

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

March 23, 2015

Capital Improvements Budget Committee c/o Daley Lehmann 15 W. Kellogg Blvd Saint Paul, MN 55102

To Members of the CIB Committee,

I strongly support Circus Juventas' CIB application for expansion of their building. Circus Juventas has enriched the lives of countless young people in Highland Park, Saint Paul and the greater metro area since it was founded in 1994. The work they do to teach their students the art of circus and the discipline of dedicated practice cannot be understated. Those who come out of Circus Programs do so as better citizens; more capable with their minds and their bodies.

By expanding their building, Circus will add training space, dance and theater studios, prop and costume shops, a larger entrance and lobby area and administrative offices. This expansion will allow them to better serve their students, audience members and the surrounding community.

Circus Juventas is a vital part of our community. I strongly support their CIB application for expansion.

Sincerely,

Chris Tolbert

Saint Paul City Councilmember, Ward 3



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Building a More Vibrant, Welcoming, and Safe Neighborhood

March 23, 2015

Daley Lehman Capital Improvement Budget 700 City Hall 15 W. Kellogg Blvd St. Paul, MN 55102-1631

Mr Lehman,

The Highland District Council would like to submit this letter of support for the expansion project at Circus Juventas. The District Council supports Circus Juventas because it greatly benefits its participants, audience members, and the community at large.

Circus Juventas allows children who are not interested in organized sports to be involved in an active, engaging and physically demanding program. It teaches discipline, focus, concentration and artistic skill. The circus has brought in employees from around the world to share their gifts with students in this region.

Circus Juventas is an asset to both the Highland Park neighborhood and to the City of St Paul. More than 10 percent of its students live in Highland. More than 20,000 people attended circus shows, bringing people from around the region to our neighborhood and St. Paul, often patronizing businesses in our neighborhood.

The circus is a good neighbor. It provides classes for the Highland Friendship Club and partners with Neighborhood House to offer scholarship classes, among other efforts.

The Highland Park District 15 Plan states under Goal 1 (page 59):

- Maintain and expand recreational facilities to meet the needs of Highland residents,
- Create public/private collaborations to support best recreational programming as stated in the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Plan
- Support non-profit organizations that promote recreational opportunities for youth (such as Highland-Groveland Recreational Association and Circus Juventus)

There's little question the proposed project will be beneficial to Highland Park and the City of Saint Paul. We are delighted that Circus Juventas is staying in Highland and expanding and we know its leadership will work closely with the City on a successful expansion.

Sincerely,

Highland District Council Board of Directors