



January 12, 2016

Kresge Foundation
3215 W. Big Beaver Road
Troy, Mich. 48084

To Whom It May Concern:

It is our pleasure to write this letter of support for the Corporation for Findlay Market's Food Innovation District planning grant application to the Kresge Foundation. The Over-the-Rhine Community Council serves as a safe place for neighbors to meet, talk, and enjoy the neighborhood together. We aim to be the voice for our residents. As our neighborhood is rapidly changing, we want to make sure our neighborhood is a welcoming place for all who are living and contributing to this beautiful place.

For 160 years, Findlay Market has provided the Over the Rhine neighborhood and Cincinnati with high quality, fresh food. Historic public markets such as Findlay Market play a pivotal role in supporting local and regional food systems and public health, and are ideally suited to become the first of the new healthy metro food districts.

Findlay Market is also a "natural cultural district" - a place where networks of creators, consumers, participants, and collaborators exist within a geographically defined neighborhood. We have been impressed with the way the Corporation for Findlay Market is continually preparing the ground for new development while remaining committed to holding ground for creative and cultural activity that generates both social and economic capital.

Equitable and accessible public space must be inclusive by design. As the quality of life in cities improves with an influx of people and money, the task ahead of us is to ensure that those investments benefit everyone, and not just a few. The Over the Rhine Community Council understands that districts driven by bottom-up processes have more equitably distributed benefits, greater sustainability, and other positive results for food entrepreneurs, artists and long-term residents than those driven by top-down forces.

Therefore, we are committed to engaging in a planning process with the Corporation for Findlay Market that assures that Findlay Market - a truly living landmark - will continue to play an essential role in transforming Cincinnati's urban core to embrace 21st century imperatives, economic needs, and lifestyle aspirations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Messer', is placed over a light gray rectangular background.

Ryan Messer
President
Over-the-Rhine Community Council