THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: School Naming

Action Requested: Authorization to name the School of Art and Design in honor of Penny W. Stamps

Background:

Penny W. and E. Roe Stamps have generously supported the University of Michigan’s School of Art and Design, where Penny is an alumna, becoming the most generous donors in the school’s history. Their investment has been a catalyst for the increasing prominence of the school.

Over the past decade the Stamps have played an integral part in building the school’s reputation through their gifts in support of facilities, programs, and students. In 2001 the Stamps created the Penny W. Stamps Distinguished Visitors Series, which brings high profile speakers to the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor for presentations attended by audiences made up of students and others from across campus and the community. Concerned that the School of Art and Design did not have a public presence on central campus, the Stamps supported the creation of a public gallery, WORK•Ann Arbor, where student work could be exhibited. By creating the Roman J. Witt Visitors Program, they brought exciting artists and designers to the school to be in-residence.

Their most recent generosity has provided funding for the Art and Design Stamps Creative Work Scholarships, dramatically increasing the school’s ability to recruit extraordinarily creative students from around the world through merit scholarships. It also expands funding for the Stamps Enhancement Programs, including the Distinguished Visitors Series, the Roman J. Witt Visitors Program, WORK•Ann Arbor, and other programs.

The commitment to the School of Art and Design is $40 million, of which $32.5 million is from Penny and Roe Stamps’ foundations and $7.5 million is a match to the endowment from the University of Michigan.

In addition to their exceptional support for the School of Art and Design, the Stamps contribute generously to a university-wide Stamps Scholars Program. This program provides financial aid to approximately 72 students per year in the university’s
undergraduate schools, making it one of the largest of its kind at the university and the most selective. They have expanded support for this program through 2024.

In recent years they also contributed to an auditorium (named Stamps Auditorium) adjacent to the Walgreen Drama Center; a commons area in the Ross Academic Center; and to the School of Education and the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

In recognition of the Stamps’ transformative gifts, we recommend that the Board of Regents formally designate the School of Art and Design as the Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Sue Coleman
President

Gunalan Nadarajan
Dean
School of Art and Design

Philip J. Hanlon
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

September 2012