

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DENNIS BARRIE AND THE
CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER OF CINCINNATI

- Whereas, Dennis Barrie, Director of the Contemporary Art Center of Cincinnati, acting under the direction of and with the full support of the museum board of trustees courageously exercised his constitutional and creative rights to exhibit the works of photographer Robert A. Mapplethorpe; and
- Whereas, The Contemporary Art Center is a private art museum; and
- Whereas, The museum made special efforts to inform the public of the diverse nature of the exhibit prior to its opening and throughout its showing in Cincinnati; and
- Whereas, Legal precedent requires that cultural and creative works be judged as a whole, and all but three of the works on display have previously been published in books readily available in bookstores and libraries; and
- Whereas, The exhibit had been on display in museums across the United States without restrictive action; and
- Whereas, Dennis Barrie and the board of trustees continue to resist the efforts of censors and the refusal of the court to dismiss the charges against the museum and Dennis Barrie himself; and
- Whereas, Dennis Barrie faces a prison term, fines, and extensive legal fees as a result of his efforts to protect freedom of expression; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the Council of the American Library Association on behalf of its more than 50,000 members honor and support Dennis Barrie and the board of trustees of the museum for their leadership and courage in resisting censorship and their commitment to the free expression of ideas in the face of extreme personal risk, and, be it further
- Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Dennis Barrie, to the president of the board of trustees of the Contemporary Art Center, government officials of the City of Cincinnati, and the chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Adopted by the ALA Council, June 27, 1990