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July 17, 2019

100 and Change Grant Proposal Review Committee
MacArthur Foundation
Re: Montana State University Grant Proposal

To Whom It May Concern:

Since its inception in 1998 in Bozeman, Montana, Classics for Kids Foundation has supported rural and urban string programs serving disadvantaged and at-risk children through its matching grant program. CFKF has given over 300 grants and support for over 4,000 beautiful new stringed instruments in all 50 states in America. The feedback that we receive from both students and teachers underscores the power and value of the musical experience in creating meaning and a positive and engaging influence on young lives. Children from myriad cultural, ethnic and demographic communities work together to craft a beautiful musical experience, giving them a sense of meaning, pride, emotional fulfillment, and shared effort. All of these experiences can help a young person develop stronger relationships with their peers and mentors, and help children learn crucial life lessons about goals, self-discipline, empathy for others in a group, and the role of the arts toward creating beauty in their lives.

CFKF has a strong presence in Montana; now based in Boston, we remain committed to supporting the growth of string programs for rural and disadvantaged children, including new programs for Native American students. We strongly support MSU Bozeman's application for the Mac Arthur 100 and Change initiative; our belief is that by giving young people access to culture and the arts, we can give them hope and a sense of personal meaning in often very challenging personal circumstances.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Reynolds".

Michael Reynolds
Executive Director, Classics for Kids Foundation
Professor of Cello, Boston University
Cellist, Muir String Quartet, in Residence at Boston University
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