



Margot Stern Strom
President and
Executive Director

Seth A. Klarman
Chair, Board of Directors

Frank Keefe
CEO, The Boston Museum
55 Court Street (basement level)
Boston, MA 02108

April 29, 2008

Dear Mr. Keefe,

On behalf of the entire Facing History team, I want to thank the staff of the Boston Museum for working closely with us over these past few months on our "Choosing to Participate" exhibit at the Boston Public Library. From our earliest discussions, we were intrigued with the idea of creating a concrete means for visitors to take part in an exhibit that is itself devoted to the topic of civic participation. The Boston Museum's video capture booth, which has allowed visitors from many neighborhoods and nations to add their own voices to this exhibit, captures many wonderful testimonials from ordinary citizens who, with small steps and grand gestures, choose to participate in their communities every day.

We have been especially moved by the testimonials videotaped by dozens of young people who have visited the exhibit. They have described their work on campaigns to Save Darfur, to protest human rights abuses, to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina and to end violence in Boston neighborhoods. Some of the "smallest" stories have emerged as the most poignant: a young boy who spoke of choosing to participate in his own life by turning bad grades into straight A's. A documentary film producer whose life was forever changed when, as a teenager, she joined Dr. King in supporting striking garbage workers in Memphis, Tennessee.

Our goal, through this exhibit, is to facilitate a deeper understanding of democratic values. How fitting then, for exhibit goers to be asked to take a further step, to "look in the mirror" – in this case, a video camera and computer touch-screen – in order to pause to reflect on their own choices and decisions. As such, we believe that the story capture booth has added a critical element to the "Choosing to Participate" exhibit experience.

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Facing History and the Boston Museum have complementary missions: to build a better future through a deeper understanding of our shared past. To that end, we look forward to working with your staff on future initiatives, including the museum's "People of the Bay" 2008 summer institute for Extended Learning Time teachers.

We wish the Boston Museum's development team every success! We envision a time when future Facing History exhibits might be mounted in your new home on the Rose Kennedy Greenway.

With Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margot Stern Strom". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Margot Stern Strom