



Arlington, Massachusetts 02476-0002

P.O. Box 167 • 869 Massachusetts Avenue • (781) 316-3540

Office Of The School Committee

July 20, 2020

National Endowment for the Arts
Our Town Grant Program
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20506-0001

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Arlington School Committee I am writing to enthusiastically support the application of True Story Theater for an "Our Town" grant to support their "Dialogue Project" in Arlington.

Facilitating conversations around challenges related to diversity and inclusion specific to Arlington and through direct engagement with the community is critical and we are grateful that True Story Theater is willing and able to engage in this important work. They have been successful in doing this in the past and securing the funding to do an extended series of performances and workshops over a full year would be extraordinarily valuable in a town that is ready to talk about and consider these critical issues.

I am also especially pleased that this grant would allow True Story Theater to engage even more with our schools and the school community. The group's ability to pivot to an online model over the last few months demonstrates their flexibility, resilience and their power as effective community organizers. With the uncertainty around "return-to-school" having True Story Theater as partners with the schools as we enter perhaps our most challenging academic year yet will become invaluable. The pandemic has prompted many important conversations around education, access and justice that will need to happen in many forums.

I hope that you will join me in supporting True Story Theater as one of your grant recipients.

Sincerely,

Jane Morgan, Chair
Arlington School Committee