS ART MUSEUM

The Grand Rapids Art Museum began in 1910. Housed in an architectural historic landmark, the Museum boasts a permanent collection noted for its fine prints and German Expressionist paintings. The Museum also sponsors an extensive in-school art enrichment program for elementary school children.

The Museum sponsors about 25 exhibitions a year. Notable in the last several years are: "Twentieth Century American Painting"-1967; environments built in the Museum's galleries by local college art instructors and their students-1970; and "Sculpture Off The Pedestal"-1974.

"SCULPTURE OFF THE PEDESTAL"

This unusual exhibit was sparked by the Women's Committee of the Grand Rapids Art Museum and was partially funded by a grant of \$8,900 from the National Endowment. Local and state contributions brought the total to \$50,000.

The outdoor display brought statewide and national recognition because of its pioneering liaison between artist, industry, the community and the Museum. Designed by internationally known sculptors, seven works were fabricated in Grand Rapids, five were brought in from outside.

The MORRIS "EARTH SCULPTURE"

The 13th work from "Sculpture Off The Pedestal" is a monumental earthwork by Robert Morris for Belknap Park, north of downtown Grand Rapids. Consisting of a hugh "X" formed by footpaths on a steep hillside, the earthwork is the first Morris design constructed in the United States, and it is the first earthwork anywhere in an urban setting.

The VISUAL ARTS CENTER

Serious study is now being given by the Grand Rapids Art Museum, the Grand Rapids Junior College, and the Grand Valley State Colleges, to converting the 65 year old Federal Building into a new home for the Art Museum and a Visual Arts Center. This Center would provide a downtown focus for the coordinated art programs of the Museum and the Colleges. The necessary architectural and financial studies are being conducted with a \$50,000 grant funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Grand Rapids Foundation.

The DI SUVERO SCULPTURE

Because of the initiative of a local couple, a giant sculpture by Mark DiSuvero has been commissioned by the General Services Administration for the recently completed Federal Building in Grand Rapids. It is scheduled for installation by Fall, 1975.

The GRAND RAPIDS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Grand Rapids Symphony is embarking on its 46th consecutive season. The 88-piece orchestra will perform eight concerts in its winter season, four cabaret pops concerts, three concerts for young people and two free concerts for 9,000 fifth grade students.

Maestro Theo Alcantara is the resident music director and conductor. Alcantara has received the "Dimitri Mitropoulis International Conducting Competition" award, the conductorship of the Mozarteum Orchestra and Camerata Academica, and the "Lilli Lehman Medal." Since 1967, Mr. Alcantara has been a regular guest conductor of the National Orchestras of Spain, Paris and Barcelona. In 1968, he was resident conductor of the Interlochen Arts Academy Orchestra and is guest conductor of orchestras at the University of Michigan. He is the principal guest conductor of the Detroit Symphony and the Madrid RVT Symphony.

In April, 1975, the Grand Rapids Symphony will initiate a Mozart festival and workshop. The ten day event will be held in Grand Rapids. Daily concerts by international artists will be presented as well as concerts by the local artists-in-residence from the Grand Rapids Symphony.

Plans for a new concert hall are central to the completion of Grand Rapids' urban renewal.

The ST. CECILIA MUSIC SOCIETY

Celebrating its 90th birthday in 1974, the St. Cecilia building is the only structure in the world built by women solely for the performance of music. It is now registered as a city, state and national historic site.

"The Saints" boasts a great heritage. It helped to found the National Federation of Music Clubs, and many musical organizations in the community have had their inception through sponsorship of St. Cecilia.

St. Cecilia provides trained and talented members of the society an opportunity to perform on a regular basis through its members' programs -- presented in its 700-seat auditorium, which is noted as one of the accoustically outstanding performance halls in America.

St. Cecilia has a history of continuing excellence through its artist series, having presented such notable greats as Mm. Schumann-Heinck, Lauritz Melchior, Myra Hess, Gregor Piatigorsky, Lily Pons and many others.

The OPERA ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

Now in its seventh year, the Opera Association is the only non-college-affiliated opera company in Michigan outside the Detroit area offering full-scale productions on a continuing basis.

Twelve operas, including LA BOHEME, LA TRAVIATA, and THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO, have been presented, providing talented and trained members of the community an opportunity to perform under the guidance and direction of a professional staff.

The Opera Association's children's productions have delighted thousands of area youngsters and exposed them to an art form rarely available in most communities.

Other Art Groups:

Arts Council of Greater Grand Rapids Community Circle Theatre Council of the Performing Arts for Children Dance Council of Grand Rapids Grand Rapids Public Museum Grand Rapids Civic Ballet Emerging Arts Forum Dutch Immigrant Society Polish Heritage Society Latin-American Council Grand Valley American Indian Lodge Women's Committee Art Museum

GRAMES - Art Museum
Civic Theatre Guild
Civic Theatre Masqueraders
GVSC Friends of the Arts
Reeds Lake Arts Festivals
Stage 3
Thornapple Community
Theatre
Black Free-Form Theatre
Grand Valley Artists
Urban Concern, Inc.
Grand Rapids Youth
Symphony
Symphonic Choir
DeVos String Quartet
Grand Rapids Pipe Band

... and many others

Contacts:

