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January 19, 2024

**Re: Letter of Support for Black Creek Pioneer Village**

Dear Councillor Carroll:

I am writing on behalf of Black Creek Community Farm to support Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) funding request for Black Creek Pioneer Village (to be renamed The Village at Black Creek in spring 2024). Our collaborative history with the museum, especially on public and education programs, has strengthened our mission of enriching the Jane and Finch community we serve.

Black Creek Community Farm is an urban agricultural centre that empowers diverse communities, including providing healthy food and offering educational experiences. We provide a range of community programs for children, youth, and seniors.

Our community programming efforts have been widened through collaboration with Black Creek Pioneer Village – including a curriculum-linked education program that helped urban students understand how food is grown and prepared, “from field to fork.” We have participated in the site’s annual “Walking Together” event, which brings students from local schools to Black Creek Pioneer Village for free workshops led by members of the Indigenous Community and includes a workshop led by our Indigenous gardener. Black Creek Pioneer Village’s contribution of education staff and activities to our annual Farm Festival also demonstrates their commitment to engaging with the Jane-Finch community through unique and meaningful programs. As an organization dedicated to serving and enriching our community, we recognize the importance of supporting institutions like Black Creek Pioneer Village. Sustaining their operations and programs through funding benefits the Jane Finch community located in the Black Creek Neighbourhood Improvement Area, aligning with our own efforts.

Supporting TRCA’s funding request for Black Creek Pioneer Village is a decision to ensure engaging educational experiences continue in an underserved area of Toronto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ohemaa Boateng".

**Ohemaa Boateng**

*Executive Director*

**Black Creek Community Farm**