



THE DALLAS INSTITUTE OF HUMANITIES AND CULTURE

April 10, 2013

Flora Lofts
1925 San Jacinto, Suite 300
Dallas TX 75201

As Executive Director of the Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture, I am writing to express my organization's full support of the Flora Lofts project presently in the planning stages for the Dallas Arts District. This is the missing piece in an urban arts district that, when completed, will be the equal of any in the world.

The prospect of a community of artists living in proximity to one another, while not a new idea, continues to the present day to excite the imagination of citizens and fuel popular interest in the arts. Whereas much of creativity is individually accomplished, the presence of a communal atmosphere among artists will foster, encourage, and afford security for the creative imagination as it is accomplishing its difficult work. What a stimulating prospect for an artist—to understand that his or her potential achievements are valued and given sanctuary by the city itself. This is the kind of atmosphere that abounded in 5th century BC Athens, in Florence during the Renaissance, and in Elizabethan London. It is time for such an American renaissance, and it should happen not on the east or the west coast but here, in the heart of our great nation.

Dallas has the potential to be—is on the cusp of being—such a city as Athens, Florence, or London during their times of flourishing. Our political and civic leaders have provided an environment in which the arts are beginning to thrive, and those same leaders have pointed us toward a future that recognizes the essential presence of the arts in any city that is vital and complete, that offers the fullness of the democratic promise to its citizens.

I consider the Flora Lofts project as an integral part of Dallas' vision for the future. Though we perhaps live in a "virtual age" in which time and space seem collapsible, it still matters who is physically here, with us day to day in the work of continuing to build our city toward the ideal it is destined to attain. We need these artists among us; we need their continually creative spirit at the center of our presently emerging vitality.

We at the Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture greatly value and support those who have conceived and are moving forward with the Flora Lofts project. We must not let this opportunity escape us now; Dallas is too close to its artistic goal.

Sincerely,

J. Larry Allums, Ph.D.
The Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture

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