

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for the Middletown Arts Center (MAC) and its invaluable contributions to our community through programming and outreach efforts. As the Superintendent of Middletown City School District (MCSD), I've witnessed firsthand the transformative power of arts education and cultural enrichment in the lives of our students. MCSD is committed to partnering with MAC through future programming, workshops, and exhibitions.

There are several ways that MAC has partnered with MCSD over the years, such as:


- MAC serves as one of MCSD's Ready Now 100 Partners, helping to "erode the walls" between school and the outside world, introducing students to job opportunities in the community, and inviting MAC leadership inside school buildings
- MAC serves as a site for experiential learning, welcoming hundreds of students and families for art tours, scavenger hunts, and art activities on MCSD's "Personalized Learning Days"
- MAC hosts families at lunch locations in their studios and courtyard from the Middle Meal Machine
- History of successful four-year outreach arts programming for Midd State/Middle Virtual Program Students
- A dedicated MAC leadership team has partnered with Adopt A Class as mentors of an MCSD 3rd grade class, developing curriculum and sharing hands-on learning on career pathways in the arts
- 25+ year history of awarding scholarships to MCSD students in grades 1-12 to attend two-week immersive annual Summer Young Artist Workshops
- Opportunities for year-round arts enrichment for MCSD students with the opportunity for financial needs-based scholarships
- Exclusive gallery exhibition featuring MCSD elementary student artwork, allowing families to celebrate artists' accomplishments in a community setting at a reception event and month-long display
- 19-year history of featuring MCSD middle and high school art students in an annual juried teen art exhibition "Tomorrow's Artist Today", with opportunities for recognition and cash awards
- Welcoming classes and staff throughout the school year for field trips, tours, art activities, demonstrations, community art projects, nationally renowned artist lectures, and more
- MAC is committed to being a valuable resource for MCSD students and staff in the future by providing FREE access to art experiences through exhibitions and community learning

Furthermore, MAC's partnership provides focused professional development for staff. Please reach out if you have any questions or require further information. MAC is a valuable partner to the Greater Middletown Community and we look forward to strengthening our relationship and future collaborations.

Sincerely,

Deborah Houser
Superintendent, Middletown City School District

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To whom it may concern,

At Abilities First, our mission is to empower those we serve and their families living with all abilities to discover and fulfill their unique potential within their communities. We provide a variety of quality services within the agency such as outpatient therapy services (OT, PT, Speech Therapy), a Pre-K through 2nd grade educational program (Autism Learning Center), and a high-quality 4-Star Early Childhood Learning Center. In order to provide the most comprehensive, holistic support we can, we also strive to strengthen our partnerships within the community to increase the access of local resources/services to our families.

It is my pleasure to write in support of the ongoing partnership between Abilities First and the Middletown Art Center. We have consistently collaborated together on summer programming for our teen/young adult social groups for the last 4 years and aim to build upon this partnership as we look forward to the future. We have seen the excitement and joy the programming has brought to our teens/young adults who are neuro-divergent and have differing abilities. We have observed the social skills and executive functioning skills we work on in a group setting translate to when they have community experiences. It is something our groups look forward to each summer, and a couple of teens have independently taken classes at the Middletown Art Center.

We are also pleased to partner on expansion of Middletown Arts Center's programming of a new special free "Sensory-Friendly" event designed to provide an inclusive and welcoming space for people with sensory sensitivities equipped with social stories, basic sensory accommodations, and calm/quiet spaces.

As we strengthen our partnership, it will promote community building, create safe spaces for all, spread the joy of creativity and art, develop skills for community participation for our clients, and build upon diversity and inclusion in our community.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope you choose to support the partnership between Abilities First and the Middletown Art Center. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or requests for more information.

Karen Guo OTD, OTR/L
Pediatric Therapies Director
Abilities First
karen.guo@abilitiesfirst.org

To Whom It May Concern:

I am submitting a letter of support for our local nonprofit community arts organization, Middletown Arts Center (MAC).

Miami University Regionals has successfully partnered with the MAC on a variety of initiatives contributing to the arts and cultural enrichment of our region. Past collaborations include Perk Up Middletown, a public art project enhancing the downtown Middletown district and aiding revitalization efforts.

The MAC serves as a vital resource for Miami University students. The organization supports Community Arts students in reaching their educational goals and welcoming them into a professional arts community. They have hosted interns (even during 2020 pandemic), and last year offered employment to a recent graduate of the program. The MAC has featured student work in their gallery with the Miami University Regionals Student Art Exhibitions.

A central component of the MAC's vision is to present vibrant and innovative exhibitions that challenge, inform and expand horizons. I serve on the MAC Exhibit Committee and Board of Governors, and other Miami faculty, Roscoe Wilson and Jennifer Purdum, have served as jurors of exhibitions. With professional guidance, the MAC is able to elevate and continuously improve the artistic direction of their exhibitions. Showcasing and recognizing over 600 artists annually, the arts center strives to grow, expand and diversify their exhibitions.

I recognize the importance of equitable access for arts experiences and strongly believe the MAC fulfills this need with high-quality free art exhibitions and community learning opportunities, (such as lectures, demonstrations, gallery discussions, and field trips), in an underserved region of Ohio. The exhibition season works in tandem with other elements of their mission - art education and outreach.

Miami University Regionals is committed to partnering with the MAC in the future. I urge you to provide funding support for the MAC, as it will directly contribute to the availability of arts and cultural experiences for our Miami University Regionals students, and community at large, in our region.

