



February 27, 2017

To whom it may concern,

I have been speaking with James Unsworth recently about the proposed “The Vaults” project located next to the South End Arts and Business Association (SEABA) office on Pine St. SEABA has known the Unsworth family & business for over 30 years, and we write this letter of support in full confidence of their proposal.

SEABA is a 30 year old non-profit committed to the cultural and economic vitality of the South End Arts District of Burlington. The South End is a haven for creative entrepreneurs & artists, SEABA provides several outlets for them to start, grow, and thrive in our community. I strongly believe that this project will enhance the South End by creating a physical manifestation of our goal. By having artist studios, small maker space and offices all in one building, this project is aiming to solidify creative business in the South End while fostering a collaborative atmosphere with other businesses.

We are also in need of more small studios. Here at SEABA we receive 20 plus inquiries a month from folks trying to carve out a couple hundred square feet in the vibrant South End. The commitment of the landowner to increase their inventory of these units has been, and is unquestionably a benefit for the South End and Burlington as a whole.

In an era of gentrification and the abandonment of artist studios being transformed into apartments or office space, it is refreshing to see a landowner actually building additional space for artists. This area of Burlington can be a model for the rest of the country as a sustainable, vibrant district that offers something unique to its community. Thank you, and please don't hesitate to contact me with further questions.

Sincerely,

Adam C. Brooks  
Executive Director, South End Arts & Business Association