

To: Julia Marciari-Alexander , Kathleen Basham, Rebecca Casanova, and Evander Toney,

CC: Patrick Williams

We wanted to reach out because it has come to our attention that some staff members have recently been exposed to organic vapors that resulted in symptoms of sore throats, dizziness, nausea, headaches, and other respiratory issues while working on the fourth and fifth floors of the Centre Street building. Furthermore, the vapors do not seem to be contained on just the fourth and fifth floors. Throughout the day, workers have noticed the odor of these vapors elsewhere, including on the third floor and in both elevators. Gallery officers working on contractor duty spend a long period of time in the elevators that do not have adequate ventilation. We are especially concerned because there has not been an all-staff communication sent out about the presence of the dangerous vapor, what symptoms to watch out for, or about any mitigating measures the museum has taken to reduce exposure.

To help remedy this situation we would like to see the museum:

- Immediately stop posting gallery officers in the affected areas or in elevators that carry the vapor throughout the building.
- Disclose the name of the chemical product that was used to all staff.
- Provide access to the material safety data sheet (MSDS), so that all staff can review health effects they may be experiencing and determine whether they are related to this incident.

We understand that things happen at work and that not everything can be prevented. However, communication of the hazards in the workplace to all staff could have prevented further chemical exposure and endangerment. In addition, if we had been part of the conversation, we could have raised concerns over gallery officers being posted throughout the museum, which continues to put them at risk. Our health and safety is not negotiable. This is just one more reason why we are looking forward to formally partnering with management as a union.

In solidarity,

