



March 27, 2020

Dear Members,

These are unprecedented and uncertain times. We hope that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy.

We wanted to write to you today to let you know that over the past weeks, Cape Ann Museum leadership has been actively assessing the COVID-19 crisis and its potential impact to our operations. We will not sugarcoat the fact that this crisis will create many challenges for arts and cultural organizations everywhere. We are not immune ... but we are from Gloucester. We will endure.

So much has happened in the past year at the Cape Ann Museum. *Homer at the Beach* helped to put us on the national stage and dramatically increased our level of visibility and importance within our community. Construction at the new Cape Ann Museum Green is nearly complete. When this crisis is over, it will be a wonderful place for our entire community to gather and reflect on what has happened and how we can join together to help Gloucester and Cape Ann rise again. It will be beautiful.

While we cannot yet predict the impact this crisis will have on our friends and neighbors in Gloucester and beyond, we resolve to not let these events stall our progress or diminish the value and importance of our mission. We will continue to tell the stories of our community, its people and their incredible contributions to American art and industry - yesterday, today and tomorrow.

The Cape Ann Museum is temporarily closed. During the period of time that our doors are closed to the public, the Museum will endeavor to leverage the new virtual world to make CAM even more relevant to our membership and community. We will strive to be a beacon of light and hope to our audience during times that may feel dark. We will work to connect with our community in ways that are not possible in the physical world. This is an opportunity.

The Museum has an exciting roster of online programs, events and exhibitions in development. We are also working to create branded, virtual education packages that can be delivered to area parents, teachers and schools who are all grappling with the concept and rollout of 'at-home'



learning. We will encourage members of our community to participate in conversations in our virtual environment about our collective past, present and future. We will document and archive the impact this crisis is having on our community and we will make our commitment to our neighbors in need widely known.

We will continue to update all of you on a regular basis throughout this period and we welcome your input and ideas. These are uncharted waters for us and we are extremely grateful for your patience and support.

Stay safe and be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles D. Esdaile".

Charles D. Esdaile
President, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Oliver Barker".

Oliver Barker
Director