1. City of Grand Rapids Joseph R. Grassie, Manager City Hall, GR 49502 (616) 456-3166

2. Calder stabile Nancy Mulnix
"Calder-on-the-Roof!" 127 Mercer Dr. SE GR 49506
(616) 458-6249

3. Arts Festivals
Grand Rapids Arts Council
Buck Matthews
120 College SE GR 49503
(616) 459-4125

4. Fish Ladder-Sculpture

Joe Kinnebrew
13300 Beckwith Dr NE
Lowell, Michigan 49331
(616) 897-5527

5. Grand Rapids Civic Theatre Paul Dreher, Director
737 Leonard NW GR 49504
(616) 456-8886

6. Grand Rapids Art Museum Fred Myers, Director "Sculpture Off The Pedestal" 230 E. Fulton GR 49503 Robert Morris earthwork (616) 459-4676

7. Visual Arts Center Robert I. Blaich
Herman Miller, Inc.
Zeeland, Michigan 49464
(616) 772-2161

8. DiSuvero Sculpture Mary Ann Keeler
2525 Indian Trail SE GR 49506
(616) 949-4263

9. Grand Rapids Symphony Robert Wepman, Manager Exhibitors Bldg. GR 49502 (616) 454-9451

10. St. Cecilia Society Margaret Houseman
Opera Association 211 Greenbrier SE GR 49506
of West Michigan (616) 949-4018

11. Chamber of Commerce Donald F. Norris, Ph.D. Federal Square Bldg. GR 49502 (616) 459-7221

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Thanks to Calder, Ford Changed Endowment Tune

By Mel Gussow

©1973 NY Times News Service

NEW YORK — When the National Endowment for the Arts began in 1965, Rep. Gerald R. Ford was one of many conserva-

on the Endowment, "but I can assure the members that a Calder in the center of the city, in an urban-redevelopment area, has really helped to regenerate a city."

Ford's initial indifference to the arts was reflected in the attitude of the U.S.

ministration of the 1930s.

It is not only the size of the budget but also its influence on the arts that assure the Endowment a significant place in America's cultural history.

From the Metropolitan Opera to the

The Grand Rapids Challenge

Founded, it often seems, on somewhat shaky premises, public art offers more challenges than resounding successes. Indispensible to that success is the setting of the work in an appropriate context, which includes not just the physical determinants, but the community which is the ultimate guarantor of a project's success or failure.

78 ART IN AMERICA



THE SATURDAY EVENING POST

ART TO THE PEOPLE

Our great country deserves a great culture.
A motivating force behind present and future cultural planning is the National Endowment For The Arts, federal support for creative growth.

By Nancy Hanks

April'74

Six years ago the grand old man of American sculpture, Alexander Calder, was commissioned by Grand Rapids, Michigan, to do a giant stabile in the new city plaza. It sits there now like a great crimson plant. And the people love it. Vice-President Gerald Ford said, "I didn't care for it at first, but now I wouldn't be without it." That's how a lot of people felt at first. New art offers a challenge. Most people accept it. Than they find themselves liking it. Like the story they tell in Grand Rapids now. Two waitresses in the





MICH PB. METER 24:

THIRD-CLASS

1-29

MR PHILIP W BUCHEN COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC 20500



GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.—A fish ladder — Sculpture, created by a local sculptor, will allow people to walk over a terraced section of the Grand River where salmon leap up the rapids as they return upstream to spawn.



GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.—As seen from the air, Alexander Calder's works dominate the plaza located in the heart of the city's urban renewal area. Calder's 127' x 127' painting covers the roof of the County Building, while his 43'-high stabile casts shadows in front of City Hall.



GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.—Annual Arts Festival, in Calder Plaza and adjacent areas, attracts over 100,000 persons to open air performances, exhibits and demonstrations of painting, sculpture, music, dance, theatre, cinema, etc.

Dear Namey:

Thank you so very much for your letter about Alexander Calder's nomination for the Medal of Freedom. I talked with the office that handles matters of this nature and they tell me that Mr. Calder's file is quite extensive. I am sending your letter to them and asking that consideration be given his nomination in light of the President's feelings, when he was in the Congress.

I will personally follow this matter and keep you informed. If the decision is made to make this presentation, then we can discuss the best locale.

I do appreciate your kind letter,

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen Counsel to the President

Mrs. Nancy Mulnix 127 Mercer Drive, S. E. Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506

bcc: Ann Morgan w/enclosures



Restalford 2594 am Morgan 6295 114EBB September 30, 1974

For: Ann Morgan

Enclosed are the papers about Alexander Calder. I have acknowledged letter. Will you keep me advised.

Philip Buchen



Daturday Deptember 21.

Dear Phil-

9 am again Trying To arrange that alexander Calder be given the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Gerry very Kindly helped get the back halling 21/2 years ago as this correspondence weil show!

I have had no right what somewer from either the Prindent's office or Bill Reidman_but I am being presented, believe it n not, by the GSA-because they want the Medal awarded to Calder while he is in Chicago!

I truly believe that Verry will want to present the Mease of Freedom to Sandy-but, please- not in Chicago. Either is Grand Rapido (which I Know is impossible)- a at the White House.

Please help me. Phil. I love Pandy Calder 80 much.

always.
Nancy.

President Gerald R. Ford The White House Washington, D.6.

