

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Dennis Paul. I had the privilege of interning for Mr. Paul at the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs at an early point in my professional development in non-profit urban programs and policy. I have followed Mr. Paul's professional trajectory over many years and continue to benefit from his wisdom and diverse talents as an educator, non-profit expert and working artist.

Mr. Paul as a practitioner and visionary has had a lasting impact on my professional values and helped nurture a lifelong dedication to the arts. Shared core values affirm the essential role of the arts not only as an economic engine but in nurturing culture and growth especially for people in our society who are underrepresented and underserved. Dennis also taught hard skills in fundraising and nonprofit management and brought visionary but practical thinking to the arts and culture sector as it evolved. There was always great integrity and commitment to all that we did in support of local arts.

In more recent years in California, Dennis was instrumental in advancing the arts through digital platforms supporting both non-profit and private enterprises. He understands the business of being a working artist and is an excellent teacher and mentor to students. These are all seasoned skills that transcend age, race, gender and place. Many notable programs that I participated in as a trustee at Aljira A Center for Contemporary Art in Newark NJ, including a Warhol Foundation retreat for mid-size arts groups, trainings by the Dodge Foundation in NJ and mentoring by the nationally recognized Center for Creative Leadership, all support what I know about Dennis Paul.

I have worked in the public sector since 1981 to promote assets such as parks and open spaces, healthy neighborhoods, and the arts. I served as board president for one term and on the executive committee as a trustee of Aljira for six years. For the past fourteen years I have been a program officer at The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey (senior since 2006). Dennis Paul helped me launch my journey and I am certain that he would be a great asset in supporting the vision and advancement of individual artists, students and organizations today. It is a delight to offer this letter of support on behalf of Dennis Paul. Should you have any questions, I can be reached at (201) 396-07360 by email, lblock@hfni.org.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Block', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lisa Block