

Opening Statement: Chairman James Moran

Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Request  
National Gallery of Art

Earl A. Powell III, Director  
April 14, 2010

Good morning. Mr. Powell, on behalf of the Subcommittee, I want to welcome you today.

It has been a couple of years since you last appeared before this Subcommittee and we look forward to your testimony today.

The National Gallery of Art was established in 1937 by a Joint Resolution of Congress, which pledged the United States to provide the necessary funds for the upkeep of the Gallery, its administration expenses, the cost of operations and the protection and care of the art.

The Gallery we enjoy today is considered one of the world's premier art museums with a renowned collection of American and European masterworks. Of course we all owe a debt of gratitude to the Mellon family, who provided the museum's original collection and financed the buildings that house these great masterpieces.

The Fiscal Year 2011 request before us today totals \$162.8 million dollars, which is slightly less than the 2010 appropriation. Of that, almost \$115 million is for the care of the art, and the operation, maintenance and protection of the buildings and grounds. The remaining \$48 million funds repair, restoration and renovation of the buildings.

I note that your request includes the funds needed to complete the repair of the East Building's exterior marble veneer. Last year, we provided \$40 million to begin urgent work on repairing the façade of the East Building. This year, you have asked for a second installment of the \$42.25 million to hopefully complete this work.

Before I ask you to begin your statement, I would like to turn to our Ranking Member. Mr. Simpson, would you like to make a statement?