

August 24, 2015

City Council  
City of Houston  
900 Bagby Street  
First Floor  
Houston, TX 77002

Dear Council Members,

On behalf of the Menil Collection, please accept this letter as an expression of our support for including the campus of the Menil Collection in the proposed expansion of Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2, the Midtown TIRZ.

The Menil Collection was created in 1987 to present the art collection Dominique and John de Menil to the citizens of Houston and the world. To that end, it has been free to all visitors for nearly 30 years. To continue our mission, we have expanded our campus and will create additional buildings for the arts, green space and other private and public improvements to enhance our campus as a neighborhood of art. Our efforts are hampered by the condition of the public infrastructure; however, we believe that inclusion into the Midtown TIRZ offers the best opportunity to improve these conditions.

The Board of the Houston Museum District Association, of which we are a member, has voted unanimously to support the expansion of the Midtown TIRZ boundaries to include all member institutions, as is reflected in their April 16 letter to City Council. We believe, with the Museum District Association, that a partnership with Midtown will aid in improving the infrastructure and streetscape surrounding the museums, complementing existing transit options, and helping to create a cohesive, interconnected, and branded Museum District that allows pedestrians, motorists, bicyclists, and transit riders to access our institutions safely and conveniently.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Helfenstein', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Josef Helfenstein  
Director