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May 5, 2018

Dear Technology Matching Fund reviewers:

The Lake City Neighborhood Alliance (LCNA) is an alliance of 24 Lake City groups including neighborhood, business, service-provider, school, faith-based, political, philanthropic, and special issue organizations. LCNA is pleased to express its support for the City of Seattle Technology Matching Fund grant application for **the Journalism and Innovative Storytelling project** sponsored by the **Washington African Media Association (WAMA)**. WAMA is a partnership of 11 ethnic media organizations from different East African communities in Seattle.

We understand that WAMA is committing to train Lake City area youth, aged 13 to 21, in the following disciplines: video production, broadcast techniques, interview and research practices, journalistic writing and broadcasting, documentary methods and website design. WAMA will also provide a ten-week Journalism and Innovative Digital Storytelling training, and then organize a monthly citywide Ethnic Media Forum by community leaders, professionals, youth leaders, and journalists from mainstream and ethnic media to share their experience and about community issues in Lake City and across the region. The forum will be captured on video and also live stream through WAMA Internet TV and 10 ethnic media outlets.

LCNA supports this program because it will provide multiple community benefits like empowering underserved youth with marketable Journalism media skills, providing quality videos produced by the community making ethnic content more engaging and accessible, expanding the reach of media for communities of color, and motivating young people and community members for more community engagement. **The Journalism and Innovative Storytelling project** empowers teens to be leaders in their own neighborhood and helps build long-term leadership capacity for communities of color in the City.

LCNA will help coordinate and outreach community members and leaders in the Lake City neighborhood.

LCNA enthusiastically supports and endorses the Technology Matching Fund grant application for **the Journalism and Innovative Storytelling project** sponsored by the **Washington African Media Association**. We highly recommend this project and are looking forward to making the program successful.

Sincerely,

Philip Shack
Chair, Lake City Neighborhood Alliance