

October 27, 2022

Dear Center for Innovation and the Arts Supporters:

Over the past several years, the City of Brooklyn Park, North Hennepin Community College (NHCC), and other arts supporters cultivated a relationship to advance the design and construction of a new facility, Center for Innovation and the Arts, at the corner of 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and West Broadway in Brooklyn Park.

The Center was envisioned to provide equitable and inclusive access to secondary and post-secondary academic programming and career pathways in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM), and cross-cultural programming. While the efforts to pursue a physical space are coming to an end due to financial constraints, the vision for programming will continue.

**Challenges facing the project:**

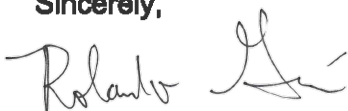
- A 2019 study estimated that the project would cost \$81 million and require support from public and private philanthropic sources. Despite financial commitments from Brooklyn Park Economic Development Authority and NHCC, the requested state bonding has been unsuccessful.
- A 2022 feasibility study conducted by Crowley, White, Helmer & Sevig to assess a capital campaign found that \$12 million of the necessary \$30 million could be raised from private entities, leaving a significant funding gap.
- Declining enrollment at NHCC poses a significant financial challenge. Since its peak in 2012, enrollment has decreased by 4,392 students, or \$11 million. This declining enrollment mirrors state and national trends since 2007 and accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic. Enrollment projections over the next five years will not cover that gap.

**What's next?**

The City and NHCC will continue its partnership to carry forth the project's goals to 1) fill a void in the northwest suburbs for arts programming, 2) grow STEAM academic programs and pathways, and 3) provide equitable and inclusive access to arts. To accomplish this, we will pursue fundraising opportunities identified in the feasibility study related to fine and applied art, diversity, equity, inclusion, and STEAM, and explore after-school programming, summer camps, and life-long learning classes.

We thank you, the community, elected representatives, state legislators, council members, staff, faculty, advisory members, and countless others who have supported this project!

Sincerely,



**Dr. Rolando Garcia**  
President, NHCC



**Jay Stroebel**  
City Manager, City of Brooklyn Park