

**NATIONAL
COALITION
AGAINST
CENSORSHIP**

**ARTS
ADVOCACY
PROGRAM**

August 6, 2019

Stevon Cook, President
Board of Education
San Francisco Unified School District
555 Franklin Street
San Francisco, CA, 94102
Phone: 415-241-6000
Email: StevonCook@sfusd.edu

Dear President Cook,

In your July 12 Op-ed in the San Francisco Examiner, you state that the decision to paint over the murals was made in response to student demands. Other reports claim that the majority of George Washington High School (GWHS) students actually oppose the destruction. Whatever the case, the fact is that adult speakers on both sides of the mural debate have been given ample opportunity to express themselves, but the very students on whose behalf the murals are to be destroyed have not been given a chance to do so.

To this end, the National Coalition Against Censorship proposes holding an open forum where GWHS students can talk about how they see and interpret the Arnautoff murals. We invite the San Francisco Board of Education to collaborate with us in presenting the forum.

The National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC) is an alliance of 57 non-profit organizations nationwide that promotes freedom of thought, inquiry and expression, and opposes censorship in all its forms. NCAC works with students, school communities and artists to resolve controversies through open dialogue and to create opportunities for diverse voices to be heard. We are always looking for ways to foreground student perspectives on pressing issues, especially when decisions directly affect them. We hope to work with you to give the students an opportunity to be heard. We look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,



Christopher Finan
Executive Director
National Coalition Against Censorship

**NCAC PARTICIPATING
ORGANIZATIONS**

Actors' Equity Association
AICA-USA
American Association of
School Administrators
American Association of
University Professors
American Association of
University Women
American Booksellers for Free Expression
American Civil Liberties Union
American Ethical Union
American Federation of Teachers
American Jewish Committee
American Library Association
American Literary Translators Association
American Orthopsychiatric Association
American Society of Journalists & Authors
Americans United for Separation of Church
& State
Association of American Publishers
Authors Guild
Catholics for Choice
Children's Literature Association
College Art Association
Comic Book Legal Defense Fund
The Creative Coalition
Directors Guild of America
The Dramatists Guild of America
Dramatists Legal Defense Fund
Educational Book & Media Association
First Amendment Lawyers Association
Free Speech Coalition
International Literacy Association
Lambda Legal
Modern Language Association
National Center for Science Education
National Communication Association
National Council for the Social Studies
National Council of the Churches
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Teachers of English
National Education Association
National Youth Rights Association
The NewsGuild-CWA
PEN America
People For the American Way
Planned Parenthood Federation
of America
Project Censored
SAG-AFTRA
Sexuality Information & Education Council
of the U.S.
Society of Children's Book Writers
& Illustrators
Student Press Law Center
Union for Reform Judaism
Union of Democratic Intellectuals
Unitarian Universalist Association
United Church of Christ
Office of Communication
United Methodist Church,
United Methodist Communications
Women's American ORT
Woodhull Sexual Freedom Alliance
Writers Guild of America, East
Writers Guild of America, West

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