Sincerely,



Andrew Au
Associate Professor, Art
Miami University Regionals

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing you in support of the Middletown Arts Center's grant application that aims to support the art and cultural progress of organizations within the great state of Ohio.

As Executive Director of Downtown Middletown, Inc. (DMI), I understand the immense need for access to art education and experiences. DMI is a 501c3 nonprofit that is focused on the revitalization and preservation of our community, Middletown, Ohio. We firmly believe art is a vital resource that directly contributes to the revitalization and cultural enrichment of a vibrant community. As a city located in one of the most underserved regions of our state, support in this initiative for Middletown is more vital than ever.

DMI has worked in coordination with the MAC on numerous successful projects. Most recently we welcomed the efforts of the arts center during our Port Middletown Arts and Music Festival. The MAC was able to provide free entry to their photography and digital art exhibit, sponsor a community mural project, host an art sale that supported our local artists, and provided one of their instructors to serve as our event's caricature artist – which offered free portraits to festival attendees. DMI looks forward to collaborating on future events and projects with the MAC for years to come.

Development of arts and culture is an imperative endeavor which enables us to further the revitalization of our city. I ask that you offer the MAC every consideration for this grant which will directly contribute to the availability of high-quality artistic experiences in our region.

Sincerely,

Jeff Payne
Executive Director

Our Mission Statement:

BUILDING COMMUNITY · FOSTERING PRIDE · REVITALIZING YOUR DOWNTOWN

2/22/2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing you in support of the Middletown Arts Center's grant application, strengthening the health and vitality of arts and culture in our region.

As CEO of Butler Behavioral Health, I value our past and future partnership with our neighbors at our Middletown location, the Middletown Arts Center (MAC). Programming developed in coordination with our Middletown Counseling Center Program Manager, Kate McLain, MSW, LISW-S, has had a history of success.

The visual arts services the MAC provided to Butler Behavioral Health's women's therapy group provided opportunities for them to explore their talents and abilities, and to connect and share. The women were afforded an opportunity for creative self-expression and growth, to produce something tangible and uniquely one's own. Art is well known to have therapeutic value. The arts classes provided a meaningful augmentation to regular group counseling, along with an opportunity for the women to engage with each other, enjoy new experiences and be a part of their community.

Butler Behavioral Health Program Manager Kate McLain shares, "This has been such a great collaboration and experience for the ladies of BBH! So many women would not have the opportunity to engage in art classes and this has opened up doors to new expressive ideas for mental health expression."

All participants in the program were at an income below the federal poverty level and many benefited from the location being on the city bus route in the heart of the city.

Furthermore, BBH and MAC were pleased to announce the inauguration of a groundbreaking satellite art exhibit in December of 2023. This unique installation aims to provide an enriching cultural experience for individuals receiving services through BBH. Strengthening our relationship with the new exhibit represents an innovative approach to extend the benefits of artistic expression and cultural engagement to a wider, often underserved, audience. This installation will represent the ongoing commitment of both the MAC and BBH to create equitable access to arts and culture experiences for all members of our community.

Butler Behavioral Health looks forward to future programming with Middletown Arts Center and is committed to partnering to support underserved members of our community. I hope that the Ohio Arts Council sees tremendous value in the work Middletown Arts Center does through their exhibition, outreach, and arts educational programs, and offers consideration for a grant award contributing to the arts in Butler County.

Sincerely,



Randy Allman, President & CEO
Butler Behavioral Health



3080 Exploration Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45206

info@aacmentors.org 
aacmentors.org 

February 26, 2024

Sonya Fultz
Chief Executive Officer
Office: 513-448-4137

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing you in support of the Middletown Arts Center's grant funding requests that aims to support the art and cultural progress of nonprofit organizations within the great state of Ohio.

Middletown Arts Center (MAC) came on board as an Adopt A Class partner this 2023-2024 school year for Middletown City schools, at Amanda Elementary, third grade classroom. A dedicated team of mentors from the Middletown Arts Center has completed training, developed curriculum and shared hands-on learning on career pathways in the arts with their Adopted class.

Adopt A Class, together with Middletown City Schools and the City of Middletown, is the proud recipient of the Ohio Industry Sector Partnership (ISP) Grant. This prestigious award highlights the shared commitment to advancing educational excellence and workforce development within Middletown.

The ISP Grant is aimed at supporting initiatives that encourage collaboration between local businesses, educational institutions, and community stakeholders. We value our partnership with community and arts leader, Middletown Arts Center, and the educational offerings on arts career pathways they bring to local youth.

"This grant is a significant acknowledgment of our concerted efforts to forge meaningful connections between students and the professional world. In collaboration with Middletown City Schools and the City of Middletown, we are dedicated to enriching our children's educational journeys and preparing them for successful futures," Adopt A Class CEO, Sonya Fultz said.

About Adopt A Class:

Founded in 2003, Adopt A Class is a non-profit organization with a vision of a Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky where all students have access to caring adults who expose them to a breadth of life and career experiences so they can unleash their full potential. Currently, over 380 business and community groups mentor close to 10,000 students in Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. To learn more, visit aacmentors.org.

I ask that you offer the MAC every consideration for their funding request which directly contributes to the development and sustainability of arts and culture, and education, in our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sonya M. Fultz".

Sonya Fultz

Chief Executive Officer, Adopt A Class