Dear Mr. President:

The entire Mulnix family sends you our heartfelt congratulations and hopes and prayers for the months and years ahead. With you as our president, we are again what America was meant to be. I have not felt so secure about our country and its future since Ike was in the Oval Office. Thank God you are there now!

Two years ago you helped me nominate Alexander Calder for the Presidential Medal of Freedom. At the last moment, the consideration of its presentation was withdrawn by the White House.

Alexander Calder is 76 years old now - and I want more than anything in the world to have you award him his country's highest civilian honor. Please, Mr. President, he is worthy beyond a doubt, and it would be so timely.

Sandy and Louisa will be in New York during the entire month of October. His only definite plans include the opening of his show at the Perls Gallery on Oct. 9th and the dedication of two new pieces in Chicago on Oct. 25th. One of the Chicago pieces is a large stabile for the new Federal Building.

I know October is short notice, but it is the only time the Calders will be home. If you were to present the award to this man, who many consider the greatest American artist of this century, I know he would accept it with great pride and humility.

Again, Lee and I and our children send you our very best wishes!

Sincerely,

neary

Mrs. LeVant Mulnix, III

127 Mercer Drive SE Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506 (616) 458-6249 September 2, 1974

Dear Bill:

It is fantastic to see your face and read your name in all the accounts of what is right about the Ford Administration! Seems to me he could not have found enyone more uniquely suited to the challenges that he and the country face. I'm glad you are there!

I have written to the President about presenting the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Alexander Calder.' I know you join me in the knowledge that he has earned it and deserves it without reservation.

The Calders will be in New York for the month of October, and your personal intervention in this matter may well be necessary to get everything arranged in time. Sandy was denied the Medal by Nixon. He just cannot have that happen again. Please do whatever you can. Wouldn't it be fun to bring the Calder gang from Grand Rapids together for the party!!

I will do whatever you think I can to help in any way I can. Mrs. Seidman has promised to come to the White House if all goes well for Sandy!!

Take care - you know how much I love Sandy Calder! As ever.

127 Mercer Dr. SE Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506 (616) 458=6249



Congress of the United States

Office of the Minority Leader House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

January 25, 1972

Mrs. Nancy Mulnix 127 Marcer Drive, S.E. Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506

Dear Mrs. Mulnix:

I am pleased to comply with your request to nominate Alexander Calder as the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

He certainly does deserve the honor, and I am pleased to join those who are suggesting that he be given this specific recognition.

Warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:md

SERALO.

THE WHITE HOUSE

January 28, 1972

Dear Jerry:

Thank you for your letter of January 25 recommending Mr. Alexander Calder for consideration as a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Although the selection of individuals to receive the Medal of Freedom is made solely by the President, I will be pleased to bring your letter to the attention of those who prepare a background review of recommended candidates. You may be assured Mr. Calder will receive careful consideration.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

William E. Timmons Assistant to the President

Honorable Gerald R. Ford House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515 On May 10, 1967, I sat down at my kitchen table and wrote a letter to my Congressman. Nothing unusual about that. But the letter concerned making a request for a federal grant to be used to commission a giant piece of sculpture for Grand Rapids, and the Congressman was Gerald R. Ford.

It was common knowledge that Jerry Ford always responded promptly to requests from his constituents, but I was a little unprepared for the subsequent lightening—fast action! Within the week Jerry replied that he had phoned Roger Stevens, then chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, and had formally requested his personal attention and assistance for our embryonic idea. Less than five days later, Mr. Stevens himself called to tell me that he was convinced that Grand Rapids should be the first city in the country to receive a federal grant to be used for commissioning a monumental piece of sculpture by an American artist for a specific civic site.

Two years and much agony and ecstacy later, we dedicated the Grand Rapids Calder, IA GRANDE VITESSE, in Vandenberg Center. Gerald Ford shared the platform with the sculpture committee, Roger Stevens, and Alexander and Louisa Calder. Even through my heady euphoria, I remember what Jerry said; "... art gives quality to life. And so it is that this sculpture dedicated here today raises the quality of life in our community. It speaks to us in the fundamental truth of human existence: that man is a being with noble aspirations and high ideals. For in creating this stabile which now graces Vandenberg Center, Alexander Calder has imparted to us and to all who may gaze upon his work, the best and highest feelings of which man is capable. This is the work that proceeded from a beautiful incentive, that of bringing forth the spirit of a city, to take metal and to shape it into a form that speaks from one man's soul to the soul of others. The dedication of this sculpture today brings a new dimension to our lives here in this part of Michigan. I think it leaves with us a deep sense that everything passes, that art alone is eternal."

Jerry eventually spoke from the floor of the House in support of an increased appropriation for the arts endowment. He was quoted as saying, "At the time I didn't know what a Calder was, but I can assure the members that a Calder in the center of the city in an urban renewal area, has really helped to regenerate Grand Rapids." In retrospect Grand Rapids probably received that premier grant because Gerald Ford, the Minority Leader of the House, was our representative. The National Endowment undoubtedly wanted his powerful support and endorsement. But because all the circumstances and ingredients were there, we created an enormously successful project and literally wrote the book on art in public places. Roger Stevens had been dealt a royal flush, and Grand Rapids had not failed our Congressman's faith in us.

