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To whom it may concern;

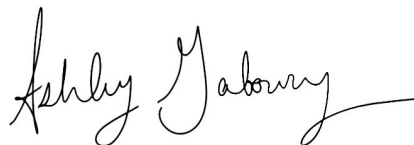
I am writing this letter of interest in support of The Venue and the need it will fulfill in the community of High River.

As an artist and art instructor of twenty years, living in the community of High River for the past eight, I have seen the need for a space such as The Venue for a long time. High River has a vast artist base and could benefit greatly from a central area where artists and members of the community could come together to build connections. Gallery owners and artist collectives have been the ones enriching our area; to some success, but there isn't enough space to create a lasting connection and deliver the services that could greatly benefit High River and area.

The Venue would benefit the community as people would not need to seek out services in larger centers. It would substantially help small business owners and artist collectives to reach out to the foothills by providing a space wherein which citizens of the area could connect to the arts.

You might ask, why don't individuals open businesses to fill this need. I see it like this; the community of High River has been disjointed ever since the flood. People have seen businesses come and go and are reluctant to invest their future in our town because it is not a sound investment at this time. I think this is where High River could benefit from a rejuvenation, showcasing what we really have to offer; which is passion and perseverance. If the artistic community came together to offer services, cultural events and so on, all the businesses in the area would benefit. People would have more of a reason to stay in High River and ultimately spend their time and reinvest in the area. High River could only benefit from bringing together it's artists as artists build community as well as help sustain our local knowledge and culture.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley Gaboury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Ashley Gaboury, BFA, GAE

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