



Association of Art Museum Directors

41 E. 65th Street
New York, NY 10021
Tel: 212.249.4423
Fax: 212.535.5039

New York, NY, February 7, 2005 – At its recently-concluded mid-winter meeting, the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD) approved the following resolution:

An artwork of national and international significance, Michael Heizer's monumental earthwork, *City*, is under threat from a proposed U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), rail line intended to transport nuclear waste directly through Nevada's Garden Valley, where *City* is located. Rail construction and operation will permanently destroy a visitor's experience of Heizer's isolated sculpture by causing irrevocable harm to the Valley's undisturbed emptiness and the silence of its delicate desert environment.

Construction of the rail line also raises significant environmental concerns for the primitive wilderness areas along Quinn Canyon and Grant Ranges that border Garden Valley and for the nearby Worthington Mountains.

The Dia Art Foundation, as the organizational conduit for the major funding for *City*, is fighting to protect the artwork from the damage that would be inevitable should DOE follow through with its plan to build the Caliente Corridor rail line.

Alternative rail routes have already been identified that would enable DOE to avoid Garden Valley. Such alternatives would have significantly less environmental impact on Garden Valley, and would protect Heizer's artwork as part of our national cultural heritage.

The Association of Art Museum Directors, representing 168 art museums in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, strongly urges the U.S. Department of Energy, Congress, the President, and other government officials to reconsider current plans for the Caliente Corridor rail line and to take whatever steps necessary to preserve the artistic integrity of Michael Heizer's *City*.

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For more information, please contact:

Fred Schroeder
Resnicow Schroeder Associates
(212) 671-5152
fschroeder@resnicowschroeder

Mimi Gaudieri
Association of Art Museum Directors
(212) 249-4423
mgaudieri@aamd.org