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To Whom It May Concern,

I am one of the dance instructors who is working for the Cambridge Community Center for the Arts and Brookline Community Center for the Arts under the direction of Dan Marshall. A chance meeting in a shared taxicab, in 2002, led Dan Marshall and I to becoming good friends and to work together in numerous capacities. Our shared interests and common belief is that artists of diverse backgrounds can come together to manifest a shared vision. Moreover, certain dance forms at that time in the US, such as Salsa, Hip Hop, and Middle Eastern Dance, created by non white dancers, needed more representation and spaces in which to flourish.

Dan and I first worked together in my second theatrical production (Regent Theatre, 2003 East Meets West). Dan supported my personal vision to represent and garner more respect for Middle Eastern dance. He created and performed a Salsa, Cha Cha Cha, and Middle Eastern dance fusion choreography with his dance company. Next, in April 2003, I began working for Dan at the Brookline Community Center for the Arts and worked there until its closing in May of 2005. I quickly became aware of not only Dan's passion for the arts, but also his drive to work tirelessly to ensure the success of the center and all its instructors. I felt like I was part of a community because he provided opportunities for the instructors to get to know each other and always produced events that showcased multiple movement forms. He was fair-minded in terms of pay and helped me to build my student base. Furthermore, he gave me an affordable space to produce my events and provided his skills as a videographer free of charge. This seems like a small thing to mention, however, most dance instructors, myself included, are struggling financially. Dan made it clear from the start that he is committed to art and artist, and although he has a mind for business, he is driven by his love for dance and martial arts and not by money or recognition.

Over the years, he helped to promote my numerous theatrical productions in Cambridge. In 2015, we worked together as co-choreographers and dancers in a piece for my production of *Egyptomania: A Love Affair with the East*.

In December of 2019, when he approached me in regard to teaching at his new studio, the Cambridge Community Center for the Arts, I immediately said yes even though at the time I hadn't been seeking to teach more classes. Then the pandemic hit. I am so grateful that I said yes to being part of his latest center. Throughout this pandemic he has helped me to navigate this new way of teaching online, and lent an ear to listen to my fears and frustrations. I am not only a dance instructor, but am legally blind. He has been a tremendous help by guiding me and running the more difficult aspects of my online classes. He not only helps , but teaches me how to help myself.

I believe that all the movement arts and the artists that produce it deserve fair representation and a platform to share their talents. Dan Marshall, more than anyone I know in the field of movement arts, has created an organization and platform (his dance, fitness, music, theatre, visual, and martial arts centers) in which artists of diverse backgrounds and skill sets are truly supported, represented with respect to the Greater Boston/Cambridge community, and have a clear voice in how the organization is structured and implemented.

Please feel free to call or E-Mail me for further information on the Brookline/Cambridge Community Center for the Arts and Dan Marshall.

Sincerely,

Juliette Cusick AKA Johara Boston

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