

Sept 12, 2017

To Members of the Finance Committee:

I'm writing to you in support of Suzanne LoManto's work as director of RiverCulture, hoping you will see the benefit in providing funding for the remainder of the year. I am an artist and a homeowner in Turners Falls, a town I have grown to truly love. I also serve on the Civic Committee and am a newly appointed member of the Montague Cultural Council.

In the past year, I have seen RiverCulture turn its attention to the physical beauty of our downtown. Through the installation of Rock Paper Scissors, a major sculptural work that reflects our town's history, to clean-up campaigns, to attention to areas that were overdue for repair.

I am certain this attention to downtown was instrumental as Turners was awarded the Massachusetts Cultural District designation, a recognition that will help build a positive perception of the town to residents, businesses, and tourists.

One of the many ways RiverCulture is currently an important voice in the economic development of the town is through its involvement in the Shea Theater. The Shea is seen by many as being a central player in the arts in Turners. I have served with Suzanne on the Civic Committee as it helped direct the current stage of operation for the Shea. RiverCulture continues to partner with the Shea Theater Arts Center and helps them find ways to intersect with the businesses in town. She also helps promote their events and articulates the importance of this community resource to business owners and residents.

RiverCulture has been instrumental in taking our diverse cultures and bringing them together with the natural beauty of the river and the rich historic heritage of the town. Events sponsored by RiverCulture allow all ages, income levels, abilities, and ethnicities be part of the party.

It's hard to overstate how important the work of RiverCulture has been for our town and I would love to see its work continue uninterrupted and with the financial support of the Town of Montague.

Sincerely yours,

Pam Allan

79 K St

Turners Falls, MA