December 9, 2021

Heidi Brown

Before and After School District Coordinator

Des Moines Public Schools

Dear Ms. Brown,

The After School Arts Program (ASAP) has been honored to be a community partner with Des Moines Public Schools, serving students throughout the district thanks to essential 21st Century grant funds. ASAP is committed to providing quality arts education for even more students in the district, to meet their needs and the steady demand for arts programming.

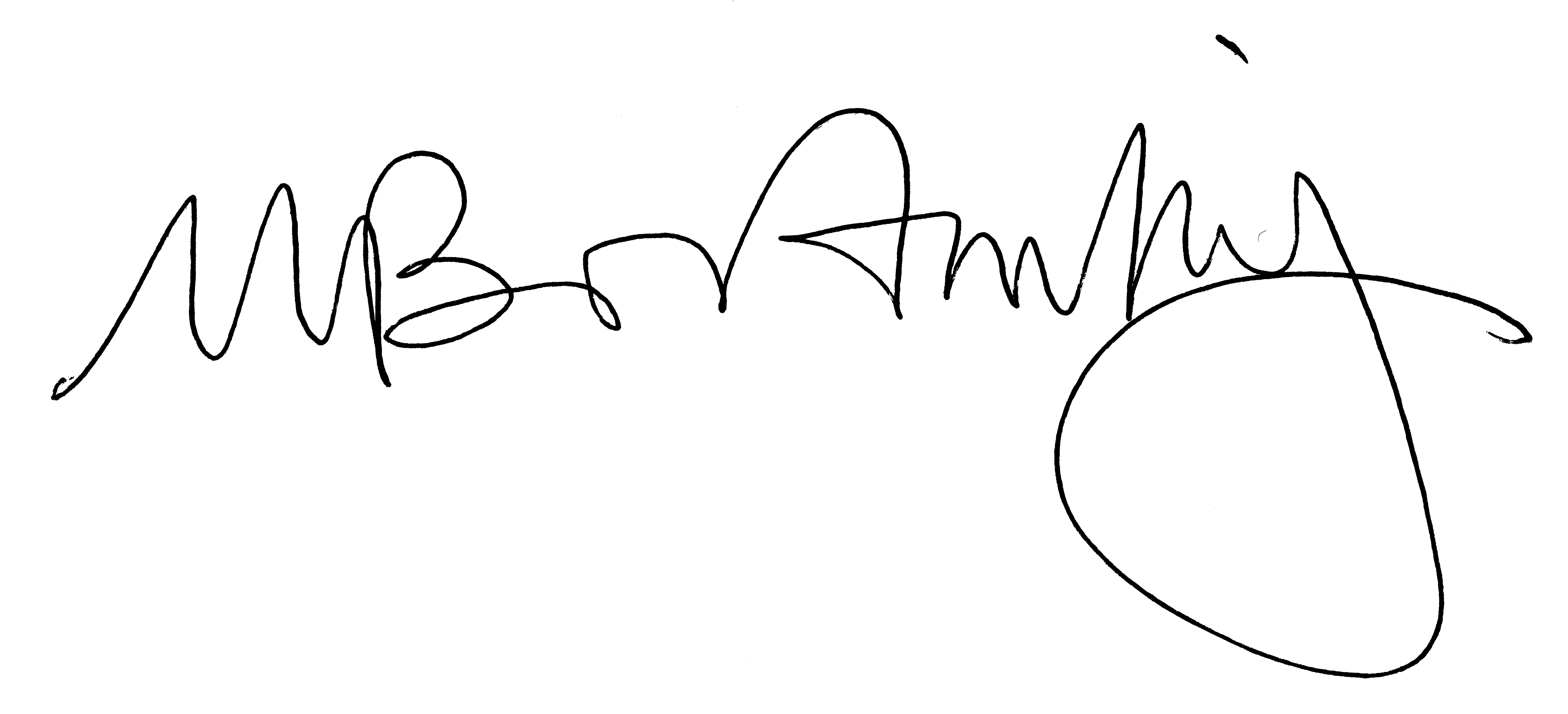
ASAP’s mission is to affirm young people as persons of value, nurture their skill and talent in the arts, help them realize their artistic gifts, and broaden their awareness of the varieties of artistic expression. ASAP has been working closely with Des Moines Public Schools since its founding in 2007, connecting students with quality enrichment programming in a wide variety of artistic mediums, led by experienced teaching artists. Most ASAP programming takes place in small studio classes over the course of several weeks, allowing for depth of discovery, creative experimentation, and strong relationship building between ASAP staff and students. Students, teachers and administrators, and parents report real, positive results for the students who participate in ASAP.

ASAP is in strong financial position to provide program value in-kind. The program fee covers 57% of the total cost of the program, while ASAP provides the remaining 43% through fundraising and grantwriting. For one hour of programming serving fifteen children, the fee is $100; that offsets total program costs of $175, which includes art and studio supplies (which have risen considerably over the past year), teaching artist stipends, training and background checks, insurance, and program staff oversight. The total in-kind contribution per year for these three sites is $2,250.

ASAP would be pleased and honored to continue this relationship in the future at additional schools, specifically Windsor, Oak Park and Madison elementary schools. ASAP has actually received requests from several Windsor parents over the years about the possibility of having programming there.

We look forward to working closely with Des Moines Public Schools to help enrich the lives of ASAP students, their families, and their community.

Sincerely yours,



Michelle Bolton King

Executive Director

ASAP, the After School Arts Program