

December 5th, 2019

To whom it may concern,

I have been a business & building owner in Benson for the past 7 years and have had the true pleasure of watching Benson First Friday (BFF) grow from just a handful of passionate artists and supporters to a solid network of hundreds (if not thousands?!) of dedicated paying members. The art scene and authentic DIY attitude of the neighborhood is a big reason that I chose to start my business in Benson. It has truly made a huge economic impact on the community and created a culture of creativity in our tight-knit neighborhood. Benson is now known, far and wide, for its First Friday art walk and the amazing talent that participates beyond just the first Fridays as well. I'm so proud of the team behind the scenes and look forward to watching the programming continue to grow.

BFF does an excellent job of being inclusive and one of the new exciting directions is with their youth engagement. Since Benson is a true neighborhood including several schools from elementary school to high school, involving this demographic is hugely important. I can't wait to see what happens when they have a true space dedicated to helping the younger members of our neighborhood feel like they belong and can grow through art engagement.

Thank you for your consideration of this amazing group,  
Sarah Johnson