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Anne Cox Chambers  
c/o Todd Smith - [tsmith@cox.com](mailto:tsmith@cox.com)  
Mallard Holliday - [Mallard.Holliday@cox.com](mailto:Mallard.Holliday@cox.com)

Dear Mrs. Chambers:

I'm a musician, artist, and writer, and one of my current projects is called "Make an Artist a Millionaire." The purpose is to collect and invest the million, enabling me to live off the interest and to achieve the ultimate goal: to pursue an art career without the need for a day job. The original method of the project was to get one million people to donate a dollar. The present phase of the project is to write letters to the members of the Forbes 400 list and solicit their help (in any amount). This phase is called "400 to 1," an optimistic expression of my odds of success.

Your background, however, makes me optimistic that you would be receptive to the idea of an artist as a millionaire, and also aware of the irony in the name of this larger project. As not only a supporter of the arts but as a powerful woman who has surely had her share of challenges navigating a male-heavy business world, you may be familiar with the underdog culture of the arts.

This letter to you marks a departure from a simple, carefully-crafted fundraising proposal grounded in research into the personal background of the recipient. You and I, as businesswoman and artist respectively, have firm opinions based on wildly different sets of experience, but just because you are a billionaire doesn't mean I know anything about you or what you think, any more than picking up one of Cox's newspapers and simply holding it against my head would familiarize me with its contents.

So instead of a pitch, here is a set of questions (see next page). Starting with answers, in the form of letters, assumptions, etc. has not helped me become a millionaire or even made me any wiser. I'd rather hear what you think, learn from you, and see things from your perspective. Since we all know that artists should not be millionaires (joke), this project can at least get us closer to knowing why not.

Thank you for participating and I wish you happy holidays.

Best – Dan Nelson

## QUESTIONNAIRE

[In the following, “art” and “artist” are used in the broadest sense to describe visual artists, social practice artists, writers, musicians, filmmakers, etc.]

1. To what extent should an artist’s ability to make a living on art depend on the quality of their work?
2. To what extent should a person’s ability to make a living at their job depend on the quality of their work?
3. Should artists be supported by individuals?
4. Should artists be subsidized by the government?
5. Do you purchase artwork and/or musical recordings? If so, in what media?
6. What role should the marketplace play in an artist’s career?
7. Please describe the relationship between the artist and the public.
8. Is art a viable career? Why or why not?
9. Is practicing art as a profession, without the safety net of a day job, gambling with one’s life and health?

10. Is a piece of art or music a commodity? Why or why not?
  
11. Is paying money out or foregoing compensation to expand the audience for one's art an investment?
  
12. In general, is art undervalued?
  
13. Is art overvalued?
  
14. What is artistic "genius"?
  
15. At about what age should an artist give up the idea of making a living at art?
  
16. At what age should a financial services professional do this?
  
17. Should artists be trained in the way that doctors, teachers, lawyers, etc. are?
  
18. If art were a business, would one be required to be licensed to practice it?
  
19. If artists were a professional class, what kinds of individuals or organizations would their employers be?