



MacRostie Art Center

January 31, 2025

Senator FOUNG Hawj
Chair of Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
95 University Avenue West
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3231
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 0575, Old Central School Renovation

Dear Senator Hawj,

It is my understanding that the City of Grand Rapids has requested \$3.8 million in funding from the Arts and Culture Heritage fund to assist in \$7.6 million in necessary remodeling expenses at Old Central School. I am writing to express my strong support for this request.

MacRostie Art Center is a community art center that has been active in the Grand Rapids community for nearly 60 years. We are fortunate to be based out of a historic building in the downtown area, directly across from Old Central School. This has provided many opportunities to collaborate with the City of Grand Rapids and the tenants of the space on community arts programming including pop-up galleries, student art displays, and a summer concert series. For the last decade we have partnered with the City to manage a studio residency program in the third floor space. The Old Central School artist residency has supported over 40 artists to-date and enriched our local arts community by creating opportunities for our local community and seasonal visitors to engage with the arts in a friendly and welcoming space.

Old Central School is a landmark building in Grand Rapids and an anchor in our downtown, but it needs significant renovations in order to maintain its current operations and build its capacity as a community asset. With improvements made, this unique space has the potential to contribute even more to community growth and development through the arts by acting as a hub of the creative community. I urge you to support this funding request.

Sincerely,



Katie Marshall
Executive Director
MacRostie Art Center

CC: Senator Justin Eichorn
Representative Ben Davis
Representative Spencer Igo