

Friends of the Blair Museum, Inc.
5403 Elmer Drive
Toledo Ohio 43615

Sent via email (Gretchen.Debacker@toledo.oh.gov.)

June 17, 2020

Dear Toledo City Council Members:

On behalf of Friends of the Blair Museum, Inc., I write to express the Friends enthusiastic support for the City of Toledo's donation of the Blair Museum of Lithophanes to the Joseph J. and Marie P. Schedel Foundation, for display of the Collection at the Schedel Arboretum and Gardens.

After a prolonged and diligent search, Friends believes that donating the Blair Collection to Schedel is both the best available option for fulfilling the City's obligations regarding the Collection, and an outstanding choice of entity for the long term maintenance and display of the Collection. The Schedel Foundation is a well-established Ohio not-for-profit entity with a solid Board and administrative structure and a robust program. It has demonstrated a long standing appreciation for the arts, and is enthusiastic about diversifying its cultural offerings with the addition of the Blair Collection. The 1887 Victorian home of Joseph and Marie Schedel will provide an outstanding period context for viewing the unique Collection.

Under the Donor Agreement with the City, the Schedel Foundation has agreed d to fulfill the commitments for maintenance and display of the Collection that the City made to Laurel Blair when it accepted the Collection in 1993. Additionally, the Schedel Foundation has agreed to permit the Friends Board to appoint representatives to a committee to oversee and promote the Collection. The Friends of Blair will provide volunteer and financial support to move the Collection to the Schedel Arboretum and Gardens to meet the City's deadline for removing the Collection from the Toledo Botanical Gardens.

In conclusion, the Friends of the Blair Museum gives it unqualified endorsement to the proposed Donor Agreement with the Schedel Foundation, and requests City Council's prompt approval of the Ordinance approving the Agreement. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 419-534-2941 or patriciascharf@aol.com if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,



Patricia Scharf, President
Friends of the Blair Museum, Inc.