

Leonardo's BASEMENT

March 15, 2013

John McCarthy
Office of the Mayor, Office of Financial Services
700 City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd., West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Mr. McCarthy:

Leonardo's Basement continues to support a proposal by the District 11 Neighbors to the City of Saint Paul Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee for the Pierce Butler Lexington Parkway Bicycle Connection. When completed the project will:

- Help connect the community around Griggs Park to the east, west and north and support our work to build community at the park, which is located one block from Pierce Butler and one block from Lexington Parkway.
- Encourage bicycle traffic to and from the park by children and adults.
- Provide safe access to Pierce Butler Route and Lexington Parkway bikeways.

Leonardo's Basement is a non-profit educational organization that provides engineering, art and technology classes and community events for children, teens and adults at two workshop locations. One site is in south Minneapolis and the other is at Griggs Park, 1188 Hubbard Ave, which is leased from the Park and Recreation Department.

Last summer we attracted over 550 children to weeklong classes. Many rode on bicycles. Last February over 1200 participants attended an outdoor winter festival at the park. An offer of free hot cider was claimed by a dozen hardy bicycle riders! Leonardo's Basement just completed a two-year Saint Paul Cultural STAR grant to reinvigorate Griggs Park as a social gathering place and community center. We are currently partnering with Park and Recreation staff to redesign the playground at Griggs Park that will also attract more families. Community members have requested additional bicycle racks.

Leonardo's Basement supports the Pierce Butler Lexington Parkway Bicycle Connection because it will support bicycling, something that we encourage and endorse. Because we serve many children we support the project because it will improve safety for bicyclists as they transition to and from the Pierce Butler and Lexington bike routes.

Thank you for your attention. Please contact me with questions.

Sincerely,



Steve Jevning
Executive Director