

REGINA ROMERO, COUNCIL MEMBER
WARD 1 COUNCIL OFFICE



February 19, 2010

The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords
United States House of Representatives

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to offer my support to Opening Minds through the Arts (OMA) in their Earmark Appropriation Application.

OMA is a successful educational tool that can be used nationwide to reform schools. The diversity of our student population has provided opportunity to overcome challenges of language and poverty, and to isolate these issues in communities. Our youth are well served by the innovative work of Opening Minds through the Arts. This is supported by independently-verified records that show enhanced student achievement and school improvement.

OMA has demonstrated their capacity as a leader in student achievement. OMA has built public-private partnerships within the community to bring art into the classroom. Using art as a tool for educating youth has created connections with students that last beyond their time in the classroom. As children who participated in Opening Minds through the Arts activities mature, the gift of OMA continues when students pass along what they have learned. The skills that are passed to future generations are the foundation for strong communities like ours.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (520)791-4040.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Regina Romero".

Regina Romero
Council Member
City of Tucson