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Marion Blake
Grover Cleveland Thompson Rock Garden of Sunnyslope
10023 N. 13th Place
Phoenix, Az. 85020

Dear Marion,

I would like to thank you for having the foresight nearly ten years ago of recognizing the charm and value of the site specific artwork of Grover Cleveland Thompson. Ten years ago not many people knew about folk art environments and fewer still were talking about "Outsider Art" which has become the "rage" in the international art world. Today's newspapers, periodicals and journals feature numerous articles about folk art and outsider art.

Thank you for becoming so impressed with Mr. Thompson's work that you left your native state of New York and your employment to move to Phoenix and begin your arduous task of ownership of the rock garden. In the ensuing years you have worked tirelessly to rebuild, restore and protect the "Garden". You knew in your heart it was a very significant discovery.

Thank you also for notifying me about the garden and making it available to me, my friends and fellow professionals and most of all the students of my Folk and Outsider Art classes at Arizona State University. You are also to be commended for notifying and making it available to the public. You have been a real friend of the arts in your community for both the gardens and your general advocacy to the arts in public places movement.

As you know I have been researching the subject of folk and outsider art for the last twenty five years. I have traveled thousands of miles across the North American continent and recently Spain, France and Switzerland visiting and documenting this special genre of art.

I can assure you that the Thompson Rock Garden ranks right up there with the best of like work across this nation and abroad. It is truly the best in Arizona and we are so lucky to have it in our community. It is indeed a National Treasure.

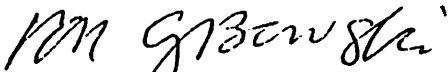
My only hope is that the City of Phoenix has the equal foresight to recognize it's importance as a jewel in the community. The city can gain great benefit by recognizing the value of Thompsons work. In France there is a town called Hauterives that receives the benefits of 100,000 visitors annually that come from all over the world to view "Le Palais Ideal", the monumental work of Ferdinand Cheval. The humble postman whose vision and thirty three years of intense labor created one of the most outstanding works of folk art and architecture in the world.

Although Thompson's work is not on the same grand scale it is a significant folk art environment.

I hope the city will bestow the proper recognition and historic status that the garden deserves. We have seen the results of municipal calousness and neglect in the past. Gone are the wonderful sites of 16th Street and Northern and the Rock Park on Van Buren in east Phoenix, bulldozed in the name of progress.

With your fortitude and the courage of the City of Phoenix we will have the Grover Cleveland Thompson Rock Garden to enhance our city for generations to come.

Thanks so much,



Ron Gasowski
Friend and Professor of Art

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