



Building More Philanthropy with Purpose Giving Circle

Capital Investment Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55155

March 11, 2021

Dear Chairman Lee,

On behalf of the Building More Philanthropy with Purpose (BMPP) Giving Circle, a donor-advised fund at The Minneapolis Foundation, I am writing a letter to support Funny Asian Women Kollektive's (FAWK) efforts to build an arts center, Asian American Center for Media and the Arts (AACMA), on the East Side of St. Paul.

FAWK has received funding from BMPP over the years for community-based art projects. Since 2014, FAWK has been advancing social justice and building solidarity across cultures and races through live performances of stand-up, storytelling and comedic sketches.

Right now, there is not a centralized hub for Asian American artmaking in Minnesota considering that AAPIs are one of the fastest-growing populations in Minnesota with over 250,000. FAWK's vision to build an Asian American art center will have a tremendous positive impact and transformation for the East Side neighborhood, the city of St. Paul and the state of Minnesota. To create and sustain a vibrant East Side, it needs more performance, gallery and studio spaces for artists and for community building. AACMA will also be an incubator of fresh innovative work, creative collaborations and a space to share learnings with each other. Not only will an art center benefit the East Side culturally, but also economically such as increasing traffic and visibility to the small businesses in the area. It is more important now than ever to support community projects that are led by women leaders and leaders of color who are already doing work on the ground.

BMPP fully stands by this project. If you were to support FAWK's endeavor, BMPP would also support this project by hosting community engagement sessions.

Sincerely,

Bo Thao-Urabe
Co-Founder and Family Donor,
BMPP Giving Circle

www.bmppgiving.org

% The Minneapolis Foundation, 800 IDS Center, 80 S 8th St, Minneapolis, MN 55402