



To: Capital Investment Committee
Vice Chair Representative Mary Murphy (03B)
Representative Fue Lee (59A)

Re: Letter of Support for FAWK and AACMA

My name is Tish Jones. I serve as the Founding Executive Director of TruArtSpeaks, an arts & culture organization in Saint Paul, MN with a mission to cultivate literacy, leadership & social justice through the study & application of Spoken Word and Hip Hop culture. I have worked in the arts and culture field in Minnesota since I 2005, when I graduated from Saint Paul Central High School, and I am deeply proud of that choice. The cultural landscape of our city and state is deeply personal to me; I am a fourth generation Black Minnesotan, my family has lived in the Historic Rondo Neighborhood since The Great Migration, so this place and the diversity that it provides has had a great impact on my life, personally. Thus, I write to you today in support of the Funny Asian Women Kollektive (FAWK) and the Asian American Center for Media and the Arts (AACMA) as a resident of the City of Saint Paul, a culture bearer and a collaborator.

We have been honored to work with FAWK leadership in the past for a variety of community engagement, cultural events and youth development opportunities connected to the arts and have great faith in their ability to steward the development of AACMA forward with equity, inclusion, access and artistic excellence in mind. With FAWK leadership having residence in Saint Paul, we understand the importance of this venue being in Saint Paul, where there is a great population of Asian Americans and a desperate need for accessible, quality and community-based arts institutions. FAWK's history of multi-cultural collaboration with TruArtSpeaks and long list of other arts institutions provides a history of working across communities to ensure that all of Saint Paul will benefit from this investment in their vision for arts in the city. As a partner, we are among the list of Saint Paul organizations who look forward to utilizing AACMA as a meeting space, performance venue and resource for the communities that we serve.

I do sincerely hope that you consider investing in FAWK and the AACMA, on behalf of the ever-growing arts community in Saint Paul and the long-standing need for artistic enrichment at all stages in life. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me via email at tjones@truartspeaks.org or via phone at 651-285-9933. Thank you for service.

Sincerely,

Tish Jones
Founder & Executive Director,
TruArtSpeaks

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