

SAVING AND PRESERVING ARTS AND CULTURAL ENVIRONMENTS

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20 January 2009

Ms. Erin DeCou, Executive Director
Philadelphia's Magic Gardens
1020 South Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147

Dear Erin,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of SPACES, I am delighted to acknowledge your generous gift of the press kit, CD with photographs, and copies of reviews of the Philadelphia Magic Gardens. All of this material will greatly enrich SPACES' Archives, and we are very thankful to you for sending on these wonderful materials.

It is hard to believe that another year has passed in our new offices. Guided by our new Board of Trustees, we are continuing to work to develop and support the nonprofit organization focusing on art environments and other self-taught artistic activity that Seymour Rosen founded and to which he devoted his life. Each day brings tremendous satisfaction as we move towards our objectives and as we are re-energized by the remarkable vitality and creativity of the artists whose works are documented within our collections.

We have made much progress over the last year, organizationally as well as programmatically. Our vintage materials have been supplemented by many newly-accessed documents and AV materials from scholars and enthusiasts from around the world such as yourself and your organization. In response, we have developed new storage and registration procedures as well as new finding aids so as to better access and utilize the treasures we hold.

This year we have successfully placed photographs from SPACES in several international venues, including a book published in Japan (soon to be reprinted in Korea) and a museum catalogue for Stockholm's Moderna Museet, as well as for several domestic books, articles, and exhibitions. We continue to advise other nonprofit organizations as they work to preserve the art environments in their care, as we do for individual preservationists and scholars (including a film team from France and one from the U.S. Army!) to support their own efforts and investigations. I have written a few small articles on art environments in general this past year,

as well as on SPACES' activities specifically, but my primary focus has been documenting over forty art environment sites around Spain, which I did thanks to a Fulbright grant this past summer. Taking 8200+ still photos, over 18 hours of video, and developing initial art inventories and site plans, this project is still very much in the preliminary stages, but I look forward to completing a book and exhibition about this material within the next couple of years.

Thanks again, Erin, for your generosity and support of SPACES through these valuable contributions to the Archives, and for your confidence in our continued success. I look forward to having the opportunity to visit you in person at PMG one of these days!

Warmly,

Jo Farb Hernandez
Director

Thanks again,
& Happy New Year!