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Senate Capitol Investment Committee  
c/o Committee Chair Rep. Fue Lee and  
Vice Chair Rep. Mary Murphy  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
100 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

March 12, 2021

Dear Senate Capitol Investment Committee,

I am writing to you on behalf of the East Side Arts Council in support of the bonding request for the theater group Funny Asian Women Kollektive (FAWK) for funding to create an Asian womxn-led state of the art media and performing arts center open to all. Included in this request is a much needed 300 seat theater. The East Side Arts Council is a 29 year old non-profit arts organization located on Payne Avenue in East Saint Paul whose mission is to collaborate with our community and artists to celebrate and experience the arts. We partner with many groups such as Saint Paul Public Schools and the City of Saint Paul as well as smaller groups such as theater and community lead nonprofits. We focus on arts for all and we hire artists to work in community settings that reflect our many diverse cultures. We also work on neighborhood revitalization through the arts in our work with new development projects on the East Side of Saint Paul and focus on building an artfilled community. The East Side is one third of the City of Saint Paul and almost half the population. Poverty levels are high and many people don't have the ability to go to theaters in other parts of the city or Minneapolis so the opportunity of a theater on the East Side would provide much needed access for many people.

The East Side needs more art spaces. The project proposed by the Funny Asian Woman Kollektive would help fill this need. We have worked with Saymoukda Duangphouray Vongsay who is a member of this theater group on a project recently; Poet on Payne Avenue and look forward to new exciting projects in future collaborations with FAWK.

The East Side Arts Council stands behind this effort to bring this valuable Art Center to our community. Please fund this bonding request. If you have any questions please contact me at 651-774-5422.

Sincerely,  
  
Sarah Fehr, Executive Director