



October 29, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Keefe:

As Executive Director of Plimoth Plantation, I am very pleased to offer this letter of support for the "Boston Museum," destined for the new Rose Kennedy Greenway in downtown Boston.

Massachusetts is blessed with many wonderful cultural institutions and heritage sites. But visitors to the Commonwealth have great difficulty in creating meaningful itineraries – itineraries that could in fact extend their visits. In recent years other states have invested heavily in heritage tourism and regional funding of arts and cultural organizations, while Massachusetts has lost ground as a destination.

The Boston Museum will fill a void in the cultural landscape by helping to build appreciation of our state's pivotal role in American history. It promises to celebrate our state's familiar stories while also embracing "centuries unmentioned, communities unrepresented, and stories untold" – particularly those cultures existing on these lands prior to the arrival of the *Mayflower*. I am encouraged by the development team's interest in partnering with other institutions on educational programming, and its commitment to develop a transportation plan to bring Boston-bound visitors to other areas of the state. Establishing transportation options and creating regional itineraries will be essential if the Boston Museum is to succeed in its mission of providing a gateway to the region.

For Plimoth Plantation, the Boston Museum's plans for a regional visitor center and the opportunity to present teaser exhibits in downtown Boston could translate into increased visitation for us, as local residents and visitors from afar become inspired to "visit us again for the first time."



Wampanoag Homesite



Mayflower II



1627 English Village

www.plimoth.org

P.O. Box 1620
Plymouth, MA 02362

tel 508-746-1622

Smithsonian Institution
Affiliations Program

We look forward to further talks on how we might collaborate on programming and exhibitions. We wish the development team of the Boston Museum every success in the years ahead.

Best regards,



John McDonagh
Executive Director