

February 2, 2006

Mr. Daniel B. Barnum, AIA
Vice President
Hall Barnum Lucchesi Architects
2727 Wesleyan
Houston, TX 77027

Dear Mr. Barnum,

We understand that there is some discussion about whether the University light rail line should be located on Westpark or on Richmond Avenue.

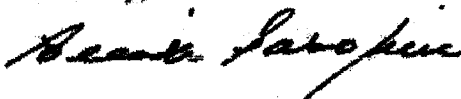
On behalf of the Board and management of The Menil Foundation we strongly urge Metro to locate the line on Richmond.

The Menil has had a number of preliminary discussions with Metro regarding a rail stop near the Menil and the University of St. Thomas—say, at Richmond and Mandell, or Richmond and Graustark—and we strongly support such a decision. The Menil Collection and the Houston public would benefit considerably from such a stop, as it would make the museum's world class art collections and exhibitions much more accessible to visitors. We have long felt that our location away from any major thoroughfare makes it difficult for visitors to find us. A nearby Metro stop would go a long way to solving that problem, and would make this part of the Museum District as accessible to rail as are the institutions (the MFA, the CAM and others) nearby the Museum Stop at Bissonnet.

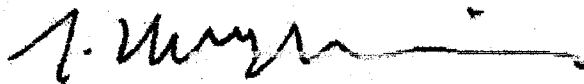
The museum has just completed an important year of strategic planning involving the full Board of Trustees and the staff. One of the outcomes was a decision to make the Houston public more broadly aware of this wonderful institution in its midst. The museum is open to the public with free admission at all times, and we would like more Houstonians to know us. The proximity of an important rail line and rail stop will play a critical role in our plans.

The Menil Collection is one of Houston's shining jewels. We hope that the Richmond line will allow us to reach more Houstonians, and indeed the many visitors to our city who find light rail a convenient way to travel.

Sincerely,



Louisa Stude Sarofim
President



Josef Helfantstein
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

cc: [unclear]
[unclear]