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May 23, 1973

Dear Lady Bird:

It is always a genuine pleasure to hear from you, and I deeply appreciated your thoughtful letter of May 19.

I was interested to learn of the Symposium on the Arts in America which the LBJ Library and the University of Texas are sponsoring jointly this September, and I wish I could give a definite yes at this time to your invitation to address the concluding session on September 30. However, as you know from personal experience, it is not possible to determine this far in advance what my schedule may be this Fall. For this reason, if it is agreeable with you, I would like to keep your invitation in my pending file until I have a more definite idea of my official engagements for the month of September. I will, of course, be in touch with you just as soon as I am able to make a firm commitment.

Betty was especially pleased to be included in your invitation, and she and I both appreciate your generous thought in asking us to visit you at the Ranch. She joins me in sending our thanks and warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

JERRY FORD

Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson
LBJ Ranch
Stonewall, Texas 78761

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GRF:MAF:RLE:aby

cc: Mary Rawlins w/incoming for follow-up.

60 Invitation to LBJ Library & Symposium on
Arts in America



CAF 2-2

May 19, 1975

ACTION
Nonswall, Texas
SCHEDULE BD. _____

DATE RECEIVED

MAY 22 1975

MESSAGE _____

SPEAKERS BUREAU _____

OTHER _____

APPOINTMENT OFFICE

Dear Mr. President:

Every year, the LBJ Library and the University of Texas at Austin jointly sponsor a symposium on a subject of national importance. In the past, these have generally been related to papers being opened for research in the Library. The symposia held so far have dealt with Education, Civil Rights, Urban Affairs, and Energy and the Environment. Each one has brought to the Library leaders in that field, from inside government and out, to probe the experience of the past and consider needs and directions for the future. These events have been challenging, sometimes controversial, but always stimulating; and there is of course the hope that they have served a useful purpose as well.

To my personal delight, this year's symposium -- on September 29-30 -- will concern itself with the Arts in America, specifically the Federal Government's role in enriching the cultural life of communities across the nation through its support of the Arts. We are hoping to assemble national leaders, distinguished artists and sensitive observers who will look at the record of the past decade (September 29 will mark the tenth anniversary of the signing of the legislation which created the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities), and peer into the decade ahead.

The members of the University faculty and Library staff who form the Committee planning this symposium -- with the enthusiastic endorsement of Nancy Hanks, Chairman of the National Council on the Arts -- have asked me to extend to you an invitation to address the concluding session of the symposium in the late morning of September 30.

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I do so with the greatest of pleasure, for two reasons. One is that I share fully the Committee's feeling that any expression you might wish to make about the status and future of the Arts would be of enormous significance, and would elevate considerably the importance of the symposium. And the other reason is that -- although I am mindful of the presumption in any invitation to you -- it occurs to me that you just might welcome a change in the pace of activities calling for your attention. *(This one will have happy times, we think -- no weighty problem!)*

If you find that you can and wish to accept this invitation, I hope very much that Betty can accompany you, and that both of you can take enough time off to spend the night of September 30 with me at the Ranch.

Sincerely,

Lady Bird

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
The President of the United States
Washington, D. C.

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