

To whom it may Concern:

I am writing to support the application of Joyce Paul and her dance company Arpan for the Washington State Arts Commission's Folk Arts Fellowship Program. I have known Joyce for several years and can recommend her to you as an exemplary candidate for this fellowship.

I came to know Joyce through her work as a leader in the East Indian arts community in King County. Many people referred her to me when I was looking for leaders in the Indian dance community. The reason that I had numerous referrals was because she is a consummate professional who is passionate about dance and sharing her skill and knowledge with students, audience, and the broader community. Joyce brings a rigor to her work as a dancer and as a choreographer and teacher that is visible when you view her work or speak with her about her field.

We were so impressed with Joyce and her work that we asked her to join the board of directors of the Kirkland Performance Center. We admired her work as an artist and as a community organizer; she understands that it is important to share her work by engaging broad audience in her performances. She makes Indian classical and folk dance accessible, not through changing the work but by providing context and background information that enhances audience member's appreciation of Indian classical and folk dance.

Joyce's skill as a dancer and choreographer are enhanced by her broad and impressive qualifications outside the arts. She has a background in anthropology and computer sciences that provide her a vocabulary to speak about her work to different audiences and to draw parallels making points of reference that are explicable to those less schooled in traditional Indian dance. When she speaks to community groups she fuels a curiosity to learn more and more; she fuels this curiosity with her passion and verbal ability to explain dance as more than just movement but rather a universal form of communication.

Please let me know if I can answer any questions or provide further information. Again, I believe that Joyce Paul would make an excellent ambassador for the objectives of the Washington State Folk Arts Fellowship Program.

Sincerely,



Daniel Y. Mayer
Executive Director