World Premiere

John Adams *Girls of the Golden West*

War Memorial Opera House Foyer Display

November–December 2017
September 25, 2017

Elizabeth Murray, Managing Director
War Memorial
401 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Beth,

I would like to propose to you and the War Memorial Trustees the idea of installing in the War Memorial Opera House foyer a small public exhibition in connection with the upcoming world premiere of the John Adams opera, *Girls of the Golden West*.

Specifically, I am proposing to the Trustees the installation of four vitrines in the Opera House foyer to be placed in front of the ornate torchiere fixtures located near the theater entrance. Each of the four vitrines, measuring 42” x 28” x 10”, would be filled with curated content related to the Gold Rush and/or early development of the city of San Francisco. Each vitrine would be specifically filled with unique content by our four community partners on this project: the California Historical Society, the Society of California Pioneers, Levi Strauss and the Museum of Performance and Design. All items inside the vitrines would be viewed through glass and would range from archival and rare photographs, letters and documents, historic overalls, jacket and shirts, mining tools, archival theater programs and other rare objects of the period. All items will be clearly identified.

It is my goal that this type of exhibition will provide a deeper understanding of this important world premiere production, foster a greater appreciation of this unique and fascinating period of California history and enhance the patron experience at the War Memorial Opera House.

With your approval, the San Francisco Opera Communications and Archives Departments would work to create an easy installation in two phases: deliver and set the vitrines in the foyer during the period of October 19 to 29, followed by the installation of the contents on October 30-31. Our goal would be to have this installation set-up in time for the *Manon* final dress rehearsal on November 2, and then enjoyed by opera patrons attending *Manon* (opening November 4); *Turandot* (opening November 18); and the world premiere of *Girls of the Golden West* (opening November 21 – December 10). The de-installation would occur immediately following the final performance and completed by December 12 or earlier, coinciding with San Francisco Ballet’s *Nutcracker* presentation and foyer display.

With the eyes of the classical music world on San Francisco Opera this November, I believe this Girls of the Golden West exhibition will be warmly received and appreciated by our patrons and attending
members of the national and international press corps. I hope you agree and will give your consent to allow us to move forward.

Sincerely,

Jon Pack
Director of Communications and Public Affairs

I am attaching photocopies of some suggested vitrine contents provided by the California Historical Society and Society of Pioneers including a letter written in gold dust. Additionally, please see an image of the actual vitrine, loaned to San Francisco Opera by the Museum of Performance and Design.