

AFFIDAVIT OF DOUGLAS E. EVELYN

**Submitted in Support of the Request of
The George Washington University for
A Curb Cut for the GW Museum**

I am Douglas E. Evelyn and I am providing this affidavit with respect to the loading requirements for the proposed GW Museum, including the relocated Textile Museum

- 1 I have 45 years of museum experience, including 36 years as a Smithsonian Institution museum operations officer and over 20 years as a peer reviewer for the American Association of Museums ("AAM") accreditation program. I am therefore qualified as an expert in museum operations**
- 2 State of the art museum construction today requires direct vehicular access to interior art loading and processing facilities. This approach is particularly important for the planned GW Museum for the following reasons**
 - The Textile Museum's collections include highly valuable, fragile and rare artworks requiring the utmost care and protection. The GW Museum will also be exhibiting collections from the Albert H. Small Washingtoniana Collection as well as other GW collections that will include valuable and fragile works. Finally, the GW Museum will also seek to borrow art work from around the world and such loans will require the highest standards of protection**
 - Lenders and sound museum practice dictate that art deliveries be made in protected conditions with highest standards of handling, security, safety from the elements, and environmental stability. Door to door delivery with minimum exposure to risk and excessive handling is essential and the only widely acceptable solution**
 - These standards apply both to receiving deliveries and packing vehicles for out-shipments. Protected conditions and efficiency of handling are paramount concerns**
 - That the GW Museum's Conservation facilities will be located in Virginia but support the Museum's operation downtown will require that carefully preserved and prepared collections be moved between the facilities to be presented to the public in exhibitions and programs. These rare and sensitive items need to be systematically protected door to door when moving between the two facilities**
 - All borrowers complete a standard AAM facility report which is used by major lenders to decide whether to loan. Having to report lack of direct access to controlled interior loading would lead to denial of important loans**

- Inability to borrow highly sensitive items because of the lack of direct access would adversely impact the quality of scholarly and popular exhibitions and prevent the Museum from achieving its highest educational goals
 - As a teaching museum used by GW's nationally leading museum studies program the facility should exhibit the highest professional standards in its design and operation
- 3 Having the direct access/interior loading facility will assist the Museum in achieving AAM accreditation -- a highly significant professional goal
- Alternative approaches such as curb loading pose unacceptable risk to collections and inefficiencies in staff handling and should be avoided
 - Given the sensitivity of the rare and fragile artworks expected by the Museum, unnecessary jolting as would be required by a partial or modified curb cut is highly inadvisable

In conclusion, the GW Museum loading facility and access should be of the highest standard being designed today. It will be a leading teaching museum housing the world-renowned collections and programs of the Textile Museum and providing valuable programming to its community and the nation. For the long term success of the Museum I strongly urge that the direct access interior loading approach be provided.

6 January 2012

Date

Douglas E Evelyn

Douglas E Evelyn