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To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing in support the Museum of Human Achievement in their application for the city of Austin's Core Cultural Funding Grant. I had the opportunity to spend time at the Museum of Human Achievement in January 2016 as an artist in residence and performer and found it to be an outstanding resource for the Austin public and an ideal establishment for artists like myself to experience, take part in, and contribute to the rich art community of Austin.

As a Chicago-based artist, professor, and curator I'm constantly looking for institutions around the country that are at the center of their community's artistic and cultural production to develop and show my own work in (and to encourage my colleagues and students to do the same). The Museum of Human Achievement was the ideal location in which to do this, offering a huge studio space to develop and document my own projects, and a gallery space to show work to a highly engaged audience. As an outsider to the Austin scene, it was immediately clear to me that the Museum of Human Achievement does a great job of bringing people together; the large amount of artists taking advantage of MoHA's affordable studio space made for productive encounters throughout the day as we shared a workspace, and the openings and performances in the evening made for great conversations with additional artists and the general public.

It's incredibly important to support institutions like the Museum of Human Achievement and ensure that Austin's international reputation as a center of the DIY multidisciplinary arts is retained. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or want additional information about the important role the Museum of Human Achievement plays in the Austin art scene and why they deserve the Core Cultural Funding Grant.

Sincerely,
James Connolly

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Curator
Roger Brown Study Collection