



West Indian Fusion Dance Center - 3 Bittersweet Drive, Markham On, L6B 1L7

Letter of Support for Funding – Devi Mandir

We are writing in strong support of the funding application to enhance and renovate the space at Devi Mandir to better serve the children and youth who participate in our community dance program.

For the past 20 years, our community-based dance school has proudly operated out of Devi Mandir. Throughout this time, we have provided cultural performances at numerous community events across the Greater Toronto Area, promoting artistic excellence, cultural awareness, and community unity.

Our program offers classes for students ranging in age from 4 to 24 years old. We teach a diverse range of traditional Indian and Western dance styles, incorporating rhythms from the Caribbean and East India. Currently, we run three weekly classes at the Mandir, serving approximately 25 students. Our participants reflect the rich diversity of our community, representing a wide variety of nationalities and ethnic backgrounds.

Since our inception, we have relied on the Mandir's stage and facility as our primary teaching space. However, over the years, the condition of the stage has deteriorated significantly due to heavy usage and foot traffic. The flooring, ceiling, and walls have become worn and, in some areas, unsafe. The instability of the stage now poses safety concerns for our students, particularly given the physical demands of dance training.

In addition to safety concerns, the current size and condition of the stage limit the number of students we can safely accommodate at one time. This restriction has impacted our ability to grow the program and has contributed to a gradual decline in registration.

We firmly believe that renovating and improving the performance and practice space will have a direct and positive impact on our program. A safer, updated facility would not only ensure the well-being of our students but would also allow us to expand our class capacity. We conservatively estimate that with a renovated space, our registration could increase by 20–30% annually. Most importantly, the improved facility would further encourage community participation and engagement from families of diverse cultural backgrounds.

This renovation is not simply an infrastructure upgrade—it is an investment in youth development, cultural preservation, community connection, and the arts.

We respectfully urge you to consider this application favorably and support the enhancement of this vital community space.

Sincerely,

Selena Naraine

Selena Naraine
Owner/Instructor
West Indian Fusion Dance Center
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