March 6, 2000

The Honorable Shellia Cross-Reid
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 Fourth Street, NW, 2nd Floor
Washington, D.C.20001

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
00 MAR 15 AM 11:28

Re: Application No. 16554
2306 Massachusetts Avenue, NW

Dear Mrs. Cross-Reid,

As educators and docents who have worked at the Alice Pike Barney Studio House we are writing to support the application for an exception to permit the operation of The Studio House School of the Arts at 2306 Massachusetts Avenue,NW.

Studio house was restored and reopened in 1979. Throughout the 1980's and early 1990's we conducted tours and assisted the late Jean Kling, author of *Alice Pike Barney: Her Life and Art,* in the recreation of the musicals and theater productions that were similar to those presented by Mrs. Barney from 1903 – to 1926. We experienced the unique and magical qualities that the studio house has for the visual and performing arts.

From the beginning Studio House was built to introduce the citizens of Washington DC to the fine arts. In 1960 Mrs. Barney's daughters, Laura and Natalie, gave the Smithsonian Institution the house. The deed of gift dated November 9,1960 contained the following restrictions:

> That a bronze plaque be mounted on the front of the house and the building be maintained as an arts and cultural center with the general architectural character preserved... .

The restoration and reopening of Studio House as The Studio House School of the Arts where young people from Washington DC can be educated in the arts and perform before their families, friends and the public will once again fulfill the important legacy of Mrs. Barney. There are not enough opportunities for young people to study the arts in our city. We believe that this important effort to contribute to the arts education of our youth should be supported.

The mixed-use proposal offered here is consistent with the historic character of the building. Studio House School of the Arts would be a tremendous asset to the neighborhood and the city. We urge that the application it be approved.

Sincerely,

Louise Belcher
Peggy Fitzenberg
Anna DeKnight
Loretta Rockenthal
Phoebe C. Kline
Barbara Booth
Helen F. Dickerson
Lillian Moses
Marilyn Sonolar
Katherine Chase
Mary Jean Rose
Clare M Lord
Betty Schulman
Marilyn Reis
Mary Lou Relic

BZA
Case No. 16554
Exhibit No. 47

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16554
EXHIBIT NO.47