The Calder brought the arts festivals to the plaza which soon became known as "Calder Plaza." We have had one on or about the anniversary

of the stabile's dedication every year since 1970, and the stabile has presided over them all with the friendliness of a giant elephant.

The Civic Theatre took heart from the Calder's triumph and, gathering steam, determined late in 1969 to build a badly needed new facility on the west riverbank. The theatre applied to the National Endowment for two grants: one for architectural planning and one for partial salary of a new children's theatre director. Jerry set up a meeting in his office with four of us and Nancy Hanks, the new chairman of the Endowment. We spent a solid hour with him, and it was soon obvious that Miss Hanks was there not to find a way to help Civic Theatre but to use that precious time to lobby her appropriations cause with the Minority Leader. The best she could manage for Grand Rapids was \$4000 for our children's director, but we were very grateful for Jerry's intercession on our behalf.

At this point in time, there is not a federal nickel anywhere for bricks and mortar in the arts. Maybe Jerry will be able to change that - and perhaps he may even see fit to appoint someone from Michigan to the National Council on the Arts! Michigan has never howkarn had a representative.

This statement.) Jerry Ford has been buying patron tickets to the Civic Theatre for the past two years and thoughtfully sends them to Tom and Janet Ford to use. The theatre's only dilemma was how to identify Jerry in the program (we always list patrons) while he was vice-president designate. I believe he told us he preferred "Honorable Gerald R. Ford, M.C." which was modest to say the least.

> Dersonal Jerry has made a generous gift to the building fund for the new theatre and admonished us to "come back" if we found we still needed money at the end of the fund raising. We wish he could help us persuade the Gershwin family to allow Civic Theatre to present "Porgy and Bess" during the Bicentennial season, but that is alot to hope for.

While he was vice-president, Jerry wrote a strong and effective endorsement of Joe Kinnebrew's innovative and unique fish ladder sculpture. And I know he will assist the development of the music hall and the relocation of the art museum in any way ha can.

It is rather ironic that some of the best rebuttal points to an Earl Butz mentality can be made vis-a-vis the arts in Grand Rapids. And Jerry Ford has been there whenever we have needed him to help us do all we have done. We couldn't have done it without him.

A man who understands the basic and yet subtle communication of conscience, truth, beauty and delight in life that came from the soul of an artist, Alexander Calder, and fused with the soul of a community, Grand Rapids, is a man who will be a great and honored statesman and leader of men. The arts in Grand Rapids salute President Gerala R. Ford!

Nancy Mulhix

august. 1974

Changes

Remarks by Gerald R. Ford at the dedication of the Grand Rapids Calder, LA GRANDE VITESSE, on June 14, 1969.

"Naturally I am delighted to be home and to participate in a very small way in this very auspicious occasion for our community. This is a great occasion for Grand Rapids, Kent County, and this part of our state. It is a great occasion not only because the stabile by Alexander Calder is truly monumental, as I understand it, the largest Calder in the western hemisphere. It is a dramatic and significant moment for out community because it illuminates our city in the eyes of each and every one of us even though some of us are not as knowledgable as many others in this particular field. But it is not only an illumination in our eyes, but in the eyes of the people in the state and the nation.

I think we treasure this moment because this gigantic work comes to us as a flowering of an exaulted mind. Art gives quality to life. And so it is that this sculpture dedicated here today raises the quality of life in our community. It speaks to us in the fundamental truth of human existance: that man is a being with noble aspirations and high ideals. For in creating this stabile which now graces Vandenberg Center, Alexander Calder has imparted to us and to all who may gaze upon his work, the best and highest feelings of which man is capable.

This is the work that proceeded from a beautiful incentive, that of bringing forth the spirit of a city, to make metal and to shape it into a form that speaks from one man's soul to the soul of others.

As the novelist Joseph Conrad expressed it, "The artist speaks to our capacity for delight and wonder, to the sense of mystery surrounding our lives, to our sensitivity to beauty and pain." The dedication of this sculpture today brings a new dimension to our lives here in this part of Michigan. I think It leaves with us a deep sense that everything passes; that art alone is eternal.

Thank you."

October 16, 1974

Dear Mancy:

Thank you for your recent letter of October minth, concerning the Hedal of Freedom for Alexander Calder, which you have discussed with Jay French and Marba Perrott.

I want to caution you that it is premature to contact Hr. Calder until a decision is made in this matter by the President's office. As Jay and Marba have explained, no one has been designated to review such matters as yet, for President Ford's Administration.

You should know that I will try and learn if such a person is being chosen at the earliest possible moment. I realize how very interested you are in this nomination but, everyone has been so very busy that this will have to take a little while.

My very best wishes,

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen Counsel to the President

Mrs. Nancy Mulnix 127 Mercer Drive, S.E. Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506

PWB:JF:em



Transday October 9. 1974

Dear Phil,

Thank you for your Kind reply to my letter and four your personal intercention on behalf of Alexander Carden and the Medal of Freedom.

any way he helpful. I will gladly phone Landy to ask fa a firm and heartfelt "yes" on accepting the Medal. It hardly seems necessary to ask - but perhaps protocol insicates that it must be done.

They warment regards and love to you.

Kaney.

.i. ...

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY (Grand Rapids, Michigan)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT AT CALDER PLAZA

5:35 P.M. EST

Thank you very, very much, Governor Milliken, Mayor Parks, Jack Root, every one of you for being here. Nobody can accuse any of you of being fair weather friends. Thank you very much.

