



a society more humane –
a world more livable

January 31, 2008

Ms. Lisa Ellis
Board President
Madison Board of Education
359 Woodland Road
Madison, NJ 07940

Dear Ms. Ellis,

I write today to enthusiastically endorse the proposal submitted by the Madison Arts and Culture Alliance to the Madison Board of Education for the acquisition of the Green Village Road school building.

We have long been impressed by this coalition and the leadership role that Playwrights Theatre of NJ has taken in fostering this unique collaboration of cultural organizations, institutions of higher education, and local government. We firmly believe that shared, collaborative projects of this nature will be the key to thriving and vibrant communities in New Jersey and we could not be more delighted that this model of cooperation and delivery of first class arts education and programming will be happening in Madison.

The major arts and culture organizations that Madison is fortunate to claim, many of which we proudly support, have returned very significant economic and social value not only to Madison but to the entire region. Furthermore, they have the experience and the resources to provide superior arts education programs in cooperation with the Madison school district, as is evidenced by Playwrights Theatre's long-standing and tremendously successful playwriting in the schools program.

A Madison Center for Arts and Education would be a tremendous boon to all of Madison, not just its student population. Shared performance, gallery and classroom spaces, as well as shared administrative offices and meeting rooms, will also help consolidate administrative and production costs for several of the participating organizations, which will only enhance their ability to give even more back to their community.

We believe that the time is right for this wonderful opportunity and that all of the players are poised to take this collaboration to the next level, which could certainly serve as a national model of effective and efficient examples of providing shared services that benefit an entire community.

If I can provide any further endorsement, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

David Grant
President & CEO