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THE ART BEAL FOUNDATION * P.O. BOX 1738 * SAN LUIS OBISPO CA *

February 15, 1977

Danny O'Keefe
7123 Woodrow Wilson Drive
Los Angeles CA 90068

Dear Danny:

We were delighted by your decision to become one of the Art Beal Foundation's associate members. Below please find a brief history of our work to date, the fiscal obligations of the Foundation and information about the status of Nitwit Ridge.

As you know, two years ago a small group of local people (JFR and VL) decided to take steps to insure the preservation and protection of Nitwit Ridge in Cambria Pines, CA, the creation of one Art Beal. Today that dream is becoming a reality.

The property of Nitwit Ridge has been restored to its original owner (Art Beal), who in turn has deeded it to the non-profit Art Beal Foundation in January, 1976. Art's reasons for doing this are to insure that his creation will not be bulldozed down once he is gone, and to prevent any individual from profiting through the ownership or sale of the land. Art Beal himself has a life estate in the property and no longer has to worry about being evicted, paying rent or paying property taxes.

A fund-raiser in April, 1975, raised \$1,003.76, enough to begin the legal battle which culminated in an out-of-court settlement of \$2,500. Another fund-raiser (see enclosed materials) is planned for this Feb. 20. Its events include music, a Nitwit Ridge film, a "Junk into Beauty" recycled art contest and a raffle. We hope to clear between \$1,000 and \$2,000. Total money owed by the Foundation at this point is \$3,624. (\$2,024. in back and present property taxes and \$1,600. in personal no-interest loans made by two individuals to help pay the out-of-court settlement.)

Yes

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The Art Beal Foundation itself is in the process of getting its Federal and State tax-exempt status. Jim Duenow and Dave FitzPatrick of Duenow, Burke and Smith of San Luis Obispo are donating their time and legal services, which means the process of incorporation and tax-exemption is a little more leisurely than usual. The Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws have been filed with the Secretary of State (Articles are enclosed).

Now we are to the point of putting together the associate membership for the Foundation, as called for in the Bylaws. It will be comprised of a select number of people of some standing and stability in the community who also know and respect Art Beal and the creation he has labored on for over 40 years.

The associate membership which you have agreed to accept is an honorary and advisory position only. It does not entail voting or attending meetings. It does require a contribution, as stipulated in Article II, Section 3 of the Bylaws, which we have set at \$100. This is a one-time fee only, and it will go toward the \$3,624. in debts mentioned earlier.

Associate members will receive regular fiscal reports and newsletters on the Foundation's business. They will also be contacted on a regular basis for their valued opinions and input into the Foundation's projects and priorities.

Danny, thanks again for joining us in preserving Nitwit Ridge, surely one of the most original artistic statements on the West Coast. Whenever your career permits, we'd like you to visit and stay at Nitwit Ridge. Art would be delighted, and there's plenty of room.

All best wishes to you in your music and your life,

Cordially,

John FitzRandolph
Co-Founders,
The Art Beal Foundation

Vicki Leon