



March 20, 2008

Martha's Vineyard Commission  
Box 1447  
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Dear Commissioners,

We are writing this letter in support of the Bradley Square project.

Our neighborhood has long been home to artists, their work spaces, their galleries, and their homes. In the very heart of our neighborhood, the Island Affordable Housing Fund, together with the Island Housing Trust, is undertaking a project which we will be proud to have as the centerpiece of the Arts District. We can't imagine a project more in keeping with the spirit of our neighborhood. It embodies so much of what we all care about as artists, neighbors and business owners – affordable housing, historic preservation, celebrating African American cultural heritage, providing artists with affordable live/work/gallery spaces, the aesthetic of thoughtfully and beautifully designed buildings, green open space to be enjoyed by all, eliminating a run-down property from our streetscape, increasing the town's tax revenue, and furthering the vibrancy and sense of community in our neighborhood.

Within the past couple of months we've gained a valuable insight from our neighbors about the importance of respecting and embracing the rich history of our neighborhood, in all of its diversity. Our neighborhood is very supportive of its artists, while at the same time supportive of all who call it home and who run a variety of businesses. Thankfully, there is room for all of us to express our vision, and it is in that spirit that we welcome Bradley Square.

Because of our commitment to the neighborhood, and to Bradley Square, we are currently in discussion with Patrick Manning and Philippe Jordi about the possibility of the Arts District members owning the Cultural Center in the Denniston House, running it in such a way that would be of as little impact as possible to the neighbors, while respectfully preserving its cultural and historical significance.

As to any problems that surface, be it parking, trash pickup, lighting placement, or any other issue raised by members of the neighborhood, we hope that we can all work together toward constructive solutions. The vision of Bradley Square and what it means to Island history, the arts, and affordable housing, are all well worth the effort.

We wish to thank all of the organizations and individuals who have been pouring their hearts and souls, and endless hours of hard work, into making this project a reality. We have found them to be incredibly supportive of the spirit of our neighborhood, creative in their approach, and open to our feedback. As members of the Arts District, this project has our 100% support. We sincerely hope you will give your support to Bradley Square.

Sincerely,

*Thed R. Hardaway, Judy Hartman, [Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
Members of the Arts District  
*Jocinda Stuelcken, Michael Hunter, [Signature]*