



May 11, 2022

TO: Whom It May Concern

RE: Cultivate Grant Program

INITIATIVE: Creation of a flexibly programmable public space – *The Esplanade Hub*

SUMMARY STATEMENT: SLNA supports Jamii's request for funding to develop this concept in the St. Lawrence neighbourhood

To whom it may concern,

The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association (SLNA) offers this letter of support for Jamii's proposed project "The Esplanade Hub", with respect to their funding application with the Cultivate Grant programme. For over ten years Jamii has made creative use of neighbourhood public spaces, providing culturally and socially engaging programs and events for residents of all ages in the St. Lawrence neighbourhood in downtown Toronto.

SLNA has supported many of Jamii's projects through the years, most recently "Celebrating Community" on July 1st 2021, and the three-part video series "The Wedding", also in 2021.

Through its artistic presentations, Jamii reflects and engages the multifaceted and multicultural character of our vibrant neighbourhood. Its performances, workshops and interactive sessions attract the participation of children and their families, teenagers and seniors in the community.

We look forward to seeing how Jamii's proposed project "The Esplanade Hub" – in a space located at the heart of the neighbourhood on The Esplanade – can be developed to involve members of the community themselves in programming what happens in the space. SLNA looks forward to supporting community members as they engage in programming the *Hub* – creating moments to gather, connect, share, and socialise, particularly as the City emerges from much of the uncertainty and constraint of the past two years.

The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association, incorporated as a non-profit corporation in 1983, represents more than 30,000 residents in a mixed-income, ethnically diverse residential and commercial neighbourhood adjoining the Central Business District. The St. Lawrence neighbourhood extends from Queen Street East south to the rail corridor and from Yonge Street east to Parliament Street. Within its boundaries is the oldest neighbourhood in the (now) City of Toronto – the *original ten blocks of the Town of York*, dating from 1793.

The SLNA's strength is its voice. An advocate for responsible development and preservation of heritage, the SLNA promotes a sense of community, encourages participation in events and celebrations and champions our neighbourhood's interests by building relationships with local businesses, institutions and all levels of government.



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The SLNA Board appreciates the opportunity, once again, to lend its support to Jamii as it continues to imagine new ways to educate, entertain, involve and engage the community.

Sincerely,

p.p.

Board of Directors
St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

cc: Jamii:
Isorine Marc

SLNA Board of Directors:

Ms. S. Fishleigh	Ms. V. Ilgacs	Mr. S. Linton
Ms. S. McMillan	Ms. D. Patterson	Ms. T. Tenenbaum
Ms. R. Tilson		