

From: [Michael Behrendt](#)
Subject: Dover Road #81 - email from Cassandra Mason
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 3:23:08 PM

To the Planning Board,

I missed this email in my inbox last week. The board approved the application on Wednesday but I am passing this on for your interest. Arts in Reach has received some recognition in recent years.

Michael Behrendt

Durham Town Planner
8 Newmarket Road
Durham, NH 03824
(603) 868-8064

From: Mason, Cassandra <cassandra.a.mason@dncr.nh.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 8:27 PM
To: Michael Behrendt <mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us>
Cc: Jennifer Minicucci <jennifer@artsinreach.org>
Subject: Arts in Reach Application

You don't often get email from cassandra.a.mason@dncr.nh.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mr. Behrendt,

I am writing in support of the conditional use application submitted by Arts In Reach (AIR) for the use of 81 Dover Road as a Community Center.

As the Grants Officer at the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, I am familiar with the work of Arts in Reach its mission to support the healthy development and well-being of young people in the Seacoast region. Arts in Reach has been the recipient of competitive grants from our agency for the past 23 years. In that time, they have provided exceptional and accessible services to over 2,000 students in need during a critical time in their lives. This unique model that engages students with arts activities and leverages the power of community to provide evidence-based and trauma-informed programming for vulnerable adolescents. The opportunity to have a home of their own will only enhance their ability to have a proverbial safe space for the families they serve and allow them to increase their services.

In recent years Arts in Reach has received several recognitions, in 2020 they earned a Nonprofit Impact Award from the NH Center for Nonprofits and a Caring Hands Community Partner Award from Exeter Hospital for suicide prevention. In 2021, the NH Women's Foundation report "The Status of Girls in New Hampshire" featured them as a model program. In 2022, the NH Business Review honored them with the Advocate for Women's Empowerment Award.

Arts in Reach has a strong, successful history of community collaboration and impact and I'm sure their staff and Board have the vision and capacity to build an amazing community center in Durham.

Sincerely,
Cassandra Mason



New Hampshire
State Council on the Arts

Cassandra Mason

Grants Officer

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

603.271.7926 | cassandra.a.mason@dncr.nh.gov

[NH State Council on the Arts](#) | [CreativeGround](#) | [Organizational Support](#) | [Arts in Health](#)



Hear my name