

**Sent via email**

October 14, 2019

Dear Representative Jacobs:

Thank you giving us the opportunity to respond to the self-serving letter written on behalf of the Florida Trust as it is replete with misrepresentations, mischaracterizations, and flat out lies.

- 1) **The Florida Trust's claim that BHI wants to "develop" the property and this is why they ousted BHI to take over management of the property is completely false.** In exploring solutions for the long term sustainability of the property and its long term capital needs both the Florida Trust and BHI explored "development " options for a café on one of the outparcels. The conclusion was this was not a good option at this time. This was done with the full knowledge and participation of the Florida Trust. The Florida Trust attempted to oust BHI when BHI questioned the continuing "upstream" payments to the Florida Trust. It was only when the BHI recommended that the payment "upstream" end immediately that the Florida Trust started its campaign to oust BHI.
- 2) **Florida Trust's misrepresentation that BHI has no interest in the property is false.** We have the will. Mrs. Bartlett specifically bequeathed the contents of Bonnet House and all of her artwork to Bonnet House, Inc. She did not bequeath any of the contents or artwork to the Florida Trust. Mrs. Bartlett made this gift to BHI in the early 1990s after she learned that the Florida Trust was taking money from Bonnet House to reimburse itself for "visits" to the property.
- 3) **The Florida Trust has never written any grants to support Bonnet House nor has the Florida Trust ever raised money for Bonnet House.** When the property was transferred in 1983, Mrs. Bartlett gave \$1 million to accompany the gift. She stipulated that the Florida Trust match that with an additional \$1 million. The "\$1 million match" was done through the efforts of Fort Lauderdale attorney, Mike McNerney (Mrs. Bartlett's lawyer) and Fort Lauderdale State Representative Tom Gustafson (later Speaker) who raised the match as an appropriation from the legislature. The Florida Trust did nothing to contribute to or secure that appropriation.
- 4) **The representation that Mrs. Bartlett signed the deed to the Florida Trust AFTER the property agreement with BHI was in place is nonsense and shows the dearth of Florida Trust's understanding of the operating documents.** Mrs. Bartlett signed the deed in 1983. By 1987 she was upset when she wrote the letters stating the Florida Trust should raise their own money. Bonnet House, Inc. was formed in 1990 to take over operations after it became apparent to all, including the Florida State Preservation officer, that the Florida Trust was incapable of managing the property and doing nothing except taking money from the property to launch its operations statewide.

One wonders why the Florida Trust would have any concerns that elected officials like yourself are involved. **Public charities owe transparency for carrying out their mission.** Elected officials, like any other citizens, have the right to question how a charity is stewarding its mission and assets. The huge public interest in this story is of course going to raise the concern of local leaders since it is such a great concern to local residents who have supported the property for the last 30 years. Bonnet House, Inc., remains grateful for your interest and for your efforts to rally additional support in the Broward delegation and bringing transparency to the Florida Trust's malfeasance. Please let us know if you need anything further.

Thank you again.

Patrick

---

Patrick Shavloske

Chief Executive Officer

Bonnet House Museum & Gardens

900 North Birch Road

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304