



City of New York  
Parks & Recreation

The Arsenal  
Central Park  
New York, New York 10021

Adrian Benepe  
Commissioner

December 14, 2005

To the residents of Colorado:

I am writing to document the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation's experience with "The Gates-Central Park" exhibition held here in New York City in February 2005. Christo and Jeanne-Claude worked closely with the City, all of its many agencies, and the Central Park Conservancy to make sure that the exhibition, its installation, and its removal, all went flawlessly. They fulfilled to the letter all of their obligations both contractual and informal, and kept all their promises. They were flexible in solving problems, and deferred always to City authorities on matters of public safety.

While we have done many large events in the public parks of New York, none has gone as well as "The Gates." Although many objections were raised before the fact, even the people who most vocally opposed the project had to admit that when it was over it had been both a wonderful thing for New York and a model for exacting standards, technical engineering, and detailed management. Christo and Jeanne-Claude and their professional team kept their word on all their promises, and all of us were impressed by how smoothly things went. We would be pleased to answer any questions from any authorities on the installation and its logistics.

Sincerely,

  
Adrian Benepe