But let me say somewhat inadequately, there is no way in which I can personally express my gratitude, my appreciation, my indebtedness to all of you who are here in this difficult weather to say hello, to warmly welcome me. I am just overwhelmed and words are inadequate to express everything that I feel deep down in my heart. Thank you very, very much.

There was a wonderful crowd at the airport, and we stopped at one of the crowds on the way in. I just cannot believe so many are here in these circumstances, and as I shook hands, either at the airport or on the way in or with those that I have had the privilege of saying hello to here tonight, I saw friends that I went to Madison School with, friends that I went to South High with, friends that I worked with in many, many scientific projects—Democrats, Independents, Republicans young and old—there is nothing I can say except thank you, every one of you, for being here.

And may I thank Althea Bennett here for the box of cookies which she has given me. As was indicated, I used to stop in at Petersen's Drug Store for an early breakfast, and she was there to help prepare it, and I used to enjoy those cookies very much then, and I am sure I will now.

But I must tell Althea, I have a big appetite. It is a long trip back to Washington. They may all be gone before Betty sees a single one. (Laughter)

MORE

Page 2

Now, let me talk about why I am here. I came back to Grand Rapids because on 13 different occasions in the past over a period of 26 years, I campaigned in the Fifth Congressional District--which originally was Ottawa and Kent counties and is now Kent and Ionia and four other counties -- because I love the communities and whether it was Ottawa, Kent, Ionia, Clinton, Montcalm, et cetera. I love the communities and the people.

And as many of you know, I have taken Jerry Ford's Main Street office to Byron Center, Standale, Caledonia, Alto, Rockford, Kent City, Sand Lake, Ionia, Belding, Wells, Portland and every place else, and it was a great privilege for me to talk with you in the trailer.

It was a great privilege to go to your service club, to your farm bureau community meeting, to go to your churches, to your city hall, to meet you on the street, to go to the Lowell Showboat, rodeo, the Red Flannel celebration -- well, you name, wherever you had five people, I went there because I like you and I am back here today because I just could not stay away from this area one more time. I thank you again for the opportunities of the past.

As I have seen so many of you here today and as I said a moment ago, Grand Rapids, Kent County, Ionia, Ottawa County and the others, you are a good cross-section of America. You represent all segments of our society.

We have some wonderful farms, we have some excellent businesses, we have some tremendously productive working people in this community. I am prejudiced, but I think we have the best here, and all of you who are here represent the best in America.

As I have said to our good friend, Mayor Lyman Parks, Grand Rapids is big enough to have many of the problems of some of the major metropolitan areas. We have enough diversification in agriculture, so that I learned from firsthand experience the problems of the dairymen, the cattlemen, the apple grower, and other people that produce so all of us can eat.

But the main thing that I loved about this area was we had some big city problems, but we were small enough so that you got to know people. You have got to love them. You have got to enjoy working for whatever the problem was. I do not know how many times I walked down Cedar Springs behind about five bands in that Cedar Springs Red Flannel Parade, or how many times I have had the privilege of visiting one community or another.

It is the warmth, it is the friendliness, it is the look in the eye of people that makes you welcome. And the most important thing is that people in this area seem to want to work out the problems that they have, whether they are labor and management on the one hand, or consumer and producer on the other.

I cannot help but make a comment, Lyman, about that Calder that you gave me. I was in Chicago a couple of days agc, and some of my friends over there were kidding me about Grand Rapids being a small town. And some of the commentators and writers were kidding me about perhaps the lack of culture in Grand Rapids.

Well, I happen to think -- if my memory is correct -- we had a Calder in Grand Rapids before Chicago thought of it.

And then I have had some friends from various parts of the country tell me that, well, Grand Rapids was a little on the conservative side. Well, I cannot help but ask them in good conscience what they mean. Do they mean the people here have a healthy skepticism of quick and easy solutions? If that is a definition of conservatism, yes, we are skeptical. We are a little conservative about some of the superficial answers that some people try to sell us.

But if they mean that Grand Rapids and its environs are skeptical about new ideas, the answer is no. We are broad minded. We have a good outlook. And when a new idea comes along that is constructive, that is fair to everybody, we, in Grand Rapids, embrace it and make it work. And that is what we have done all my lifetime.

Let me reminisce a moment, if I might. Some of us in the audience here can remember when the old B. F. Keith Theater was down here on Lyon Street, and some of us can remember when the Regent Theater was right over there, just where the Federal Building was, I guess, and some of the other old broken-down business places that needed to be removed -- and this wonderful Vandenberg Center constructed.

Page 4

And in honor of one of Grand Rapids' outstanding citizens, in my judgment, probably the outstanding Senator that I have known in Washington, we built this Vandenberg Center in honor and in tribute to Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg.

And you know that Federal Building -- I used to have an office right up there in the corner. I used to look down here, and I could see at various times of the day there would be periodic meetings and wonderful luncheon gatherings. Occasionally we had a demonstration or two, and sometimes in the moonlight, I could look down and see a few friendly people holding hands. And what is wrong with that?

But the point is that this great Vandenberg Center with the Calder Stabile is, in my opinion, a tribute to a great Senator, a tribute to a great people. It is a product of a community that has the vision and the foresight to do something for themselves in conjunction or a partnership with the Federal Government.

