

MEMORANDUM

TO: CARL STOVER
FROM: AL DE GRAZIA
DATE: OCTOBER 11, 1978
SUBJECT: VISIT TO PROVIDENCE, OCTOBER 5, 6, 1978.

1. A separate report on MIT-Harvard visit will come. 0
2. On October 5, I visited Providence to renew acquaintance with local artists and community services people. I talked to Karnig Nalbandian, painter-sculptor; Dr. Myron Nalbandian, Director of Research and Planning for "Progress for Providence," a community services organization with a multi-support base; two administrative members of the Providence repertory theatre group, and sundry persons moving in and out of the scenes of my visit.
3. Repertory people wanted money, of course; I suggested that they organize a half-dozen industrial concerns of the area to support in-house theatre, thus giving these people employment as coaches and trainers and building up a eager and new audience for their theatre out of the newly activated factory participants. They said they'd let me know.
4. Karnig had little to suggest organizationally, being the proverbial lone-working artist, but would like to magnify fifty-fold one of his marvelous little surrealistic metal constructions--birds, boats, etc., in a public place. I'll pass the word along.
5. Myron (Mike) Nalbandian tells me that South Providence has a fine set of houses slipping into a ruinous state that might be bought for very little and resettled by artists as a community. I asked him for a memorandum on the subject.
6. Relative to point 5, I doubt that America's "historical buildings" are going to be restored or kept up by the commercial sector without much more than a fast write-off of taxes. And artists couldn't care less for the same, being poor. But, I believe in the concept and can imagine a scheme that would activate it. Perhaps you can give a few of your well-chosen words on the subject in due course.

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TO: CARL STOVER
FROM: AL DE GRAZIA
DATE: OCTOBER 12, 1978
SUBJECT: HARVARD-MIT VISIT, 6 OCTOBER

Frank Davidson, head of MIT's Systems Dynamics Group, sponsored a luncheon meeting on support of the arts with Harvard and MIT guests. From it came the following:

1. Exposition of the work done and planned by Cultural Resources by yours truly.
2. Idea (From Isabella Grandin, an MIT philanthrope) that terminal illness is an area where art of various kinds is much needed. Good comments around the board. Could be a) idea we circulate; b) help an art school (Boston, Washington, wherever) to develop and finance; c) develop and attack as a special center to something; d) get the NEA to sponsor.
3. Idea for a book on art fairs, walls, etc. A young editor (Suzanne Fairclough) from MIT Technology has been pursuing fairs everywhere without seeing its potential for national consciousness raising if framed into a book. She will pursue.
4. Invitation to Anne-Marie Hueber to lecture at Boston French Library on "The Period of Great Hostesses (18th Century)." (I can see the inspiration of a number of artistic salons in various cities.)
5. A meeting with General Georges Doriot, Harvard professor emeritus, founder of the great systems and computer firm, Digital, who can be counted upon for an interest in the aesthetic dimension of business and industry.
6. An agreement to lend a hand to Davidson & UNESCO on a new international project to rebuild the great library of Alexandria, Egypt. (Many symbolic and political associations.)
7. A discussion with Davidson (he has been the main inspiration and promoter for 20 years of the England-to-France Tunnel) of a project that his father almost pushed through after WWII in NY--a War Memorial Complex. Now we imagine it as a large cultural, suburban-night stopover, calisthenic, restaurant complex in a broken-down part of Manhattan, dedicated as a memorial to the American veteran, with a corridor of lights winding throughout (ala the "Memorial of the Departed" in Paris) let by the kin of the departed.

A list of persons referred to above is attached.