

September 12, 1998

Pamela Clapp, Program Director
The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts
65 Bleecker Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10012

Dear Ms. Clapp,

This is a proposal that is under the historic preservation mission of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

Beginning at the age of 60 in 1956, self taught artist Tressa "Grandma" Prisbrey (1896 - 1988) embarked on a project that began as a place to store her pencil collection and evolved into Grandma Prisbrey's Bottle Village. The subject of international exhibitions plus numerous books, films and articles, Bottle Village is a 1/3 acre site covered with shrines, wishing wells, walkways, gardens, and "houses" made from bottles and various objects gleaned from daily visits to the dump.

Bottle Village is a significant folk art environment and a rarity created from pop culture artifacts from everyday lives of Americans in the late 1950's and early 1960's. The extent of Prisbrey's labor and originality have earned Bottle Village Cultural Landmark status in the City of Simi Valley and County of Ventura (1979), California State Historical Landmark status (1981) and listing on the National Register of Historic Places (1995).

The Preserve Bottle Village Committee (PBVC) is a 501(c)(3) non profit founded in 1979 as a support group to the then ailing artist Tressa "Grandma " Prisbrey. PBVC has over the years, established Landmark status for Bottle Village, negotiated property issues obtaining clear title to the property, conducted preliminary Architectural and Engineering Reports (1984 and 1995) and are currently continuing the mission of facilitating restoration, maintaining and protecting property from vandals and working towards establishing endowment funds for operations once property is open to the public.

Bottle Village sustained heavy damage from the 1994 Northridge Earthquake. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funded the Architectural and Engineering report completed in 1995. PBVC rebuilding team is headed by structural engineer N.J. "Bud " Goldstone, renowned for his work with The Los Angeles Watts Towers. This report lays out what needs to be done, how to do it, and what the cost is. Complete funding for the rebuilding effort initially approved by FEMA was rescinded in 1997 due to local efforts of Congressman Elton Gallegly (R) who went as far as

entering into the House a one line bill prohibiting any federal funding to Bottle Village for Earthquake repair. This was all in an election year, he was quoted in the paper as offering to donate \$5,000 to have Bottle Village bulldozed.

PBVC partial or full funding request is for the emergency stabilization and property security part of this project , outlined in the attached budget (amended from the original to account for some of the work initially included being completed by volunteers and student intern under consultation with fine arts conservator.) This part of project must be completed by the year 2000 or Bottle Village faces complete demolition for failure to meet State of California seismic mitigation for unreinforced masonry. In addition, the costs of tree trimming for overgrown eucalyptus trees causing a fire hazard and threatening the buildings are included. They are seventeen years overdue in trimming, an expense of \$2,500. Also as PBVC has no paid administrator or staff, the costs of a project manager are also included. Total proposal- \$61203.00. I should note that if the Foundation were to approve partial funding there is an excellent chance that matching funds would be forthcoming from the National Trust of Historic Preservation.

PBVC will be happy to supply any additional information you might need to make your determination. Of special note, the FEMA rebuilding project consisted of 16 Damage Survey Reports (DSR) which address different aspects of the project. Anyone of the 16 is its own entity and could be used as a blue print for action. Even though we regret having lost the funding for this project, we are fortunate to have such an elaborate and thought out study. Part or all of this can be provided. Also a five minute video of site documentation completed June 98 is available. More general information and photos are on our web site donated, designed and maintained for us by Ross Garcia: <http://www.primenet.com/~nrbq/bv/>

You may contact me at TEL: (805) 527-6591, FAX: (805) 527-5022 or
Acting Director Daniel Paul TEL: (714) 776-6175
MAIL: 1625 E.Willow St.,Anaheim, CA 92805
FAX: (714) 774-4584

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Janice Wilson
Preserve Bottle Village, caretaker and president

attachments
501(c)(3) designation
Project budget