

220 East River Pkwy, Unit 4  
Champlain, MN 55316

March 23, 2025

Via E-Mail Delivery

Sen. FOUNG Hawj, Chair  
Environment, Climate & Legacy  
MN State Senate  
3231 Minnesota Senate Bldg  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sen. Jennifer McEwen, Vice Chair  
Environment, Climate & Legacy  
MN State Senate  
3217 Minnesota Senate Bldg  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sen. Steve Green, Minority Member  
Environment, Climate & Legacy  
MN State Senate  
2319 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hawj, Senator McEwen, and Senator Green:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support for SF2398, legislation introduced by Sen. Champion, to support expanded programming and facilities updates for Lundstrum Performing Arts.

Lundstrum Performing Arts is a visionary arts training program serving young people in life-changing ways. Based in North Minneapolis, the organization serves youth throughout the metro area with high-quality training in singing, dancing, and acting. As a grandparent of a Lundstrum student, I can share through personal experience that Lundstrum does so much more than teach performing skills – Lundstrum teachers truly provide a “spark” that helps young people find their place in the world.

My grandson Mychal Dillard was one such student. Mychal found Lundstrum as a 13-year-old, who loved to dance and sing at home, but didn’t really know where that love could take him. At Lundstrum, Mychal found his passion – dancing – and also stretched himself in new ways to sing confidently and to act. Three years later, Mychal has developed into a confident and focused performer who puts in the hard work to move himself toward his goals.

Mychal lives in North Minneapolis and attends Lundstrum thanks to its generous scholarship program. Like many young men his age, he has had some bumps along the way, but Lundstrum has been a beacon of hard work, discipline, and confidence for him. He now wants to go to college to study dance and become a performer and teacher in his career.

Lundstrum Executive Director often says that if you can learn to move your body, you can learn to move through life in a positive way. I am very grateful to Lundstrum for helping Mychal find his “spark” in life, and I know his Lundstrum teachers and mentors will be there for him as he grows towards adulthood.

I strongly support this legislation to support Lundstrum’s expanded programming and facilities updates. Thank you for your consideration of SF2398.

Sincerely,

  
Mary Rizzo