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Letter of Support: Annual Program Funding

I am writing in support of The House that Dan Built's application for Annual Program Funding.

We have been working with The House that Dan Built since March 2020 and held our first AKIN workshop just prior to the initial COVID-19 enforced lock down. In hindsight it feels quite surreal that we were able to develop and deliver a face-to-face music program just on the verge of state lock down.

Gunnedah Conservatorium has developed a strong partnership with The House that Dan Built over the last three years allowing and expansion of the create programs available to Gunnedah youth. This year we have delivered two programs – *Reverence* Residency in June and July School Holiday Workshops. These have attracted strong participation from developing musicians as well as beginners and the opportunities have extended beyond music to theatre performance and animation development.

The House That Dan Built has an innate understanding of how to deliver a program to a regional community. Their team has members from regional areas and with significant experience working with regional communities. They understand the importance of developing strong local connections to ensure the successful programs and learning experiences. While many city-based organisations purport to understand regional communities The House That Dan Built is the real deal.

In June this year selected female vocal students of Gunnedah Conservatorium were able to work with Rose Riebl in the development and presentation of the new opera work, *Reverence*. During the residency, students were involved in rehearsing and refining several works. The week culminated in a well-received performance for family and friends and participants expressed a desire to take this work further – to be involved and witness to a full production of the work.

Gunnedah Conservatorium supports the development of *Reverence* as a touring production in partnership with Arts on Tour 2024/25 to revisit the communities of Gunnedah, Deniliquin, and Broken Hill with which The House That Dan Built has an existing relationship. This tour would bring the project full cycle for the students and their communities.

I am excited to be able to continue to offer meaningful projects to our community through this strong and respectful partnership. I endorse The House That Dan Built as an organisation worthy of Create NSW Annual Program Funding based on its track record of delivery.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Ryan
Director Gunnedah Conservatorium



Bedelia Lowrenčev

————— *Disabled Theatre Maker, Dancer, Performer.*

————— *Co-Creator of Low Standards*

————— *Artist In Residence <http://pyt.com.au/collision/>*

LETTER OF SUPPORT- THE HOUSE THAT DAN BUILT

Dear Artform board,

I am writing in support of the annual funding for The House That Dan Built for 2024/5.

I have had the delight in being a member of the ensemble since 2020 and this opportunity has been exponentially important to my development as an emerging artist.

The nuanced skills and authentic passion for female voices and storytelling is a true merit to The House That Dan Built. Evidently, female voices have been amiss throughout history, or mentioned as a mere footnote to male success. Dan refuses to negotiate with the patriarchy anymore, inspiring and empowering young women across different socio-economic backgrounds and cultures to unite.

As a young, disabled woman from Western Sydney I have had my share of barriers within my artistic career. The House is nowhere near this. Dan has fostered a space where I, as a disabled woman can not only feel safe, but also encouraged to express and communicate in my own unique voice as a disabled person.

Finally, a clear winning factor for The House is the intergenerational and knowledge sharing hub that Dan has created for girls and young women. In my spheres or social circles I have not had access to ANY other group or organisation like this; a place where girls and young women can intermingle and comfortably create, think divergently, and rigorously discuss real social, political and cultural matters that impact their lives and artistic expression as women.

Funding is clearly a must for this organisation that is growing the new matriarchal network within the Australian arts landscape.

Sincerely,

Bedelia Lowrenčev

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BL', written over a horizontal line.



To: Create NSW

26 February 2024

RE: Letter of Support

Dear Peers

I am writing in support of The House that Dan Built application for annual funding.

I am a professional and awarded Australian composer of some 35 years standing. I have a large body of work across concert music, screen music, music for theatre, radio, and live events, including as Composer and Assistant Music Director for the 2000 Paralympic Games in Sydney. I am also an academic, currently working as Senior Lecturer in Music and Sound Design at the University of Technology Sydney. I have published in the areas of music for multimedia and gender in music. I am the current recipient of a prestigious ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award, awarded to conduct research on gender in opera, and to compose a new contemporary chamber opera.

It is this project that I am involved in creating with Danielle and members of her young ensemble over the coming years. The opera, provisionally titled Emergence, will focus on the subject of gender equity in music as the central theme. It will be a ground-breaking new contemporary opera comprised of voices, instruments, electronics, and interaction design.

The goals for this new work are to address deficits in the representation of female and gender diverse opera-makers and to rewrite traditional operatic narratives that cast them as victims of gendered violence. Both its content and the process by which it is created will centre traditionally marginalised genders in reimagining approaches to opera composition and creation. A core goal of the project is to develop more inclusive frameworks for the creation of contemporary opera that involve diverse participants through distributed creativity that encompasses improvisation, data sonification, interaction design and other methods. This approach increases diversity and inclusion through inviting a range of perspectives, capacities, and identities to contribute to the work. In addition to working with female and gender diverse members of The House that Dan Built, in the development phase of Emergence, I have secured the involvement of culturally and gender diverse soloists working across a range of practice who are established as singers in the artistic community.

