

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, 2020
LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE BROOKLINE/CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS



To whom it may concern:

As a co-founder of the Eureka Ensemble, a Cambridge-based music organization, I am writing to strongly recommend the Brookline/Cambridge Community Center for the Arts (BCCA/CCCA).

My colleagues and I in Eureka Ensemble are dedicated to nurturing social change through performance and education, which we accomplish via partnerships with community organizations serving women experiencing homelessness, immigrant and refugee youth, and of course, our network of young professional artists. Over the last two years, we founded and have been directing The Women's Chorus (based at The Women's Lunch Place, a shelter in Boston), providing a safe space for homeless women to connect with themselves and their peers, and to share music with the Boston community; and we continue to work in Chelsea with immigrant children enrolled in the Desea Soñar after-school program at La Colaborativa, an immigrant and labor advocacy organization. Most of the youth in Desea Soñar recently escaped violence and displacement in Central America; our music workshops are thus a powerful tool to educate, empower, and make them feel welcome in their new home.

This fall, as a result of the pandemic, many of our larger, orchestral programs had been put on hold. Thanks to our partnership with the CCCA at Canal District Kendall, however, we were able to not only continue putting up performances but also to make new connections with Cambridge audiences, which is especially meaningful because our nonprofit is registered in Cambridge. Our partnership led us to first produce "EurekaFest" in June 2020, a livestream broadcast concert that raised as much money for partner charitable organizations as any of our prior live performances, and reached 156 live virtual attendees. This fall, we stepped up our rehearsals and concert recordings by programming a three-event series at the Canal District Kendall venue, for which CCCA is providing all of their rehearsal and broadcast facilities to Eureka free of charge, aided by CCCA's private donations and grants. The first event happened last month and featured performances and presentations on the history of voting rights in the US, with a focus on BIPOC voices. The success of this and other smaller events has led to discussions about expanding our programming with the CCCA and even other organizations to serve the Cambridge arts community further.

Eureka Ensemble's partnership with the CCCA has translated thus far to professional and artistically meaningful opportunities for 20 artists and personnel - both from Cambridge and Greater Boston - and more opportunities for us to create coalitions with other arts and culture nonprofits for whom community venues are essential to survive. The fact that such creativity and production could happen at all when most performing arts organizations have been struggling, going dormant, or closing permanently highlights the value of CCCA's contribution to the artistic community. For this reason, my colleagues and I consider CCCA to be most deserving of funding, which will make a difference not only for CCCA, but also for Eureka and other entities in the cultural sector that will be collaborating with CCCA in the months ahead.

Feel free to contact me at (919) 951-9456 or atoda-ambaras@eurekaensemble.org for additional information on the Brookline/Cambridge Community Center for the Arts and its Executive Artistic Director, Dan Marshall.

Sincerely,



Alan Toda-Ambaras

Co-Founder and Board Member,
Eureka Ensemble