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3rd District Supervisor

To whom it may concern,

It is with great privilege that I write this letter on behalf of Abram Katz. Abram Katz is a master teaching artist and one of the most caring and capable human beings I've ever met.

I am the Arts Education Director of Arts Council Santa Cruz County and have had the honor of working with Abram through our arts education programs for the past two years. During that time, Abram has taught engaging multidisciplinary residencies through our SPECTRA and Artist Teacher Partnership programs that aim to foster connection, self-efficacy, and hope! Additionally, he has sat on our Arts Education Committee for over a year!

Some examples of his wonderful successes in our programs include:

- Building strong connections and engagement with alternative education high school students at New School in Watsonville through collage and stop motion animation. We was able to reach this population of predominately at-promise Latino students that had not been successful in traditional learning environments through his flexibly in curriculum design to meet the needs of the ever-changing climate at that school.
- At Mission middle school, Abram persevered against all odds - even in an unsupportive environment with challenging administrators. A young girl in his program was documented saying she didn't believe in herself, and then after participating in his class she's decided to go after life and take charge!
- At Aptos Junior High, Abram is currently teaching a photography class and the students are loving it!

Abram is proving to be a vital and indispensable part of our Arts Education programming. Abram is an amazingly multifaceted artist and educator. He stands out amongst our other teaching artists in his ability to connect with students, and meet the individual educational, social, and emotional needs of students from diverse backgrounds.

I believe Abram is dedicated to his work as an artist, educator, and community member here, always seeking ways to connect with the community around him, through the arts. He is a vital member of our Arts Council and the Santa Cruz County arts community in this regard, as well. Abram plays a vital role not only in our youth arts education programs, but the Santa Cruz community as a whole, as his work also includes teaching adults at community-based organizations and activating creativity and connection in public spaces through arts installations and leading discussions.

If you have any further questions or would like to talk to me personally about this, or any issue concerning Abram's work, feel free to contact me.

Arts Council Santa Cruz County

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Sincerely,

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