



# FILMNORTH

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

Capital Investment Committee  
Chair Rep. Fue Lee  
Vice Chair Rep. Mary Murphy

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today in strong support of including Funny Asian Women Kollektive (FAWK) in the next bonding bill for the State of Minnesota.

Founded in 1987, FilmNorth is the largest filmmaker support organization in the Upper Midwest—and one of the largest in the United States. FilmNorth's mission is to empower artists to tell their stories, launch and sustain successful careers, and advance The North as a leader in the national network of independent filmmakers.

Given our work, we encounter hundreds of artists and organizations. The artists associated with FAWK are among the very best working in the country today. We have been fortunate enough to collaborate with Naomi Ko, Saymoukda Vongsay and May Lee-Yang. These artists are well-known and highly respected not just in Minnesota but across the country. They are important leaders and innovators in the arts community. In 2018 we awarded Naomi Ko with a \$25,000 McKnight Media Artist Fellowship, a highly competitive prize that recognizes sustained excellence by midcareer artists.

Their visionary initiative, the Asian American Center for Media and the Arts (AACMA), is long overdue. And not only is the AACMA needed for the Asian American community, which deserves a dynamic media arts center, it's needed by all Minnesotans—so we can access Asian American arts and artists and have a much-needed collaborative venue in St. Paul, which brings different communities together. FilmNorth would readily commit to being a regular collaborator with FAWK and AACMA, bringing workshops, seminars, and screenings to the facility.

FAWK and AACMA will be an invaluable asset to the City of St. Paul and the State of Minnesota. Their necessary and important facility will focus the eyes of the nation's creative communities on Minnesota—inspiring artists here and abroad. The AACMA will be many things: a dynamic arts venue, an important community center, and a beacon and inspiration to artists and arts organizations across the country. We hope you'll support their proposal.

All the best,

Andrew Peterson  
Executive Director

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