



November 21, 2016

Dear Cambridge City Council,

The Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition (CNC) is committed to working in concert with business and municipal sectors to enact positive change for Cambridge residents. Elected officials and community members have expressed the belief that the design and ultimate use of the Foundry Building presents an ideal opportunity for collaborative decision making. The CNC would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the cultivation of a Foundry Building which benefits the residents of the whole City.

We wish to clarify that the CNC Steering Committee does not advocate for a specific space use outcome at this time and this letter should not be interpreted as an endorsement of any specific community use. We do, however, urge an inclusive and unifying design approach and offer our help in creating an actionable vision and plan for this vital City resource. Our collective knowledge will provide critical insight, helping to achieve the stated objectives of the Foundry, which include to present, “programs for Cambridge residents which can directly benefit and engage the surrounding community.” We would like to express the following suggestions regarding the development and current proposal for the Foundry building:

- Provide a unified and fair conduit to inclusive, non-profit sector engagement (through direct and ongoing communication with the CNC Steering Committee to include our larger membership).
- Include dedicated space in the final plans for the Foundry for existing Cambridge-based nonprofits. Many corporate buildings currently offer flexible space to community groups while many organizations lack dedicated space they can rely on. We recommend that there be a clear, transparent process to determine which organizations have dedicated space in the Foundry. The process should be open to all nonprofits currently serving the Cambridge community who provide services that reflect the mission of the overall Foundry building. Please note that we are advocating for a fair

process that benefits the collective community and not solely on behalf of any of our respective organizations.

- Engage management and governance entities for the Foundry building who have experience running spaces and/or programs that focus on engaging underserved communities. We are concerned that without the ongoing presence of this body of knowledge, the Foundry will struggle to meet their objective of engaging all Cambridge residents.

We look forward to this important opportunity to co-create a building that meets the diverse needs of our changing and dynamic community.

Sincerely,

Christina Alexis, Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House
Eva Martin Blythe, YWCA Cambridge
Ben Clark, Enroot (formerly Cambridge Community Services)
Michael Delia, East End House
Elaine DeRosa, Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee
Kathryn Fenneman, Tutoring Plus of Cambridge, Inc.
John Froio, Community Legal Services and Counseling Center
Bob Gittens, Cambridge Family and Children's Service
David Gibbs, Community Action Agency of Somerville
Jane Hirschi, CitySprouts
Eryn Johnson, Community Art Center, Inc.
Darrin Korte, Cambridge Community Center
Maria LaPage, Agassiz Baldwin Community
Risa Mednick, Transition House
Maisha Moses, Young People's Project
Gail S. Packer, Community Dispute Settlement Center
Sasha Purpura, Food For Free Committee, Inc.
Elaine Schear, Friends of Cambridge Rindge and Latin School
Elissa Spelman, Breakthrough Greater Boston
Joan Squeri, The Union Partnership For A Whole Community