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March 31st, 2009

Mr. Frank Keefe
President & CEO
The Boston Museum
55 Court Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Frank:

I write in support of the Boston Museum's proposal to develop Parcel 9. In the several months that I have worked with you, Katy Abel, and Bob Krim on a deep partnership with the University of Massachusetts system—with the McCormack Graduate School at UMass Boston as the lead content provider and operational contact, I have become enthralled by the potential of this collaboration to serve our students, and to promote the vast historical significance of Massachusetts to the public.

As you know, I come to this conversation having served as Chair of the Board of the Boston History and Innovation Collaborative for 2 years. The importance of Boston's historic record and "brand identity" as a crucible of innovation is underappreciated, both as a matter of historical significance and as a guide to the development of future public policy and economic regeneration. Our history of innovation, the great diversity of our people which has led to a great diversity in culture and institutions, and the interplay of our various geographic, human and (for the last 200 years) educational resources is a story that needs to be promoted in Massachusetts, nationally, and abroad.

I deeply believe that an appreciation of bold ideas in the past will help to get bold ideas in the future. This exciting museum opportunity will play a critical role in that reality. I can think of no finer use, from a cultural or economic standpoint, than to site the Boston Museum on Parcel 9.

I hope you are successful in this endeavor, and I look forward to working with you in the fulfillment in this grand vision.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen P. Crosby".

Stephen P. Crosby
Dean