



City of Philadelphia

City Council
Chief Clerk's Office
402 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Legislation Text

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Authorizing City Council's Committee on the Environment and the Committee on Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Affairs to hold joint public hearings to investigate the steps the Barnes Foundation is currently taking regarding the use of Green Building technologies and practices, such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards in the design of its new facility to be built on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway and to explore the feasibility of using such technologies in construction.

WHEREAS, the educational mission of The Barnes Foundation and its art galleries and collection of art works assembled by Dr. Albert C. Barnes are internationally famous for their promotion of art appreciation and arboriculture, and for their unique qualities; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Philadelphia and citizens of the City will enjoy exceptional cultural and economical benefits by providing a site on which the Barnes Foundation can develop, construct and operate an art education facility, including art galleries to display those works of art assembled by Dr. Albert C. Barnes that are currently on display in the public galleries of the Lower Merion art education facility of the Barnes Collection; and,

WHEREAS, the location of the Foundation's art education facility, including art galleries, and the Barnes Collection, in the City will greatly enhance the City's cultural resources, promote the City's international renown for its art education opportunities, and attract visitors to the City from around the nation and the world; and,

WHEREAS, the Grand Rapids Art Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan was named by *Newsweek* magazine as one of the six most important buildings of 2007, and is the first museum of fine arts in the world to follow LEED guidelines towards becoming certified at the Gold level by the United States Green Building Council; and,

WHEREAS, the Grand Rapids Art Museum expects to reduce water use by 20% by capturing rainwater and reusing it in landscaping, consume 30% less energy through efficient window design and insulation, and improve indoor air quality by using low-emitting Volatile Organic Compounds as means to achieve LEED Gold certification; and,

WHEREAS, increasing the energy efficiency and lowering the environmental impact of the built environment is critical to becoming more sustainable considering buildings account for 76% of all electricity consumption in the United States, 48% of greenhouse gas emissions, and 40% of landfill waste as a by-product of the building process; and,

WHEREAS, the Barnes Foundation has hired the internationally renowned firms Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects, Ballinger, and the Olin Partnership to design the new state-of-the-art facility; and,

WHEREAS, both the Barnes Foundation and the City of Philadelphia and its citizens will enjoy and benefit

from a facility that creates and sustains learning, artistic appreciation, social engagement, financial solvency, and environmental responsibility; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA That Council hereby authorizes the City Council's Committee on the Environment and the Committee on Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Affairs to hold joint public hearings to investigate the steps the Barnes Foundation is currently taking regarding the use of Green Building technologies and practices, such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards in the design of its new facility to be built on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway and to explore the feasibility of using such technologies in construction.