

Rohini Nilekani

MAY 1, 2017.

Dear Mr Randel and Mr Fanton,

Thank you for your letter dated April 10, 2017, welcoming me as a newly elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The news was most unexpected and therefore all the more rewarding and incredibly humbling. My heartfelt thanks to the Academy for including me in an institution I have long admired from afar both for its rich history and its continued contemporary relevance.

When questions of wealth and income disparity have achieved renewed importance in the global sphere, it is heartening that the Academy regularly inducts people who wish to give forward. Philanthropy can play a creative role in reducing inequities and the opportunity to engage with many thought leaders must surely help philanthropist members to reimagine and reinforce their work.

Institutions of eclectic membership have become critically important to achieve the Academy's goal of championing 'civil dialogue'. In a world that appears troublingly polarised, we need ever more spaces such as the Academy provides to understand and appreciate the diversity of knowledge and culture.

In my work, I have come to believe that if we aim to address highly complex modern problems, we must build open 'SOCIAL PLATFORMS' that facilitate creative collaboration between multiple, diverse players, using a sophisticated technological backbone.

I very much look forward to learning from and sharing ideas with the Academy's inspirational, accomplished members.

Thanking you once again,

ROHINI NILEKANI