I am excited to be working with Ms O'Keefe, The House, and ensemble on this project. I believe the benefit to all parties will be significant and mutual. Research shows that same-gender role models are key to providing pathways forward for young women and gender diverse musicians, and for the young performers of the ensemble, there will be strong artistic connections made through the collaboration with mature singers and creative artists. Likewise for myself and the other members of the creative team, there will be huge benefit in understanding and reflecting the perspectives of the House's young singers into the themes, music, and conceptual content for Emergence. The open approach Danielle brings to everything she does, and her refined capacity for listening to young people to nurture and harness their skills and ideas will be hugely valuable to this project.

I am delighted to support Danielle O'Keefe and the House in their application for annual funding in order that they can continue to produce their beautiful, ground-breaking work with me and others.

Please don't hesitate to call me on the number below if you have any questions or need further detail about me or my upcoming work with The House that Dan Built.

Warmly,



Felicity Wilcox



08 February 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Letter of Support: The House That Dan Built

As an Artist and Arts Worker based in the New England North West, it is my pleasure to offer a letter of support for The House That Dan Built's (The House) funding application.

I first came across The House as an applicant for the Whispers and Roars Festival in 2022. I had been finding it very challenging to find a supportive and female centric performance opportunity as an emerging cross-genre female artist in regional NSW. When I was given the opportunity to perform as part of the Whispers and Roars Festival in November 2022, networks were built, and I was able to gain a better sense of my artist identity through the feedback received from other artists that could relate to the journey I am on.

Since then, The House has provided me with wonderful opportunities to really sink my teeth into songwriting workshop facilitation in multiple communities across the New England North West including Somerton, Mullaley and Gunnedah. Through the paid opportunity to facilitate workshops in an intensive setting, I was able to gain new skills and approaches to teaching songwriting to children and young people. The workshops were very well received by both students and teachers, which is a real testament to the work that The House does in making musical opportunities more accessible to rural and regional communities. The skills sharing benefits to these communities is also so valuable in strengthening the arts in rural and regional NSW.

I look forward to more opportunities to collaborate with The House, and wish them every success in gaining funding to continue the great work they do.

If there is any additional information I can provide, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sewa Emojong".

Sewa Emojong (E.S Malaika)

0423 556 377

Email: esmalaikamusic@gmail.com

Instagram: [@esmalaikamusic](https://www.instagram.com/esmalaikamusic)

To whom it may concern,

My name is Sylvie O'Keefe, I am 15 years old, neurodiverse and an LGBTQIA+ singer/songwriter. I have been working with The House That Dan Built for nearly 5 years now.

I was first introduced Danielle and The House as a girl who had no belief in herself. I have come out the other side as a mentor to young people just like myself, and have grown into a young woman who has honed her craft with the help of older peers at The House That Dan Built. Through The House, I have made connections with other like minded individuals that have played pivotal roles in helping me to overcome mental health issues and to learn that there are people out there who view the world similarly to how I do.

As a neurodivergent teen, I have had difficulties making and maintaining friendships throughout my schooling years. This ate away at my confidence and worsened my social anxiety. As I moved through my years with The House, I learnt that there truly is a space for everyone in this world. The House That Dan Built is the space for me - I think it always was, and it always will be. It is a soft place to fall and one of the most incredibly loving and supportive environments I have ever come across. Through this organisation, I have made close friends and have gained so much knowledge and wisdom from those around me - some older than me, and some younger. The House is an anomaly for myself and many others- it is a diverse community of people that help you to love social interactions that would otherwise seem impossible and overwhelming. It is a strange but exciting feeling to contribute to the wealth of knowledge and The House and to feel that, as a young person, my voice will always be heard and immensely valued.

I started out at The House That Dan Built as a girl who hardly spoke and was terrified of performing. The skills and support Danielle and The House has offered me will forever leave me with a lasting impression. I have grown tremendously through this program through exposure to the things I was most scared of. In our weekly meetings for the songwriting group, Toy Choir, we were challenged to perform our originals for the group and were encouraged to collaborate with other young people to compose music together. This consistent and gentle push against the walls I had up resulted in my becoming an outgoing and determined young artist who would eventually follow in the footsteps of mentors before her.

The House That Dan Built, for me, has always been about sharing knowledge - that is, learning and leading the challenge simultaneously. No matter your age, you are always invited to offer your advice on a situation. At the same time, what is so magical about The House is that you are constantly learning from the experience and wisdom of your peers - the diversity in age and background of our community means that there are always many different perspectives on one art form/issue/event etc.

I know that for many people, The House That Dan Built is a place where they feel belonging, support and equality. Every individual should have a place where they feel comfortable and safe.

*Danielle O'Keefe and I are of no relation to each other, we just share the same last name.

Kind regards,
Sylvie O'Keefe

