

# THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INSTITUTE

of The Society of the Cincinnati

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October 13, 2022

Mr. J. Grahame Long  
Director of Museums  
Historic Charleston Foundation  
40 East Bay  
Charleston, SC 29401

Dear Grahame:

The American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati, Inc., displays original works of art and artifacts at its headquarters and museum, Anderson House, to promote knowledge and appreciation of the American Revolution and its legacy for all our guests, including tourists, public program attendees, library researchers, teachers and students, and, not least of which, our own members and Associates. While we interpret the importance of the Revolution and tell the stories of some of the war's participants using portraits largely drawn from our collections, our guests do not see an image of the war itself as our museum collections do not include any battle scenes. To fill this hole, I am submitting this request to borrow from the Historic Charleston Foundation's collection the oil painting *Attack on Fort Moultrie* by Lt. William Elliott, 1776.

We propose to borrow this painting from October 2022 through April 2026. For the first two-and-a-half years of this period, we would display the painting in the Original Library on the first floor of Anderson House. In this room, our tour discusses the origins and outcomes of the American Revolution and shares the individual stories of several American and French soldiers who fought in the war—whose original portraits hang in the room. Being able to explore one of the battles of the Revolution—what led to it, how it was fought, who fought it, and what resulted—through a look at the Battle of Sullivan's Island through Elliott's oil painting would add an important layer to our daily interpretation of the war in our tours.

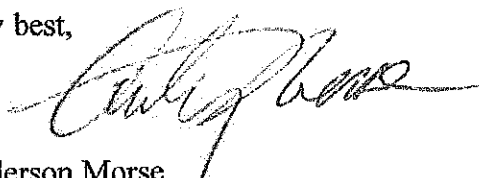
In 2025 and early 2026, for the last year of the loan period, we would display the painting in a temporary exhibition we are developing to look at major events of the first year of the war, culminating in the Battle of Sullivan's Island in June 1776. Held in conjunction with the national commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and the founding of our country, this exhibition will explore events like the Battle of Bunker Hill, the Siege of Quebec, and the Battle of Sullivan's Island—and, in the case of the latter, will particularly look at how depictions of the battle affect how it has been remembered. Being able to compare a British view of Sullivan's Island in Elliott's painting to an American view of the battle like

Henry Gray's watercolors would allow us to examine how an artist's perspective (physically and emotionally), audience, and motivations for creating the work affect the final product. This exhibition will be mounted in the temporary exhibition gallery on the first floor of our museum at Anderson House, known as the Billiard Room gallery. We frequently display paintings in both these spaces and throughout our museum, drawn from our collections as well as previous lenders including the Winterthur Museum, Portland Museum of Art (Maine), New Hampshire Historical Society, and U.S. Naval Academy Museum. Please let me know if you would like a copy of our General Facility Report, which addresses these kinds of matters in more detail.

The proposed loan period would be from October 24, 2022, through April 30, 2026. The Society of the Cincinnati would, of course, pay for all expenses associated with the loan, including costs associated with packing and transporting the painting. The painting would be covered under the Society's fine arts insurance policy during transportation to and from and display at Anderson House for the duration of the loan period.

We would be honored to exhibit this treasure at Anderson House, and I thank you in advance for considering this request. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

All my best,



F. Anderson Morse  
Interim Executive Director  
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*Thank you!  
This is very  
exciting. Thank  
you for making this  
possible!  
A*