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Joel Levinson Founder and Director Avenue of American History Development Group 52 West Gowen Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19119-1645

Dear Joel,

I feel privileged to have been introduced to The Avenue of American History project. I am overwhelmed with admiration for the project, not just because it is ambitious and inspiring, but also because it holds promise of becoming reality. And because it is needed. It could become a hugely important addition to the treasures of historical sites and museums that already exist in this country.

You have clearly thought long and hard about the practicalities of the endeavor as well as its inspirational and artistic dimensions. This is important. To become significant, great ideas must become realities.

Having been a teacher all my life, I think first of the educational value of the Avenue of American History. We are awash in entertainment and need more public education. As historic old Philadelphia proves, history-focused education, done well, can be attractive. And history-focused education, built around recent as well as distant history, is vitally important in this chaotic, struggling democracy we call America.

It's been my great pleasure in these recent weeks, Joel, to get better acquainted with you and to learn more about your achievements, both artistic and practical. I wish you every success in bringing the Avenue of American History to reality, and have a feeling that with your leadership and guidance, it is likely to happen.

Sincerely,