

Harvard Art Museums

Fogg Museum
Busch-Reisinger Museum
Arthur M. Sackler Museum

23rd June, 2015

Higher Education Quality Committee
The Council on Higher Education
Pretoria, South Africa

Dear Chairperson,

Re: Accreditation application of South African Institute for Heritage Science and Conservation

I am the director of the Straus Center for Conservation and Technical Studies at the Harvard Art Museums. We have a staff of approximately twenty conservators and scientists, are a founding member of the Association of North American Graduate Programs in Conservation (ANAGPIC), and train advanced level conservation fellows in paintings, paper and objects conservation as well as train conservation scientists at a post-doctoral level. I have also been asked by the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies to assess the Queen's University Conservation program in 2007.

From February 28-March 3 2015 I was invited to participate in a workshop hosted by The University of Pretoria and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation regarding the state of training in the conservation of cultural heritage in South Africa. The workshop was well attended by local delegates including the South African Institute for Heritage Science and Conservation as well as international delegates from the US, UK and Europe.

It became abundantly clear during the course of the workshop that officially recognized conservation training is a critical need in South Africa and that the South African Institute for Heritage Science and Conservation is currently the only possibility for training in the country. In the course of assessing the Institute's application, it is possible that the Council may have to seek the advice of conservation education professionals outside of South Africa. If that were the case, I would be only too pleased to answer any of the Council's enquiries.

It is heartening to see that South Africa is officially embracing the need for conservation training, and I am supportive of the endeavours that will move the process forward.

Yours sincerely

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Director
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