



March 22, 2024

TO: 2024-25 Seniors Community Grant Program
Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility
Government of Ontario
College Park, 5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 1S5
Email: transferpaymentontarioCC@ontario.ca
Telephone: (416) 325-6691 or 1-855-216-3090

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 *Seniors Community Grant Program 2024-25* with the Government of Ontario.

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 through the 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 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.

With “**Belonging**”, Jamii is offering an all-round initiative for seniors throughout 2024 and into 2025, 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 – home to a high percentage of seniors. There are a number of buildings in our neighbourhood with a focus on seniors, including Centre d’Accueil Heritage, Performing Arts Lodge and the Older Women’s Network.



“**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 is pleased to offer its support and endorsement to Jamii for “**Belonging**” 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 Ontario’s *Seniors Community Grant Program* to Jamii’s request for financial support.

Sincerely,

p.p.

Board of Directors

St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

cc: Jamii:
Isorine Marc

SLNA Board of Directors:

Ms. N Fung

Mr. K. Jackson

Mr. S. Linton

Ms. S. McMillan

Ms. D. Patterson

Ms. T. Tenenbaum

Ms. R. Tilson