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To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my support and that of Shakespeare Dallas for the Flora Lofts project, which would provide long-needed artist residences in the Dallas Arts District. I personally have been involved with the cultural community in Dallas for over 30 years and I feel that this project will have a tremendous positive impact on our community.

The proposed development is important, and deserves support, for several reasons. Among them, Flora Lofts:

- Further strengthens the growing arts community in Dallas, an important cultural asset for the city, by fulfilling the long-recognized need to provide an affordable way for artists to live and develop in the creative environment of the Dallas Arts District;
- Strengthens the Arts District itself, economically as well as culturally, since the development will enhance Arts District ambiance by replacing a block-long surface parking lot with an attractively landscaped building that also adds more public parking spaces and retail services to the District; and
- Strengthens downtown Dallas by adding more critically needed affordable housing.

This is the development the Dallas Arts District, downtown Dallas and the Dallas arts community have needed for many years. Many people, including the late architecture critic David Dillon, have frequently expressed the need to fulfill the last critical element of the Sasaki Plan -- affordable housing for artists. As an artist consultant on that plan, I was in full support of the element that included living/work spaces for artists. I feel that it will bring a vibrancy and center of artistic creation that the Arts District lacks currently. The involvement of La Reunion TX only enhances its appeal.

Shakespeare Dallas is strongly in support of Flora Lofts and requests that you put it at the top of your action list and move it forward to become a reality as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Raphael Parry
Executive & Artistic Director
Shakespeare Dallas