



March 5, 2018

California Arts Council
1300 I Street, Suite 930
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Panel,

As President/Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Somali Bantu Association of America (SBAOA), it is my great pleasure to write in support of the Local Impact grant application of Fern Street Circus, a group who have an office our building in City Heights.

In October 2017 SBAOA and United Taxi Workers of San Diego (UTWSD) joined together to put on the Community Culture Health Fair at Colina Del Sol Park in eastern San Diego. Fern Street Circus was our collaborator and opened the doors to getting youth to the Health Fair.

We see a great number of members of our community unaware about their health, things don't know they have, like their blood pressure or diabetes. They don't know what to do. That is what the Health Fair can do – to help people find services that promote better health care for them and their families.

The youth and their parents enjoyed the Circus very much – it was healthy for the kids and built a connectivity for their friends and others. It was good that the Health Fair and Circus were in Colina Park – everyone who lives in City Heights can walk or run there. It is a central location which they can access.

Parents of youth said that want was valuable about Fern Street Circus was that 1. It was good for building the morale for the kids. 2. It is a show for free. 3. The youth wants to be involved – they want to learn about circus and to participate.

Our community is so excited about Fern Street Circus. They tell me that they want it more often – monthly, weekly, daily! We all look forward to an even better Community Culture Health Fair in 2018 with UTWSD and Fern Street Circus, and to programs which further involve our youth.

We hope you will support the Circus and its application for funding.

Sincerely,

Said Osman A Abiyow
President/Chief Executive Officer and Founder