

On Philadelphia's Academy of Natural Sciences:

The rush by Drexel University and the Board to close the Academy of Natural Sciences' museum on September 30 is a profound betrayal.

Philadelphians have invested in the Academy for nearly two centuries through our labor, public funding, private donations, memberships, and tax exemptions, and cannot allow a small clique of Philly powerbrokers to toy with its fate like this.

As the Presidents of AFSCME District Council 47, a council of local unions for Philadelphians working in the public and private sectors, and AFSCME Local 397, the largest local union of workers in Philly's museums and other cultural organizations, we are heartbroken and angry for every worker, parent, scholar, student, and child affected by this callous decision.

Like all the museums, libraries, zoos, and universities in this city, the Academy of Natural Sciences belongs first and foremost to the people who live and work here. The Academy of Natural Sciences museum must remain open to the public and its dedicated workers protected from the short-sighted layoffs decreed by the Board.

- April Gigetts, President, AFSCME DC47



-Halcyone Schiller, President, AFSCME DC47 Local 397



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