Report of the Chairman of the Building of the Century Campaign

As we mark the final year of construction on the Modern Wing, I am pleased to report that fund-raising for this landmark museum building grows ever nearer to completion.

The Modern Wing is an ambitious project with a $375 million goal for construction and endowment. We have received overwhelming support from the members of the Board of Trustees, who have given at historic levels. We are also deeply grateful for the generous support from the Woman’s Board, the Sustaining Fellows, the Auxiliary Board, the Leadership Advisory Committee, the Evening Associates, and the Community Associates, along with leading corporations and foundations.

Building on the extraordinary leadership gifts from those donors who have become Founders and Benefactors of the Art Institute of Chicago for the 21st Century, we have raised $343 million to date. Now, we are bringing the Building of the Century Campaign for the Modern Wing to all members through mail, telephone, and e-mail. The Art Institute boasts an active and loyal membership of approximately 89,000. As the greatest civic encyclopedic art museum in the country, we are confident that our members will embrace the Modern Wing as they have embraced the growth of our beloved museum through the decades, and we hope that all members will take ownership in this historic project.

We cannot express our appreciation enough. So once again, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to this extraordinary project; we look forward to the opening of the Modern Wing in May 2009. You are making this possible through your commitment.

Louis B. Susman
Chairman
LEFT, TOP: Matthew and Carolyn Bucksbaum at “Approaching the Modern,” the second-annual day of curatorial lectures.

LEFT, ABOVE: Donald Kaul, Barbara Bluhm-Kaul, and William M. Daley at a lecture for members on the Modern Wing in June featuring Director James Cuno and Modern Wing architect Renzo Piano.

RIGHT, TOP: Celebrating the groundbreaking of the Nichols Bridgeway are Mayor Richard M. Daley, Director James Cuno, Life Trustee John H. Bryan, architect Renzo Piano, former Chairman John D. Nichols, Trustee Alexandra C. Nichols, and Chairman Thomas J. Pritzker.

RIGHT, MIDDLE: Director James Cuno leads a tour of the Modern Wing for members of the Leadership Advisory Committee.

RIGHT, BELOW: Mack Trapp, Joyce and Bruce Chelberg, Life Trustee Barbara Franke, and Carol Trapp at a dinner celebrating the Sustaining Fellows Gallery in the Modern Wing.