



February 25, 2003

Nicole Possert and  
Friends of the Southwest Museum Coalition

Dear Nicole and Friends,

Thank you for your support of the Southwest Museum and the creation of the Autry National Center of the American West through the Southwest's merger with the Autry Museum of Western Heritage. Your comments and concerns are appreciated and we know that, with your assistance, we can achieve our mutual goal of assuring the future of the Southwest Museum.

The Southwest Museum and the Autry plan to complete their merger and commence the detailed planning that is necessary for the National Center. Creating and implementing the programs for the National Center will require extensive planning and community involvement. With your support, the following will occur:

1. The National Center envisions that the Southwest Museum and Casa de Adobe, located in Mount Washington, will be preserved and conserved, and that both sites will continue to be public destinations. Levin & Associates, Architects, will perform a Historic Building Assessment of both properties with the purpose of facilitating continued museum and related complementary uses for the site.
2. The National Center agrees to list the Southwest Museum building on the National Register of Historic Places.
3. The National Center, working closely with the community, will make every effort to create the necessary public facilities, such as parking, that will enhance viable museum uses for the site.
4. The National Center will preserve and conserve the collection of the Southwest Museum and will endeavor to create rotating exhibits and displays at the Mt. Washington site that showcase portions of the artifacts in the current Southwest Museum collection.
5. The National Center, again working with the community, will seek to secure public funding and support from city, county, and state governments to underwrite annual operations at Mt. Washington as well as for capital expenditures to improve the site and its buildings.

We look forward to your continued participation in the planning and development process resulting from the merger of the Southwest and Autry Museums.

Sincerely,

Dr. Duane King  
Southwest Museum of the American Indian

John L. Gray  
Autry Museum of Western Heritage