

August 3, 2026

LexArts Community Arts Development Grant Review Panel

Dear Grant Review Panel:

It is my pleasure to offer my enthusiastic support for Uniting Voices Lexington's application for a LexArts Community Arts Development Grant to support its Summer 2027 Workshop.

Having served on Uniting Voices Lexington's Local Advisory Board for nearly the entirety of the organization's existence, I have had the privilege of watching an ambitious vision become one of Lexington's most impactful youth arts programs. Throughout that time, I have witnessed not only remarkable artistic growth, but also tremendous personal growth in the students who participate. Their confidence, leadership, discipline, and sense of belonging are evident every time they take the stage, and those qualities extend far beyond the performance itself.

What makes Uniting Voices Lexington so impactful is that it uses music as a vehicle for something much larger. The program brings together young people from different neighborhoods, backgrounds, and life experiences, creating opportunities for them to learn from one another while celebrating the diverse voices and stories that define Lexington and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. In doing so, it cultivates empathy, respect, and a shared sense of purpose, qualities that strengthen both our youth and the communities they will one day lead.

As a member of the advisory board and as someone deeply invested in the future of our Commonwealth, I have been encouraged to watch the organization steadily expand its reach throughout our community. Yet the need continues to outpace the opportunity. There are countless young people across Lexington and Central Kentucky who would benefit from the high caliber artistic instruction, mentorship, and community that Uniting Voices Lexington provides. Continued investment through this grant will help ensure that more students can access these transformative experiences, regardless of their financial circumstances.

The proposed Summer 2027 Workshop represents another important step in that growth. Beyond refining musical skills, the workshop will create an environment where students build lasting relationships, develop leadership abilities, and gain experiences that inspire them to become engaged members of their schools and communities. These are investments whose impact will be felt long after the final performance.

Kentucky has a rich artistic and cultural heritage, and organizations like Uniting Voices Lexington play an essential role in ensuring that the next generation has the opportunity to contribute to that legacy. The organization's commitment to artistic excellence, accessibility, and youth development has already demonstrated meaningful results, and I have every confidence that its impact will continue to grow in the years ahead.

While I have been inspired by the organization's remarkable growth, I am equally convinced that its greatest impact still lies ahead. With additional support, Uniting Voices Lexington can reach even more young people across Lexington and Central Kentucky, ensuring that talent and potential, not circumstance, determine who has access to these life-changing opportunities.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this application. I respectfully encourage you to support Uniting Voices Lexington and the important work it is doing to enrich the lives of young people and strengthen our community through the arts.

Sincerely,



Sterling T. Crayton, J.D.

Member, Local Advisory Board
Uniting Voices Lexington