



Highland District Council
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February 4, 2014

Mike Hahm, Director
St. Paul Parks and Recreation
25 W. 4th Street, 400 CHA
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Mr. Hahm:

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 HDC understands that there are some design issues that need to be worked out with the City, and we would expect Circus Juventas to comply with what is asked. We also urge Parks and Recreation to maintain a positive dialogue with the organization to work through any issues in a timely manner.

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,

Kathy Carruth
Executive Director
Highland District Council