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October 3, 2023

**TO:** Canada Council for the Arts  
150 Elgin St., P.O. Box 1047  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5V8

**ATTN:** Composite Grants: Explore and Create – Concept to Realization  
Email: [exploreandcreate@canadacouncil.ca](mailto:exploreandcreate@canadacouncil.ca)  
Telephone: 1-800-263-5588, ext. 4301

**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 “**Journey to Joy**” project, with respect to their funding application to a Canada Council for the Arts’ Composite Grant in the *Explore and Create: Concept to Realization* category.

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 very pleased to see Jamii’s proposal that “**Journey to Joy**” return to the neighbourhood for 2024, promising to enchant David Crombie Park once more and uplift the spirits of residents of all ages, cultural backgrounds and socio-economic status.

It’s exciting to see that Jamii will center the outdoor performances and daily arts activations at the Jamii Hub around the theme of JOY, focusing on Imagination, Emancipation, Connection and Gratefulness. The season starts with laughter, fun and playfulness; releases joy through the “celebration” of Emancipation Day on August 1st; continually seeks to encourage interactions with one another, and finishes the season with giving thanks. Audiences will be treated to an uplifting series of live performances which will, without a doubt, touch their hearts.

The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association is pleased to endorse Jamii’s “**Journey to Joy**” proposal for 2024 and looks forward to their 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 the Canada Council for the Arts to Jami's request for financial support.

Sincerely,

p.p.

  
Board of Directors  
St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

cc: Jami:  
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