



2 Avenue A - Turners Falls, MA 01376 - (413) 863-3221

To the Town of Montague Finance Committee:

We are writing in support of RiverCulture's request for a one-time \$20,000 bridge grant, so they can continue their work as they seek new funding sources to fill the gap left by the discontinued Adams Grant.

The Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center have had a good working relationship with RiverCulture over the many years of its existence. Geology and local history education are among our primary goals. Early on, RiverCulture paid for the design, production, and printing (and later, reprinting) of the Geological Walking Tour booklet and the Historical Walking Tour brochure, written by Friends board members Steve Winters and Linda Hickman, respectively.

For several years, a board member attended regular meetings that RiverCulture convened in Town Hall with numerous other local organizations and businesses. The meetings and the activities that evolved from them, such as the Block Party and Third Thursdays, helped to foster an atmosphere that has made the downtown an increasingly attractive location. Although we no longer participate in these meetings, the connections made through the meetings continue to resonate. In addition, RiverCulture promotes our Coffeehouse, Great Hall art exhibits, and other events in their e-mail newsletter and on their website, which also includes a link to our website. Finally, RiverCulture led the successful effort to make Turners Falls a state cultural district, with the Discovery Center as one of the four anchors, along with Unity Park, the Shea Theater, and the Carnegie Library.

Despite little or no direct Friends connection to the installation of the Rock-Paper-Scissors sculpture at the corner of 3rd St., improvements like this one in downtown Turners Falls help all of us who value a rich artistic, cultural, and natural environment for our families and children.

We hope that RiverCulture will receive the funding they need to continue their work.

Sincerely,

The Board of the Friends of Great Falls Discovery Center