

3 July 2026

Re: Supporting the Turret Arts Space Society & 1588 Barrington

To whom it may concern:

Via our board of directors, the Elderberries Society of Nova Scotia strongly supports the community based development, and funding thereof, of 1588 Barrington St as a community and arts centre.

The Elderberries is a nonprofit society of over 500 2SLGBTQIA+ seniors and allies founded in Nova Scotia in 2010. Once or twice monthly we hold a free social / educational Salon featuring local 2SLGBTQIA+ speakers, writers, and activists. We also produce a monthly newsletter. Elderberries regularly works with researchers, academics, politicians, and agencies on Q seniors issues. Several times a year our Speakers Bureau is called upon to make presentations to high school or university students, or to corporate groups.

Most of our members are old enough to have attended the original Turret Club, a social and political hub for our community, which was also used for performances and art shows. In the past, we've organized workshops where people tell stories about the space; the recordings of these are resources for future researchers and writers.

It is vital that this piece of cultural history not be lost as so many have been across the country. During the discussion of the motion to write this letter, which was passed unanimously, one of our boardmembers wrote, "Absolutely in favour. Anything we can do to keep the space true to its original spirit is worthwhile."

Our interest in supporting this project is borne only in small part by nostalgia and very much by the need for a community arts space in downtown Halifax.

So: the Elderberries Board supports The Turret Arts Space Society's project to renovate and develop 1588 Barrington as a community based organization. Based on TASS' history of planning and organization, we believe they are the ideal team to run this project, and we look forward to continuing to work with them.

We strongly solicit your support for this core piece of history, and future resource for the arts in Halifax.

Sincerely,



Daniel MacKay,

Secretary

