Despite my professional focus on math and science, I have always created space in my life for the arts. I was taught to read music as a child and continued to play with various groups in high school. In college, I took more electives in the art department than any other. Throughout my adult life, I have spent much of my free time in creative pursuits including home crafts, studio art classes, and a variety of volunteer activities creating social and fundraising events.

 I have experience in education and administration and have served on a board of trustees for several years. As a practicing physician, much of my time is spent in one-on-one patient education and that is the part of my work that I find most satisfying. The educational experience of medical students and residents has always been a strong focus for my department and I have participated in that effort as well, working in small group activities and giving formal lectures. As the Vice President of Education at Temple Beth David, I wrote job descriptions, supervised, hired and fired paid staff members, and assisted in the management of the education program budget. The most interesting and challenging part of that experience was the creation of a search committee and the successful hiring of a new Education Director for our school of 120 students. I then worked to redefine the position as part-time in accordance with the needs of the school and our budget constraints, and to integrate the new Director with our staff. My current position on the Board of Trustees has fewer daily responsibilities, but provides more broad oversight of the institution as a whole. My hope is that each of these experiences can be useful as I plan a change in focus for my career.

 I began volunteering at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston three years ago. I learned of the position while taking a studio art class there. I filled out the application, sat for an interview, completed the training and began spending almost every Sunday afternoon at the museum. I love the atmosphere and find it fascinating, not only because of its beauty and history, but because of questions it stimulates for me, from issues as simple as - how does the staff know how many maps to order and in which languages? To more complicated questions such as - how do they decide which programs to offer for children and families and how to they assess their success? How does the museum decide which exhibitions to offer and how do they fund them? Even questions around the physical appearance of the museum are interesting. For example, how do they choose the colors on the walls and the arrangement of the spaces? Clearly these are all different areas of expertise but I believe that the course work for the Masters in Art Administration will help me learn more about these kinds of questions and provide a solid foundation for my development.