



GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MUSIC and ART DEPARTMENT

April 9, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Dusty Molyneaux and I am the Music and Art Supervisor for the Great Falls Public Schools. I am writing this letter of support for James Rickley, who is applying for ARPA grant funds through the Montana Arts Council. I fully support this grant to bring live performances of music that is composed locally, performed by local musicians and also played for the hometown community.

One of my roles as a Fine Arts supervisor in this community is that I serve as a sort of ambassador between the public school system and the Arts Community in Great Falls. It is a role I gladly serve in, as I believe that the schools are the well that nourish our city with programs and events throughout the year that inspire, educate, entertain and bring joy to our citizens. Students that grow up with a strong Arts foundation in their schooling carry those skills into their adult lives, which makes for a healthier and more creative environment in which to work and play and grow families. It is a beautiful cycle!

In order for this cycle to continue, the schools are always trying to show students the relevance and reality of the Arts in their community. We also want students to experience the Arts in person as much as possible, and live events like these concerts as proposed in the grant documents have deeper and more emotional meaning than watching things on video or reading about them in a book. Seeing adults make a living in the Arts, and showing students how to achieve higher level thinking skills that use creativity, evaluation and analyzation make big impacts on student cognitive growth, and also show them that this sort of stuff can happen right in their backyard and not in some big city far away.

Another thing I really appreciate about this proposal is that it will use local musicians for performances, some of whom are educators as well as private instructors for the students of Great Falls. Giving these individuals a chance to be showcased not only is a nice honor for them, but it also will encourage these individuals to “sharpen the saw” and flex their performance skills that sometimes get pushed to the rear in their rigorous schedules of educating students. It will make my teachers stronger educators to engage in projects like this, which leads to student growth in the long run. This again is another beautiful cycle that I would enjoy watching unfold.

I heartily endorse and support this grant proposal to build an even stronger Arts community in Great Falls!

Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Dusty Molyneaux'.

Dusty Molyneaux
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