

From: [Michael Behrendt](#)
Subject: Dover Road #81 - email from Sarah Chapman
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 4:01:14 PM

To the Planning Board,
Please see the email from Sarah Chapman below.

Michael Behrendt

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

From: Sarah Chapman <commonculturecooperative@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 1:40 PM
To: Michael Behrendt <mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us>
Cc: jennifer@artsinreach.org
Subject: Regarding Durham as a home for Arts in Reach

You don't often get email from commonculturecooperative@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mr. Behrendt,

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

I live in Nottingham, NH, work in Exeter at Rejuvenations Professional Massage, and am an AIR participant's parent. My child lives part time with me and part time in Newmarket now with their dad. I am wildly thankful for Arts in Reach and what it has provided for our family over the past few years or so we have been involved, and can not say enough about how important it has been in our teen's life. At AIR, Sid feels a sense of belonging, equality and leadership that is not accessible in most other places we have found here on the Seacoast. For my child, the programs offered (but more importantly the container created)

by AIR have had a monumental impact on their sense of self, and have given him a place he can trust to feel safe and totally supported. He has discovered personal strengths he might not have otherwise been aware of and has found a place of importance in this positive and inclusive community. I can not stress enough how much it would mean to us for AIR to make 81 Dover Road their new home and to see it continue to grow and help young people thrive. I feel emotional just writing this, and hope that I can make an appearance at the upcoming hearing to convey just how valuable AIR has been to us and so many other families in this community. I appreciate your consideration of what it would mean to all of us to approve of this endeavor. I know of nothing that compares to what AIR offers our at-risk and too often marginalized youth.

The results of AIR's impact on a vulnerable population of adolescents over the past 26 years is remarkable. No other organization offers this type of evidence-based, and trauma-informed arts programming, and there has been no time in history when these programs were more necessary.

I strongly encourage the Planning Board to approve this application and allow AIR to flourish in Durham and provide even greater benefit to our community. Thank you.

Thank you kindly,
Sarah Chapman
151 Round Pond Rd.
Nottingham, NH 03290