

Columbine Elementary
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Guillermo Medina
Principal

DATE: April 12, 2016
FROM: Guillermo Medina
TO: Boulder Arts Commission- Innovation Fund
RE: Grant for Boulder Muse

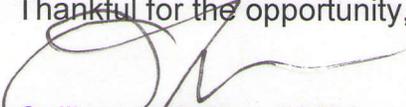
Thank you for the opportunity to advocate for your support of the Boulder MUSE program at Columbine Elementary. Columbine Elementary serves a student population that includes as many as 70% belonging to a minority, 70% English Language Learners, and 70% qualifying for meal assistance. Serving as the building principal, one of my biggest concerns yielding to social and academic underachievement is the lack of access to quality after school programs due to persistent cuts in funding for schools.

When Mari and Elisa sat in my office and shared their intentions to bring a program to Columbine that would support students' academic growth while, and through, the teaching of music at no cost to our families, I truly could not believe our luck. With twenty-seven years serving underprivileged families, my experience has been that students that have access to quality after school programming are also the students that have an increased chance to beat the odds and succeed in spite of their individual challenges. Since that first visit last year, our Boulder MUSE program at Columbine is growing, the students are preparing for their second concert, and I can only imagine what the program will be like in a few years if it is adequately supported and funded.

Sadly, this week I have dealt with several instances where students have come to my office because students have been talking about guns and other inappropriate things. Upon investigating, it sounds like the reason why this is happening is that some 7 year olds are going home and playing a game called "Grand Theft Auto." The students tell me that it is very violent. This is the best example that I can give for why supporting programs like Boulder MUSE is truly a moral imperative for our community.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Thankful for the opportunity,



Guillermo Medina, M.Ed.