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Dear Councillor Carroll,

I am very happy to be writing in support of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) request for funding support for Black Creek Pioneer Village (to be renamed The Village at Black Creek in spring 2024.)

Jumblied Theatre + Arts is a community arts organization: for 20 years, we have been creating new work of art with, for and about people in Toronto. In 2014, we launched the Talking Treaties project: to research and artfully examine Toronto's Indigenous and treaty history and its present-day implications. Through this project, we connected with the Village to bring art making activities that compliment and challenge the history presented at the site. Over recent years, this has included installations, presentations and community artmaking workshops with 100s of participants of all ages and backgrounds. In particular, Jumblied has been an enthusiastic partner as part of the Village's the Changing the Narrative initiative and Walking Together events, bringing Indigenous voices to the site. We are now embarking on a larger scale collaboration for a series of workshops and events in 2024.

Throughout our collaborations, I have been struck by the commitment to expanding the stories and histories told at the Village site, and the focus on uncovering and highlighting those that have been historically marginalized. The Village site has been an ideal setting for our work; the profile of the venue, its local community connections and outreach work by Village staff have allowed us to present Talking Treaties to new audiences.

I am excited to see TRCA's vision for the site to unfold, and I hope Jumblied is able to continue to collaborate with them to bring community-engaged arts programming to a neighbourhood that is all too often underserved by the arts and culture. Regular and dedicated funding for the Black Creek Pioneer Village is required make this happen: allowing us to make long-term plans to incorporate new voices into the site's narratives, bring performing arts and music to this area of the city, and revitalize a museum that looks to the past to bring Toronto into the future. I hope that you are able to support TRCA's request for funding Black Creek Pioneer Village.

Yours Sincerely,

Sam Egan
General Manager