

April 18, 2018

To: School Committee of the Lincoln Public Schools

Dear Chairperson Christenfeld and the members of the Lincoln School Committee,

I write with important news for all Overseers at deCordova, and I ask that you read this letter carefully.

In November of 2017 deCordova completed work on its new Strategic Plan. The key finding was that our organization needed to “explore creative models for long-term sustainability and growth.” This sparked a series of critical discussions amongst our museum Board and senior staff. We then followed up with research, exploration, and outreach to our sister institutions in New England.

As a result, I am delighted to announce that DeCordova is preparing to enter into an agreement with The Trustees of Reservations that we hope will culminate in the integration of the two entities.

DeCordova and The Trustees of Reservations have a remarkable amount of overlap in their respective missions. They each share strong connections to local people, history, and landscape, and both seek to inspire unique experiences in special places of cultural and natural importance. We see this overlap as the basis for a strong new relationship.

Most importantly, this change will enable deCordova to fulfill its mission to inspire, educate, and delight with contemporary art through sculptures in the landscape and museum exhibitions.

As an Overseer, you play a crucial role in the health and vitality of this Museum. Your support, attendance at events, and the way you share deCordova has helped to shape this institution over many years. In your official capacity as an Overseer, you will have an important obligation to fulfill during this transition.

I am eager to share more details about this initiative, the benefits of integration, and what to expect next. I would also like to introduce you to the Executive Director of *The Trustees*, Barbara Erickson. I therefore invite you to an information session on Tuesday, May 1 at 7 pm at deCordova.

The courtesy of a response is requested; please email Anne Elise Hudson to let us know whether you will be able to attend: aeHUDSON@decordova.org. If you're unable to attend and would like to discuss the matter with me or Bruce Smith, Deputy Director for External Affairs, you may set up an appointment with Anne Elise for a phone call or meeting. Either Bruce or I would be happy to speak with you about it.

With best regards,

John B. Ravenal
Executive Director