And that is the way Arthur Vandenberg believed. He was receptive to new ideas. He was a senior Senator in Washington when Betty and I first went to the Nation's capital. He and his wonderful wife, Hazel, could not have been kinder, could not have been more receptive to two newcomers to the Nation's capital.

He gave me, in all honesty, the inspiration to take a look at the world as a whole. Arthur Vandenberg, some of you may recall, was former -- with former President Harry Truman -- was the architect of a bipartisan foreign policy following World War II.

The two of them -- a great Democratic President, Harry Truman, and a great Republican Senator, Senator Arthur Vandenberg -- worked together, hand-in-glove, following World War II when the world was in devastation, when a good share of the world was on its back, and other nations -- like our own -- had serious problems.

But from those ashes, Harry Truman and Arthur Vandenberg put together a foreign policy that brought allies together, presented a common front against potential adversaries, helped under-developed nations grow, and become a vital part of our world society.

MORE

Page 5

And that bipartisan foreign policy, which I learned and fortunately learned from one of the masters, I think is the future of the world.

And we in Washington today, representing all of you -- Democrats, Republicans, Independents -- should march shoulder to shoulder to make sure that our country, our great United States of America, gives the leadership in consolidating friends, and gives leadership in trying to make new contacts, broader contacts, with potential adversaries.

What we want to build is a world of peace so that your children and my children and their children can live in safety and security and a better world wherever they might live -- Grand Rapids or elsewhere.

And I pledge to you, as President of the United States -- believe me, folks, my friends at home -- I never thought for one minute, when Betty and I left here in December of 1949, that I would be coming home to all of you as your President.

But as President, I will pledge to you, as I have pledged to you in 13 previous elections, that I will do my best, I will be fair, I will be open, I will work, and I will continue the love and affection and the dedication that I have, that all of you have, for your community, for your friends, for your State, and for your Nation. This is what you can give and what I can give, and on behalf of Betty and myself, I pledge you nothing but all I can do for all of you and many like you.

Thank you very, very much.

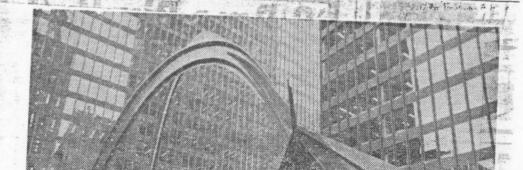
END (5:50 P.M. EST)

Art Works for Federal Buildings

By Sarah Booth Conroy

gram to provide art for pub- \$2.5 million will be com-

first product of a sions for art works for pubvitalized federal pro- lic buildings, at a cost of ENTERTAINMENT/THE ARTS



Eva - Imade a copy of energthing Tom received from Sen. Percy's office Want to all it to our chapters of the "medal of Freedom for A. Calder 'story".

FOR:

Tom Korologos

FROM:

Jay T. French

SUBJECT:

Medal of Freedom for Alexander Calder

I have handled this correspondence for Mr. Buchen and also personally talked with Mrs. Mulnix on the phone on three occasions. The facts of the case are, that Ann Morgan, who is now leaving the staff, was responsible for collecting material on nominees for the Medal. She reported in turn to Pat Buchanan who presumably coordinated this material and also the selection of recipients. Because of Mr. Buchanan's departure, there is no one presently designated to perform this function to my knowledge. It will take a few months before someone, perhaps Paul Theis, is given this responsibility.

I would simply urge Senator Percy to acknowledge the letter and say that he has contacted several different sources in the Administration and learned that Mrs. Mulnix has already contacted the right people. That it will take a little time to appoint someone to begin screening nominees, but that certainly Mr. Galder's name will be one of those considered at that time. He might also assist us in explaining that it does take a while for an Administration to get organized and perform these kinds of functions in the midst of all else that we face.

If this is not enough to assist you in replying to Irish McRae, please let me know. Sorry this came to you.

JF:em

Sally

November 9, 1974

Dear Irish:

Thank you for your November 5 letter for assistance in replying to the letter the Senator has received from Mrs. LeVant Moinix III.

I will discuss the correspondence with Phil Buchen and we will be back in touch with you as soon as possible with information that will be helpful to the Senator in responding.

With warm regard,

Stacerely.

Tom C. Korologos Deputy Assistant to the President

Mr. Irish McRae Special Assistant to The Honorable Charles H. Percy United States Senate Washington, D. C. 20510

bcc: w/incoming to Phil Buchen. Will you please provide me with language I may pass along to Senator Percy for replying to Mrs. Mulnix. Many thanks.

TCK:EF:VO:jlc

CHARLES H. PERCY

United States Benate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

IRISH MCRAE SPECIAL ASSISTANT

November 5, 1974

Mr. Thomas Korologos Special Assistant to the President The White House Washington, D.C.

Dear Tom:

I would appreciate your reviewing and giving me advice as to how I can make a meaningful reply for Senator Percy to the enclosed correspondence. The writer obviously knows the President and Philip W. Buchem. The replies to Mrs. Mulnix seem to me straightforward and helpful. I am not sure what Senator Percy promised her verbally. While I know the Senator has great regard for Alexander Calder, I am sure he would be hesitant to take this up personally with the President, especially since this matter has been explored thoroughly before.

