

LACMA

LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART  
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MICHAEL GOXAN

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May 6, 2015

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

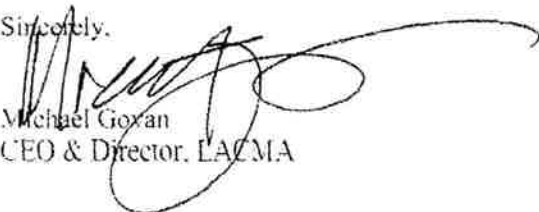
I write to express my strong support of the designation of the Garden and Coal Valley area as a component of the National Landscape Conservation System pursuant to either Presidential authorities or federal legislative actions, and to notify you of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's intent to transfer to the federal government for the purpose of such a designation a conservation easement in private lands encompassing and nearby the artwork *City*, by the artist Michael Heizer.

Michael Heizer is an internationally renowned and influential artist whose works are owned and exhibited by many museums, including ours. The land art work *City*, in Garden Valley, Nevada, is monumental in design. The sculpture, which measures more than a mile in length and a quarter mile in width, comprises earthen mounds and pits, cinder-dyed cement slopes, and huge geometric cement forms that capture shifting sun and shadows. The primitive forms create a large, sunken plaza reminiscent at once of the national mall in Washington and large Mesoamerican ruins such as Chichén Itzá or Teotihuacán in Mexico while also reflecting the most modern building technologies. The artist has been working on *City* since the 1970s, and the artwork is nearly complete after some 40 years of work. The location of *City* in an undeveloped area within the Basin and Range region will draw visitors from around the world to experience a uniquely American sculpture set within a uniquely American landscape.

The Triple Aught Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to owning and displaying the art of Michael Heizer, presently owns the land upon which *City* is situated, as well as lands around *City* that are maintained as undeveloped open space. Museum Associates, a 501(c)(3) organization organized under the laws of California, doing business as, and operating The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) has acquired a conservation easement from the Triple Aught Foundation to ensure the protection of *City* and the adjacent open space and secure public access to *City* upon its completion and the preparation of a visitor management plan by Triple Aught and the Bureau of Land Management. In order to achieve designation as a component of the National Landscape Conservation System, LACMA is prepared at this time to donate the conservation easement encompassing the realty containing *City* and the adjacent open space to the federal government as approved by the Board of Trustees of LACMA pursuant to their authority under LACMA's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Our intent is that the donated conservation easement would be administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management as a part of the National Landscape Conservation System. The Los Angeles County Museum of Art is also prepared to continue to explore and advise on arrangements with the Triple Aught Foundation and the Bureau of Land Management that would further the preservation and interpretation of the entire site for the public.

We look forward to the accomplishment of this important milestone in the ongoing historic and artistic significance of this national treasure.

Sincerely,

  
Michael Goxan  
CEO & Director, LACMA

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