

JOHN W. RHODEN
SCULPTOR

December 5th, 1959

Mr. David Lubinsky
1710 Broadway
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Lubinsky,

For the past twenty years and a little bit longer even than that, I have lived and worked in my studio at 285 Eighth Avenue, which is encompassed in the area for the new I.L.O.S.U.'s PRISM SOUTH project.

I can't say that I was actually delighted at the idea of having to pick up tracks and move, but I will say that right from the beginning I have been cognizant of the importance of urban renewal and have felt that only good could come to this area by the development PRISM SOUTH. Well over a year ago I began looking for a new location for my studio but up to the present date I have not been successful, as I need not only a ground floor location but also a place where I can live and will provide room for my wife to pursue her profession as a painter.

~~At all times the people in the I.L.O.S.U. Houses, Inc. office have been very courteous and most helpful and if it were not for your reputation as one of the great and honest men of our time, I would not be writing this letter to you, as I would consider it primarily a waste of time; but due to your reputation not only for honesty, but also as a visionary and innovator, I present this problem to you: in my travels around the world, on my own and also under the auspices of the Department of State, I have found that many governments provide housing for artists, both outside and behind the iron curtain. Under our own cherished form of government, which thanks to wise union leadership has functioned beneficially for the great masses of the people, such fostering of the arts should most naturally come from the channels of the underground. The deterioration of the housing situation in recent years in the New York area has actually become even more acute for artists; it would be a great beginning, if in this Title One project of PRISM SOUTH, space were set aside for ~~some~~ artists studios. It would set a precedent that would not only be beneficial to artists but would greatly add to the cultural prestige of our country abroad.~~

Enclosed is some material on my recent activities, please return after reading it. Both my wife and I would be very happy if you visited us at a time convenient to yourself. Sincerely