



March 24, 2021

Representative Michael Nelson
585 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for regional impact of funding for the North Hennepin Community College Center for Innovation and The Arts (CITA) - [HF708](#) (Nelson, M)

Dear Representative Nelson,

The North Metro Mayors Association recognizes the important regional impact of funding the North Hennepin Community College Center for Innovation and The Arts. The Association supports including HF708 in a future House Capital Investment Omnibus Bill.

The north metro region will greatly benefit from the Center for Innovation and The Arts which will increase access and opportunities to advance cultural engagement, community education, and youth programming. Drawing from diverse communities such as but not limited to Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, New Hope, Osseo, Minneapolis, and Maple Grove, CITA's state-of-the-art amenities also will advance economic growth and development opportunities in the region.

As a premier cultural and educational destination, CITA will draw visitors and students to the north metro region from across the state and nation as CITA provides equitable and inclusive access to arts, technology and cross-cultural programming. The north metro region will benefit from this infusion of talent and diversity.

Representing cities with a combined population of more than 450,000 Minnesota residents, NMMA is a collaboration of 15 north metro cities plus community partners working together to encourage private and public investments in the northern suburbs. NMMA member cities include Andover, Anoka, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Champlin, Circle Pines, Coon Rapids, Dayton, Fridley, Maple Grove, Mounds View, New Brighton, New Hope, Ramsey, and Spring Lake Park.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jerry Koch
City of Coon Rapids
NMMA President

Mayor Ryan Karasek
City of Champlin
NMMA Vice-President

Mayor Kathi Hemken
City of New Hope
Former President