Have you any suggestions of how I may best respond to the writer?

Thanks, Tom.

Sincerely,

Trish McRae

IM:lg



October 24.

Dear Senator Perey.

It was delightful meeting yesterday - and your willingness to help me alert the President about Sandy Calder's Medal of Dreedom gave me great hope!

Enclosed is all the Correspondence of which I have copies. Unfortunately many of my letters to Phil Buchen were hand weitten and no copies exist. heso, many show Conversations have taken place between Jay French from Phili appier and myself. But see to no avail.

This business about there being no one in charge of medices of Treedom yet - so no accision can be made " is ridiculous! Trench himself told me that all the "receased" on Sandy has been done at our indigetion in 1972!

I am convinced that no one has asked The President directly! and this is what I am sincerely pleading with you to do! The President, if he were to remember the suggestion about the

Thedal for Dandy, and if he were reminded that Calder is 76, and if he knew how Chicagoans greeted him yesterday— whom Chicagoans greeted him yesterday— whose obliterate all this bureaucrasic, red-tape crap— pardon me, but I really disgusted at this point— and have Mr. Campled get things ralling!

Sandy will be in either New york or Parkeury. Connecticut with the middle by Romember because he is scheduled for his annual physical. Let least this will give terrip people a lettle more time to make arrangements. Lend please tell them they can count on me to help in any way! Klaus Perlo too (Sandy's dealer)- his phone (Ny) is (212) \$77-3200.

Sandy his Known since '73 that I'am been trying to get This thing done. Please help me make this dream corne true.

Alexander Calder is a great Cemerican—
and he accerves the highest Emerican—
country can bestow.

Please let me Know as things progress.

of the state of th

Very gratefully.

Trany Mulnix

October 21, 1974

Dear Mrs. Mulnix:

Although this is a delayed response, I would like to acknowledge your letter of September 2 to the President.

As you know, he shares your high esteem of Alexander Calder. Although it will take some time, the President hopes to revitalize the Medal of Freedom award and personally select outstanding Americans to receive our nation's highest civilian honor. Your suggestion will receive every consideration at that time.

Sincerely,

Warren S. Rustand
Appointments Secretary
to the President

Mrs. LeVant Mulnix, III 127 Mercer Drive S.E. Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506

October 16, 1974

Dear Nancy:

Thank you for your recent letter of October ninth, concerning the Medal of Freedom for Alexander Calder, which you have discussed with Jay French and Marba Perrott.

I want to caution you that it is premature to contact Mr. Calder until a decision is made in this matter by the President's office. As Jay and Marba have explained, no one has been designated to review such matters as yet, for President Ford's Administration.

You should know that I will try and learn if such a person is being chosen at the earliest possible moment. I realize how very interested you are in this nomination but, everyone has been so very busy that this will have to take a little while.

My very best wishes,

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen Counsel to the President

Mrs. Nancy Mulnix 127 Mercer Drive, S.E. Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506

September 30, 1974

Dear Nancy:

Thank you so very much for your letter about Alexander Calder's nomination for the Medal of Freedom. I talked with the office that handles matters of this nature and they tell me that Mr. Calder's file is quite extensive. I am sending your letter to them and asking that consideration be given his nomination in light of the President's feelings, when he was in the Congress.

I will personally follow this matter and keep you informed. If the decision is made to make this presentation, then we can discuss the best locale.

I do appreciate your kind letter.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mrs. Nancy Mulnix 127 Mercer Drive, S. E. Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506 President Gerald R. Ford The White House Washington, D.G.

Dear Mr. President:

The entire Mulnix family sends you our heartfelt congratulations and hopes and prayers for the months and years ahead. With you as our president, we are again what America was meant to be. I have not felt so secure about our country and its future since Ike was in the Oval Office. Thank God you are there now!

Two years ago you helped me nominate Alexander Calder for the Presidential Medal of Freedem. At the last moment, the consideration of its presimtation was withdrawn by the White House.

Alexander Calder is 76 years old now - and I want more than anything in the world to have you award him his country's highest civilian honor. Please, Er. President, he is worthy beyond a doubt, and it would be so timely.

Sandy and Louisa will be in New York during the entire month of October. His only definite plans include the opening of his show at the Perls Gallery on Oct. 9th and the dedication of two-new pieces in Chicago on Oct. 25th. One of the Chicago pieces is a large stabile for the new Federal Building.

I know October is short notice, but it is the only time the Calders will be home. If you were to present the award to this man, who many consider the greatest American artist of this century, I know he would secopt it with great pride and humility.

Agein, Lee and I and our children send you our very best wishes!

Sincerely,

Masey
Mrs. LeVant Kulnix, III

127 Mercer Drive SE Grand Revids, Michigan 49506 (615) 453-6249



IRS Refused to Audit 12-21-

575 New Nixon Enemies

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House asked the Internal Revenue Service to subject political enemies to tax audits or other special attention, congressional investigators have concluded.

However, the IRS apparently did nothing with the list, the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation said Thursday.

for favorable tax treatment include actor John Wayne and evangelist Billy Graham, who has denied trying to use his influence with the chief executive to get out of tax troubles.

Among the prominent people on the enemy list were:

Lon Westweed and Laurence O'Prion



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

November 5, 1973

Dear Nancy and Lee,

I truly appreciate your warm letter of congratulations on my nomination to be Vice President of the United States.

