

March 14, 2021

Representative Fue Lee, Chair  
Representative Mary Murphy, Vice-Chair  
Capital Investment Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Capital Investment Committee:

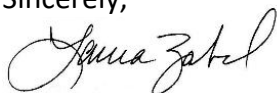
I write to express my endorsement and whole-hearted support of the proposed Asian American Center for Media and the Arts (AACMA). I have had the opportunity to work with the leaders of this initiative, May Lee-Yang, Saymoukda Vongsay, and Naomi Ko, in a number of ways over many years and they are among the most visionary and effective leaders in the arts in the state of Minnesota and beyond.

In my work at Springboard for the Arts, I have the great privilege of supporting and building capacity for community-led cultural initiatives across the state. The leaders of AACMA have built programs and projects that put community first and contribute to the equitable economic development of the eastside of St. Paul and the state of Minnesota. Their work over the last decade has been built with intention, skill and deep relationships and this makes them the right group to lead this new project. This work has a long history in Minnesota and has been recognized by the McKnight, Jerome, Knight, Mellon, and Bush Foundations. In addition, Lee-Yang, Vongsay, and Ko have national recognition from CNN, NBC, New York Times, Smithsonian, Warner Bros., Netflix, and Tribeca Film Festival.

Minnesota has the opportunity with AACMA to create a nation-leading center for arts, culture and community development rooted in the Asian American experience and with leadership that is deeply committed and effective. The AACMA will be a powerful economic driver for St. Paul and beyond and will position Minnesota as a national leader in creating neighborhood-scale, equitable, innovative cultural spaces.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if there are any additional ways I can support this effort.

Sincerely,



Laura Zabel

Executive director

Springboard for the Arts

[laura@springboardforthearts.org](mailto:laura@springboardforthearts.org)

651-292-3213