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Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund Grant Program
Massachusetts Cultural Council
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Mission
HERE builds a community that nurtures career artists as they create innovative hybrid, live performance in theatre, dance, music, puppetry, media and visual art. Our space is a destination for audiences who are passionate about ground-breaking contemporary work and the creative process behind it.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to encourage the Massachusetts Cultural fund to support Saint James Place, in their efforts to build a new year-round Cultural Center in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. I am very familiar with the founders, Fred and Sally Harris, and their steadfast commitment to the arts and with the area this new center will serve.

I am co-Founder and Artistic Director of HERE. Since 1993, HERE has been one of New York City's most prolific producing organizations, and today stands at the forefront of the city's presenters of daring new hybrid art. HERE supports the work of artists at all stages in their careers through fully-produced works, commissions and subsidized performance and rehearsal space.

Fred Harris was Chairman of HERE's board for over 15 years. He worked closely with me over those years to grow HERE from a startup organization with a part-time staff of four and an annual budget of \$300,000 to a nationally recognized organization with a staff of 14 and an annual budget of \$1.5 million. He also led our board and staff through a \$5 million capital campaign in which we purchased and renovated our long-term home on budget and on time. Fred's business acumen, staunch commitment and construction expertise all ensured HERE's long-term stability. I am thrilled to see him apply his capability to this exciting project.

In addition, Fred and Sally provided a much-needed artistic retreat for 6 years to HERE's resident artists when they opened their home in Great Barrington to our community. Each summer, 10-15 artists spent a week developing new work in a collective interactive environment. Over 30 works have since premiered and performed all over the world as a result of these annual retreats.

HERE eagerly looks forward to continuing our collaboration in Fred and Sally's new Center. The opportunity for our resident artists to develop work year-round outside of the pressures of NYC is invaluable and we are confident that the quality of their work will be enthusiastically received by the forward-thinking Great Barrington community. And we already know what a nurturing warm environment Fred and Sally can create.

We are confident that Fred and Sally's creation of the Center will be an incredible asset for the community in Great Barrington as well as to our NYC-based artists. Please feel free to contact me should you require additional information.

Best,

Kristin Marting