



September 15, 2023

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 “**Journey to Joy**”

To Whom It May Concern,

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

For thirteen 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 over many years, including the recent creation of a new mural in our community by artist Darwin Peters from Pikangikum First Nation, in the context of the SLNA’s 40th Anniversary and Jamii’s celebration of National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 2023).

Through its artistic productions, 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 “**Journey to Joy**” focusing, once more, 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.

Through 2023, the SLNA has supported Jamii by reaching out to local seniors to participate in their new project “**Belonging**”, which has been very successful and well attended. Many seniors have reported first-hand how much they enjoy spending time in the *Jamii Hub* – Jamii’s recently opened neighbourhood meeting and performance space.

With “**Journey to Joy**”, Jamii will be able to offer another all-round initiative for seniors throughout 2024, building on and extending the community of local seniors interested in engaging in artistic experiences of all sorts.

A project like "**Journey to Joy**" is much needed in the St. Lawrence community. Seniors, since the pandemic and still, have feelings of increased loneliness and invisibility. There are many residential buildings in the Community which are home to a disproportionately high mix of seniors, among them Centre d'Accueil Heritage, Performing Arts Lodge (PAL) and Older Womens' Network (OWN).

"**Journey to Joy**" 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 is pleased to offer its unreserved support and endorsement to Jamii for "**Journey to Joy**" and looks forward to Jamii's continued success in engaging, educating and entertaining the residents of the St. Lawrence neighbourhood.

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 Jamii's request for financial support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Isorine Marc", is written over the typed name and title.

p.p.

Board of Directors
St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

cc: Jamii:
Isorine Marc

SLNA Board of Directors:

Ms. N. Fung

Ms. V. Ilgacs

Mr. K. Jackson

Mr. S. Linton

Ms. S. McMillan

Ms. D. Patterson

Ms. T. Tenenbaum

Ms. R. Tilson