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To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Dennis Paul. I had the privilege and pleasure of interning for Mr. Paul at the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) from 1979 – 1980; I was a graduate student in Columbia University's Program in Public Affairs and Administration at the time, and received a Master's Degree there in 1981.

Mr. Paul had a lasting impact on my professional values and dedication to arts and culture. He taught me hard skills in arts fundraising and management, ensured the highest quality in all aspects of our work, and exuded powerful spirit and creativity. There was always a great integrity and commitment to all that we did in support of local arts organizations.

Mr. Paul was a leading force at the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, the city agency responsible then, as now, for funding principal cultural institutions such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, cultivating grassroots artistic endeavors, and advancing cultural policy through programming and technical assistance. I participated in Mr. Paul's initiative to establish the first arts development office in New York City. The purpose of this department was to disseminate information on arts funding and guide community organizations to success in their grantwriting and related endeavors. Under his supervision, the office staff established systems, culled and disseminated resources, and provided one-on-one assistance to arts organizations.

My time with Dennis provided lasting inspiration in my choice of career promoting cultural assets, and affirmed a style for which I am known today -- of integrity, enthusiasm and creativity in meeting organizational goals and objectives. I have worked in the public sector since 1981 to promote assets such as parks and open spaces, healthy neighborhoods, and the arts. From 1996- 1999 I was development director of an inner-city private school founded in Newark, New Jersey after the riots; I am credited for revitalizing their funding, image and community ties to lasting success. In 1999 I established a consulting firm, Urban Affairs, to promote Newark, New Jersey as an arts and culture destination.

It is a delight to offer this letter of support on behalf of Dennis Paul. Should you have any questions, I can be reached at (973) 762-8348 or by email, [citislckr2000@comcast.net](mailto:citislckr2000@comcast.net)

Very truly yours,

Lisa Block  
President