

Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum

Letter of Recommendation for David J. Wagner

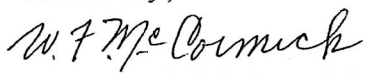
To Whom it May Concern:

David J. Wagner served as Director of the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum from 1977 through 1987. During these years, I not only served on the museum's Board of Directors, but I also served as its first President. Fortunately for everyone, David came along at just the right time. He was young and ambitious, and the museum had just opened its doors to the public before he was hired. Although there were many more achievements than I could possibly list here that illustrate the success of his tenure, I'm listing these because they typify the results of his leadership and management abilities.

During David Wagner's directorship, the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum's budget grew from under \$100,000 in 1977 when he joined it to over \$700,000 when he left. (I might add that at no time did we ever experience a deficit.) During these years, the museum also diversified its funding by establishing a membership or "Friends" program as we called it, and by successfully competing for corporate and government grants. With respect to programs, the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum greatly enlarged its permanent collections under David's directorship and it displayed over 100 exhibitions. One of David's personal accomplishments was to place many of the exhibitions that were organized by the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in museums around the world including, for example, the British Museum, the Beijing Museum, the Smithsonian, and more. In addition, he was responsible for bringing several important collections, such as the Rembrandt etchings collection from Vienna, to the LYW for its U.S. premiere. Needless to say, this greatly enhanced our museum's reputation. Finally, I might mention that a research library was established at the museum when David was director and that the museum was accredited by the American Association of Museums.

Of course, as I said earlier, there's much much more that I could say to illustrate David's many contributions to the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum. But I've listed these to convey the fact that he did an outstanding job as Director and that I have all the confidence in the world in his abilities.

Sincerely,


William F. McCormick

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