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December 11, 2009

To Whom it May Concern:

I write this letter to recommend Kathryn Fialkowski to you as a gifted facilitator, insightful problem-solver, and capable leader.

As the Artistic Director of a non-profit arts organization and a founding member of the Norristown Arts Task Force, I brought Kate into our committee in summer 2009 to help give focus and structure to a room full of idea people with no clear path forward.

At that time, the committee had recently formed to give cohesion to the vague idea of revitalizing the town through arts. Our group amounted to six volunteers around a table. By the close of our project with Kate, the Norristown Arts Task Force had ballooned into a 3-committee organization with bi-monthly meetings characterized by almost 100% attendance; we had organized a public launch meeting attended by over 50 Montgomery County government, business, and art leaders; we had honed our goal of creating an "Avenue of the Arts" in downtown Norristown, received newspaper coverage, and held two special events at a local restaurant. We are currently planning a two-day fundraiser and launch event, while also laying the groundwork to achieve non-profit status. In short, our committee has started a grassroots arts movement in Norristown unparalleled in the history of the town.

We are very grateful to Kate for the work she did to help us achieve this success in just six months. Kate facilitated meetings, established a host of online organizational tools to keep the disparate group members in communication, created a document library, and fashioned the structure that the group will now employ in our establishment as a 501 c 3.

This growth would not have been impossible without the guidance and support of Kate Fialkowski. Instinctively understanding our need for transparency, Kate advised the group to commit to public and transparent operations, a tactic which is endearing the Arts Task Force to the community. Kate guided our project in such a way that participants with varied interests and stakes felt personally committed to one goal. One of Kate's many strengths as a facilitator is her suburb ability to listen and reflect back to the group when the way forward becomes clear. We are very grateful for the way Kate saw the potential in the Norristown Arts Task Force and helped us forge a path forward that will benefit both the individual Task Force members, and the entire borough of Norristown, for years to come. In enthusiastically recommend Kate to any organization looking to succeed in a time of dynamic change.

Sincerely,

Erin Reilly

Artistic Director, Theatre Horizon