BZA Case #16920

Subj:	**Burton Marinkovich**
Date:	11/20/2002 4:48:19 PM Eastern Standard Time
From:	ArtRoyceB
To:	sgell@his.com

RECEIVED
D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2002 NOV 21 AM 7:50

Board of Zoning Adjustment November 20, 2002

I. In response to Statement of Morton J. Schussheim, November, 2002

In paragraph 2, Schussheim mentions Jane Haslem, and admits that she has run an "unobtrusive art gallery in her basement for many years". That is what we wish to do. The residential nature of the Bass home will not change. He sees her as part of the community. Why not us? As for other "would-be businesses . . . nibbling away . . .", as I understand it, there is no provision for such businesses, other than art galleries and similar enterprises.

2. In response to the letter from Jane Haslem

Jane Haslem is in fact our role model (see above). We wish only to to what she has done for so long.

In her paragraph I, she refers to ". . . the new project at the Phillips Museum" and continues " . . . the neighborhood is one step closer to being zoned commercial". This does not follow. The Phillips Collection is not a commercial business, and does not promote commercial ventures in the neighborhood. She talks about her fear for the neighborhood. Her fear, and the fear of other hostile neighbors, should not be sufficient to suppress our legitimate enterprise.

In her paragraph 3, she says "We need to retain the older homes and their use as residential dwellings in this area." This is also our aim. Again, the residential nature of the Bass home will not change.

3. In response to the letter from Vince Hurteau

The $4500 rent that he refers to includes rent for residential space for at least two, and ultimately three, tenants. A gallery such as ours, like other galleries in the neighborhood, cannot flourish in a purely commercial setting like Connecticut Avenue. In our galllery , we deal directly with people in a personal way, and treat our clients as guests rather than commercial customers.

As for his final paragraph, what's wrong with being profitable? Any business needs to be profitable to exist. If he is suggesting that our primary aim is to make money at the expense of the neighborhood, then he is ignorant of the gallery business, in which love of art and making art accessible to people is overwhelmingly the purpose.

4. In summation

We wish only to have the opportunity that Jane Haslem has, or Marsha Mateyka and the other galleries of this vibrant, mixed-use neighborhood. We wish to show art in an appropriate setting, and to continue to be part of the the Dupont Circle community.

Respectfully,

Royce Burton

BZA
Case No. 16920
Exhibit No. 66

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16920
EXHIBIT NO.66