



## State of Connecticut

### SENATE

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Prof. Adèle Naudé Santos  
Dean  
MIT School of Architecture + Planning  
77 Massachusetts Avenue, 7-231  
Cambridge MA 02139

October 28, 2011

Dear Prof. Adèle Naudé Santos

I want to convey my enthusiastic support for the use of Investment and Cultural Clubs (ICCs) established between New England states and countries of the post-soviet space through student projects on renovation of abandoned industrial buildings and buildings designed in the modern time for missions beyond only student projects. One of the examples is 24 Brentwood Dr., in Avon, CT, the office of the Fermata Arts Foundation, that "is deeply steeped in the post-modernist views which attracted much interest in the latter part of the last century, and which have been incorporated quite comprehensively into your guiding philosophy" (from the letter of Dr. Berkey, the President of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, dated July 17, 2008). I've been briefed on the exciting opportunities for practical approach in the synthesis of art, architecture and philosophy and other projects benefiting from the unique environment of ICCs.

These projects have my very strong interest. The American taxpayer has invested a great deal of energy and resources into building educational system in our country and establishing connection between young generations in different countries. I strongly support an opportunity to leverage the existing investment in support of additional national missions through our students in the countries of the post-soviet space.

You also have Fermata Arts Foundation's (FAF) letter with a developed plan of actions for these new projects. I've personally discussed these opportunities with the city leaders of Avon, Barkhamsted, Canton, Colebrook, Granby, Hartland, Harwinton, New Hartford, Norfolk, Simsbury, Torrington and you have their strongest endorsement. These expressions of interest from local level certainly enhance the support that these projects would receive at the Department of State.

Some have called into question the strength of FAF's commitment to continue making student projects through ICCs and establishing new ICCs. As long as the proposed educational activities will not compromise ICC's mission of peacemaking, I assure you that will continue to support such educational activities.

Please keep my office informed as your school's deliberations mature.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Withers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and the last name "Withers" clearly distinguishable.

cc: Katherine McNulty <Katherine\_McNulty@lieberman.senate.gov>,  
Eamonn Hart <Eamonn\_Hart@blumenthal.senate.gov>,  
jessica.elledge@mail.house.gov, (C. Murphy)  
"Colony, Joel (Shaheen)" <Joel\_Colony@shaheen.senate.gov>,  
"Kastens, Royal (Foreign Relations)" <Royal\_Kastens@foreign.senate.gov>,  
"Prof. Jeffrey Hughes" <hughes@bu.edu>,  
"Jamison, Jeffrey M" <JamisonJM@state.gov>,  
matt\_summers@kerry.senate.gov