

April 4, 2012

Director  
California Service Center  
U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services  
24000 Avila Road  
2nd Floor, Room 2312  
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

RE: Cameron Cross

Dear Director:

I am providing this peer group advisory opinion to acknowledge the extraordinary ability of Cameron Cross in the field of art, in support of an O-1 petition by the City of Goodland on his behalf. As the head of the American Alliance of Museums for the past five years, and with more than 30 years of nonprofit experience as well as a long standing relationship with the museum and art community, I am well qualified to attest to the significant and one of a kind contribution of Mr. Cross to the arts.

The American Alliance of Museums ("AAM") <http://www.aam-us.org> is a national body that regulates, promotes, and actively provides leadership for museums and arts organizations in their capacity as places of lifelong learning and inspiration. AAM has been bringing museums together since 1906, helping to develop standards and best practices, gathering and sharing knowledge, and providing advocacy on issues of concern to the entire museum community. We are dedicated to ensuring that museums remain a vital part of the American landscape, connecting people with the greatest achievements of the human experience, past, present and future.

AAM is the only organization representing the entire scope of museums and professionals and nonpaid staff who work for and with museums. We currently represent more than 18,000 individual museum professionals and volunteers, almost 3,000 institutions, and 250 corporate members. Individual members span the range of museum occupations, including directors, curators, registrars, educators, exhibit designers, public relations officers, development officers, security managers, trustees and volunteers.

At AAM, we recognize that Mr. Cross's contribution to the arts through his one of a kind outdoor sculpture is in line with our role in the cultural sector. Mr. Cross has been an artist for over fifteen years, dedicating his body of work toward arts education. Mr. Cross's largest art education effort has been through the *Big Easel Project*.

A singular art effort by Mr. Cross, this project is the first of its kind. Mr. Cross has commented: "Taking a traditional representation of visual art - the painting on an easel - and enlarging it to enormous proportions, changes the viewer's perception of this image. The easel is now a landmark, it is now a contemporary work of public sculpture."

A work visa is a necessity for Mr. Cross so he may restore the painting to its original beauty, as it is an outdoor painting that is exposed to the harsh elements. As it is Mr. Cross's project, and his expertise in treating and caring for his outdoor sculpture is unique to his artistic technique, Mr. Cross needs to return to Goodland to rehabilitate this treasured artwork for the City of Goodland. In order to keep the artistic integrity intact, the original artist is required to clean and restore the painting to its original state. The vision and original intent of the project would be compromised if another artist interfered with Mr. Cross's work.

As director of the American Association of Museums, I endorse the City of Goodland's petition and recommend Mr. Cross's entry into the U.S. to complete his work on the Goodland sculpture.

Sincerely,

Ford W. Bell, DVM