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UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROSA L. DeLAURO

3RD DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

January 14, 2014

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Jason Schupbach  
Director of Design Programs, Visual Arts Division Team Leader  
National Endowment for the Arts  
1100 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington DC 20506

re: 2014 Our Town Application 45.024

Dear Mr. Schupbach,

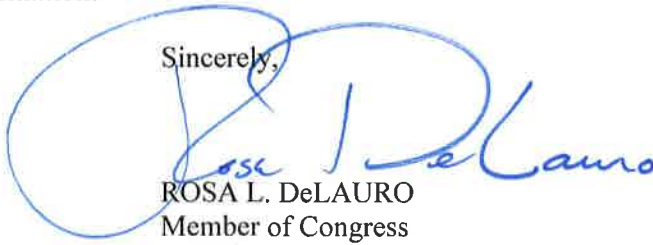
I am writing in strong support of the application submitted by Artspace, Inc. for funding under the National Endowment of the Arts' Our Town grant program. As you can see from their application, they are seeking this funding to enhance their annual City-Wide Open Studios program, a multi-year community engagement and livability initiative, organized in partnership with the City of New Haven, the Town Green Special Services District and other economic and community development partners.

The City-Wide Open Studios program incorporates alternative forms of exploring the City of New Haven while also showcasing its architecture, artist spaces already in existence, and potential new spaces to add to its cultural map. This effort will foster appreciation for the vital role that artists play in improving the community, while enabling artists to advance their careers and deepen their local ties. The subjects raised by contemporary artists, fleshed out in conversations with the help of knowledgeable and passionate guides, cross all barriers of income and ethnicity. I can think of no better way to bring together the diverse residents of New Haven than by knitting together the myriad of sites and spaces showcased during City-Wide Open Studios. That is why I have been proud to serve as an Honorary Chair of the Host Committee for the last two years.

For nearly thirty years the staff and the many artists served by Artspace have worked tirelessly to present the latest and most imaginative art being made in our region, maintaining New Haven's position as a cultural capital and acting as a magnet to artists and young professionals who decide to locate to the City. This funding, if awarded, would allow the organization to utilize alternative means of transportation thereby expanding its reach into the community and its audiences. The City-Wide Open Studios project is an outstanding program and its impact on our community would benefit greatly from the Our Town grant program. I strongly urge you to give their application every possible consideration.

I appreciate your time and attention to my comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

  
ROSA L. DeLAURO  
Member of Congress