VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Dear Educator:

As an educational institution of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is committed to the safekeeping of school children under our instruction. We are pleased to respond to requests for certification that museum affiliates assigned duties involving direct contact with students meet the statutory requirements set forth in Section 22.1-296.1 of the *Code of Virginia*.

Enacted in 2006, Section 22.1-296.1 of the *Code of Virginia* requires that all persons who provide services to school children during school sponsored activities and have direct contact with students certify that 1) the individual has not been convicted of a felony or any offense involving the sexual molestation or physical or sexual abuse or rape of a child; and indicate 2) whether the individual has been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude. The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts has implemented several measures to help prevent persons guilty of these crimes from having direct access to school children under our instruction.

In that VMFA is a secure facility all persons permitted unescorted access in the museum undergo a security clearance process when they begin their affiliation. In addition to VMFA's security clearance process which examines each affiliate's criminal history going back seven years, we have had a sex offender database search performed for every affiliate assigned duties involving direct contact with students. All of these investigations are performed by a contracted company specializing in pre-employment and background investigations.

VMFA also requires that each affiliate assigned duties involving direct contact with students *individually* complete and sign a certification form attesting to the affiliate's compliance with the statutory requirements set forth in the *Code of Virginia*. These certifications are maintained on file and may be viewed by school board officials or an authorized designee on request.