This is a great honor that has come to me, and I am extremely grateful and terribly humble to be so nominated by President Nixon.

If confirmed, I will do my utmost to merit the confidence and faith expressed in me be dear friends at home, like you. I hope that I have some assets that may be helpful in bringing about a united America.

With warmest personal regards and my deep appreciation for your continuing support.

Sincerely

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Mulnix 127 Mercer Drive SE Grand Rapids, Michigan

WASHINGTON

January 28, 1972

Dear Jerry:

Thank you for your letter of January 25 recommending Mr. Alexander Calder for consideration as a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Although the selection of individuals to receive the Medal of Freedom is made solely by the President, I will be pleased to bring your letter to the attention of those who prepare a background review of recommended candidates. You may be assured Mr. Calder will receive careful consideration.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

William E. Timmons
Assistant to the President

Honorable Gerald R. Ford House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Was called by my friend Starle Meyer, who worked for hen Garment in with that the Mixim hotel Calson."

Congress of the United States Office of the Minority Leader House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

January 25, 1972

Mrs. Nancy Mulnix 127 Marcer Drive, S.E. Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506

Dear Mrs. Mulnix:

I am pleased to comply with your request to nominate Alexander Calder as the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

He certainly does deserve the honor, and I am pleased to join those who are suggesting that he be given this specific recognition.

Warmest personal regards.

Sincerely.

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:md



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 1, 1969

Mrs. LaVant Mulnix III 127 Mercer Drive, S. E. Grand Rapids, Michigan

Dear Mrs. Mulnix:

Thank you for taking time to write and send the memento.

Meeting the Calders was certainly my pleasure and I would agree as to his qualifications as a great sculptor. One of his recent pieces is now in place in a Smithsonian court yard much to the delight of Washingtonians and visitors. Grand Rapids is indeed fortunate to have such a fine sample of his work.

To suggest a recipient for the Presidential Medal of Freedom you should write to the Distinguished Civilian Service Awards Board, c/o Mr. Robert Hampton, Chairman, Civil Service Commission, 19th and E Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C.

I am told the Board submits several names annually to the President who has the final choice. And I would also agree that Mr. Calder would make an excellent nominee.

With every best wish,

Thisipat

Denet Hart received an Lonnary doctrate with Calau, here in 1569.

Dear Nancy:

Thank you very much for your letter.

The President is planning to be in Colorado at Christmas time, but if you want to let me know another appropriate time for a call to be placed to the Calders let me know. An appropriate time might be when they return to the U.S.A. permanently.

Sincerely yours,

Philip W. Buchen Counsel to the President

Mrs. Nancy Mulnix 127 Mercer Drive SE Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506





November 25, 1974

S. FOR

Dear Phil:

It is a beautiful morning in Grand Rapids; we can hope that Thanksgiving Day will be as lovely.

I received a letter from Klaus Perls last week in response to a letter from me regarding the status, if that's the proper word, of the Medal of Freedom situation. Klaus's letter held much good news - all of which will have some bearing on the "situation".

It seems likely that Sandy and Louisa will be in New York and Connecticut for Christmas! In fact they may indeed move back to the United States permanently! I remember that you once told me that you had known Jo Davidson. Well, Willy Davidson, the child of Jo's son Jean, and Sandy's daughter, Sandra, is now living with his aunt Mary Calder Rower in New York. He must be 18 or so.

Now Sandra and Jean and daughter Andrea want to move here. Klaus says that his guess is "that Sandy and Louisa will come back here with Sandra and Jean, especially as Louisa seems to be lonely at Sache and has a better time here now." That last statement is particularly revealing because I think it relates directly to the Ford Presidency and the warmth and love that have come to Sandy in this country since — and begun by — the Grand Rapids experience!

Klaus also said that while in New York, the White House Social Secretary had phoned to invite the Calders to dinner at the White House. He said the Louisa could not accept because she had a dental appointment on that date. What I don't believe she told the person who called was that it was not an ordinary dental appointment! Louisa

underwent a prolonged gingivectomy while here, and the dentist would give her general anesthetic for her two hour treatments. When I saw her, her face was quite bruised. I don't know how sensitive the White House is to refusals, but surely the people should be compassionate about this one!

May I suggest that Mary Rower, 84 MacDougal St., New York (212-982-3620) would have up-to-the-minute information about the Christmas plans. And so will Klaus, but he is in Europe for the next two weeks. Wouldn't it be wonderful if Jerry could honor Sandy - who looks a little like Santa - at Christmastime!

I so deeply believe that honoring Calder would show the country and the world that this country still cares very much about the individual and his special and unique gifts. It would demonstrate that Gerald Ford places in high priority the qualities that have distinguished the life and art of Alexander Calder. And now, more than ever, this nation must believe that creativity and hard work and a genuine delight in life and living are among our most precious national resources. Sandy Calder is the personification of all of those things — and he is the greatest sculptor of this century.

It was nice of the President to write me and make a fine gesture to the Civic Theatre by buying a patron's ticket. He has done that for the past two years, but I did not expect that he would ever see my letter this year.

I rest assured that you will indeed personally follow this matter and keep me informed, as you promised.

My fondest best wishes to you and to Bunny.

nove,