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To whom it may concern,

Please accept this letter of support for Anemel's application to the Michigan Municipal League Foundation Bridge Builder Main Street Microgrant. The owners of Anemel, James and Cheynne Galbraith have brought two unique and successful food businesses to downtown Benton Harbor, investing in an area that is still emerging, and not without considerable risk. Anemel and Houndstooth have helped build a burgeoning culinary scene in Benton Harbor that is great for Berrien County, drawing unique visitors from Southwest Michigan, Northwest Indiana, Chicago and beyond.

The project proposed to be funded through the Main Street Microgrant, is quite literally, on Main Street, Benton Harbor's busiest street. MDOT has invested significant resources into rebuilding Main Street into a complete street, with roundabouts to slow traffic, and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to ensure equitable access to and through downtown. The proposed project is located directly on one of the roundabouts, and presents a highly visible location to place public art. Furthermore, the project is located at the east end of the Benton Harbor Arts District, which has been an area of targeted reinvestment for several decades, with public art, a number of local businesses, gallery space and arts organizations.

The featured art in the project highlights Benton Harbor's rich history as a center of food production and processing, as the community was for decades, home to the largest fresh produce market in the Midwest. In addition to the art depicting this piece of the community's history, the businesses launched in downtown Benton Harbor are reconnecting the place to that legacy, as they are a vital part of an emerging farm-to-table food scene and culinary tourism strategy lifted up by our local Tourism Council.

The community appreciates the opportunity for James and Cheyenne to be considered for this grant, please let me know if you have questions, or if I can provide further information.

Respectfully,

Tamara Phillippe  
President, Benton Harbor Arts Association