

COLUMBUS DANCE THEATRE

Tim Veach, Artistic Director

August 24th, 2011

Dear Community Arts Partnership Panel:

It is a pleasure for me to offer this letter of support for Java Kitrick and her nomination for the GCAC Community Arts Partner Award.

Ms. Kitrick and her leadership of the Puffin Foundation have served as a significant support to the arts in the Greater Columbus community for many years. Columbus Dance Theatre has been the recipient of two grant awards from The Puffin Foundation as well as personal contributions from Ms. Kitrick. As well, through Puffin and through personal contributions, Ms Kitrick has offered support to numerous arts organizations and individual artists including: The Wexner Center for the Arts and The Ohio State University Department of Dance, artist Eva Andry's Putting Names to Faces project, The Short Stop Youth Center, and the *Eyes Wide Open* project among many others.

Columbus Dance Theatre received much needed support from the Puffin Foundation and Ms. Kitrick in 2007 for its project *Peace*. This project brought together multiple arts and cultural organizations including: The Carpe Diem String Quartet, Thurber House, and the Chancel Choir of First Community Church. Puffin's support of *Peace* served to anchor this project and assisted CDT in receiving further funding from The Ohio Arts Council. Last Season CDT's production of *Courage* benefitted from a dramatic level of support from Ms. Kitrick not only through funding from Puffin Foundation West LTD, but through the partnership that she facilitated between CDT and the ACLU of Ohio. Her direct involvement in the creation of this unique partnership for the *Courage* project created a weekend of sold-out performances for CDT and brought a broad, new, and diverse audience to CDT. She was the nexus point for this successful production. This is part of what makes Java unique. She is not only an arts supporter through financial resources, but is also a facilitator of partnerships and connections throughout community at large.

It is rare to see such ongoing and consistent support of art and culture in a community. Ms. Kitrick has stood at a nexus of arts activity in our community and nationally for many years. She has also demonstrated a unique ability to partner art making with support of disenfranchised and at risk populations in our community. She puts community support into action, not just words, and facilitates dynamic relationships between disparate populations. This unusual and unique facilitation of community connections offers a clear view of why Ms. Kitrick deserves this recognition.

If you would like any further information I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. I can be reached at: 614-517-3787.

Sincerely Yours,

Tim Veach
Artistic Director
Columbus Dance Theatre