

June 10, 2019

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Sher Vancouver LGBTQ Friends Society**

I am pleased to write this letter of support for Sher Vancouver LGBTQ Friends Society's application for funding for *Emergence*, their new film project exploring the strengths and struggles of the LGBTQ South Asian community in Metro Vancouver.

*Emergence* is Sher Vancouver's second film project, following the award-winning documentary film *My Name Was January*. A tribute to January Marie Lapuz, *My Name Was January* also serves as a catalyst to raise awareness and promote dialogue around the struggles facing transgender women of colour. The film has been screened at numerous film festivals and in the local community.

The City of Surrey's Cultural Grants Program provided funding support in 2016 and 2017 for *My Name Was January*. This was a new direction and bold vision for Sher Vancouver, and they succeeded in bringing the full project to fruition both on time and on budget.

Sincerely,



Todd Ayotte | Cultural Development Coordinator

**CITY OF SURREY**

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