



October 31, 2022

TO: Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)
New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP)
Government of Canada
P.O. Box 538 Station Don Mills
North York ON M3C 0N9
Email: ON-NHSP-PNHA@servicecanada.gc.ca
Telephone: 1-866-945-7342

RE: Jamii: Funding Application for “**Belonging**”

To Whom It May Concern,

The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association is pleased to offer this letter of support for Jamii’s proposed project “**Belonging**”, with respect to their funding application with the community-based stream of the New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP).

For twelve years, Jamii has made good use of our public spaces to provide culturally and socially engaging programs and events for residents of all ages in the St. Lawrence neighbourhood in downtown Toronto. The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association (SLNA) and Jamii have partnered on many projects through the years, including “Celebrating Community” (July 1st, 2021). SLNA has also supported many other Jamii projects, including the recent production “The Wedding” (2021), a three-part video series, and is one of Jamii’s partners for “The Esplanade Hub” – a creative space for the Community.

Through artistic presentations, Jamii reflects and engages the multifaceted and multicultural nature of our vibrant neighbourhood. The organization’s performances, workshops and interactive sessions have attracted the participation of seniors, children and their families, and teenagers in the community.

We are pleased to see Jamii’s proposed project “**Belonging**” focusing on the seniors population of our Community. This initiative extends and complements previous Jamii programming oriented to seniors, including Francophone performances for residents of Centre d’Accueil Heritage, choirs in the park for local seniors, mobile concerts in the courtyards of senior homes in the community, and much of its other multi-age programming.

With “**Belonging**”, Jamii is offering an all-round initiative for seniors throughout 2023, which would create a community in itself for local seniors interested in engaging in artistic experiences of all sorts.

A project like “**Belonging**” is much needed in the St. Lawrence community. Seniors, especially since the pandemic, have feelings of increased loneliness and invisibility. “**Belonging**” will offer a unique opportunity to develop and reinforce a sense of identity, connectivity and togetherness.



“**Belonging**” supports healthy ageing, celebrates diversity and inclusion, and helps seniors to age in place with activities and engagement opportunities right on their doorstep.

The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association has been pleased over the years to support Jamii to in its development of interesting and relevant cultural and socially rich programming for its residents. We are happy to offer our support and endorsement to Jamii for “**Belonging**” and look forward to their continued success in engaging, educating and entertaining the residents of the St. Lawrence neighbourhood, especially as we emerge from these recent challenging times.

The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association (SLNA) is an Association of residents in the St Lawrence area of the City of Toronto and is incorporated as a non-profit Corporation. The SLNA has served the St. Lawrence neighbourhood and its over 35,000 residents since 1983.

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 with all levels of government.

The St. Lawrence neighbourhood -- containing the oldest neighbourhood in the (now) City of Toronto, the *original ten blocks* of the Town of York (dating from 1793) -- is a mixed-income, ethnically diverse residential and commercial community adjoining the Central Business District. It extends from Queen Street East south to the rail corridor and from Yonge Street east to Parliament Street.

SLNA thanks Jami for offering this potential opportunity to our community. The Board of Directors of SLNA is confident that this project will result in the continuation of a very healthy partnership for all of us and will be most appreciative of a favourable response from NHSP to Jami's request for financial support.

Sincerely,

p.p.

Board of Directors

St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

cc: Jamii:
Isorine Marc

SLNA Board of Directors:

Ms. V. Ilgacs

Mr. S. Linton

Ms. S. McMillan

Ms. D. Patterson

Ms. T. Tenenbaum

Ms. R. Tilson