

Date 01/15/2015

Karin Goodfellow, Director
Boston Arts Commission
Mayor's Office of Arts, Tourism & Special Events
Boston City Hall, Room 802
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Ms. Goodfellow:

I write this letter to express my unequivocal support for VietAID's proposal to fabricate and install the public art sculpture "Freedom Home" by the artist Juanjo Novella in the plaza on Town Field. This artwork pays tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom and democracy and will serve as an inspiration for the neighborhood's aspirations for freedom from poverty and crime. It is our hope that "Freedom Home" will boost civic pride and help to transform Fields Corner into a cultural destination, making Dorchester and Boston a better and more interesting place to live and work.

I opened my first Subway restaurant in Fields Corner on 2005 and soon I will be opening Burger Shop in this same area, because of this kind of project and programs Fields Corner is getting better each year, and this what helps business to thrive. As a business owner this give us hope and encourage us to invest our money in Fields Corner.

VietAID has a long history of working with diverse community groups in an effort to revitalize the Field Corner neighborhood. Over the last 20 years VietAID has turned abandoned and underutilized property into a thriving community center and built over 100 affordable housing units and several commercial spaces for locally-owned businesses.

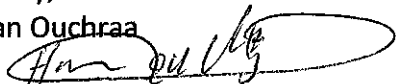
Consistent with its reputation, VietAID worked diligently with local community members as well as civic and political leaders throughout the planning and selecting an artist for this public art project. The project engaged many residents from diverse backgrounds in the Fields Corner neighborhood through displays at the Fields Corner Branch Library, online and at public meetings. It brought together community members and leaders to talk not only about the form of the artwork and the selection of an artist but also to discuss broader community concerns and visions for Town Field and Fields Corner.

This project deserves your full support. I look forward to its successful completion.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 781 572-7104.

Sincerely,

Hassan Ouchraa



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