CITY OF SAN JOSE
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

*Office of Cultural Affairs*

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
Urban Grant Program
Attn: Megan Dreger
Grants Administrator
33 Las Colinas Lane
San Jose, CA 95119

June 23, 2020

To Whom it May Concern,

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of the application for an Open Space Authority Urban Grant by the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy (GRPC) in partnership with PowWow! San José. The City of San José has had a long and successful working relationship with the GRPC and PowWow! San José, and one that spans many years and a variety of projects. For the past three years PowWow! San José has enhanced the City environs with breathtaking murals. With aspirations to be an active, iconic, world-class park, GRPC has been instrumental in the City's vision to make nature and trails essential to everyday life.

Under the auspices of the Office of Cultural Affairs and as part of our public art program, we have committed to helping the GRPC and PowWow! San José implement a series of murals along the Guadalupe River Park Trail. The express purpose of their project, is to enliven the City trail environment, bring a greater awareness of nature to the public, celebrate San José's diversity and rich history, and recognize the critical importance of creativity and innovation. One of our ongoing initiatives is a series of murals that work to remediate City infrastructure blighted by graffiti. Unfortunately, along the trail several road underpasses have become targets of this blight. The goal is to beautify these areas with murals in an effort to reduce that blight and supporting the GRPC and PowWow! San José can help make this happen.

I am happy to support their proposed initiative and know both the GRPC and PowWow! San José have the expertise and experience, as well as the necessary trust of the community to create vibrant, relevant, and deeply meaningful murals, as well as an experiential and affirming trail experience that would be an excellent fit for our City. This collaboration would reflect community goals and values, while advancing the City's long-standing commitment to nature and creative placemaking.

Thank you for your support of the GRPC, in partnership with PowWow! San José, application. We look forward to working with both organizations.

Sincerely,

Michael Ogilvie
Public Art Director

200 East Santa Clara St., 12th Floor, San José, CA 95113
*tel* (408) 793-4344 *fax* (408) 971-2597 **www.sanjoseculture.org**