

Massachusetts Cultural Council
Cultural Facilities Fund
10 St. James Ave
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Members of the Review Panel of the Cultural Facilities Fund:

In light of the recent decision by the Suzuki School of Newton to relocate to the historic Staples-Craft-Wiswall Farmstead in the heart of downtown Waban Village Center, we, the Waban Area Council, are writing to you to convey our heartfelt support of this decision, and to encourage you to invest in this project.

The Waban Area Council is a local council elected to hear, respond to, and represent village concerns. The nine elected representatives address matters at the village level and report local support and concerns to the City Government on pertinent Waban issues. We believe the presence of the Suzuki School will positively impact our village and by extension, will be a benefit to all of Newton.

In 1688, Deacon John Staples arrived in a land approximately 7 miles west of Boston, and built the first homestead that gave birth to Waban village. The house and the land that started it all still stand majestically just as they have for over 300 years, having survived numerous threats from nature and man. Generations of owners have been careful stewards of this farmstead and the result is that the house, with a few modest modifications, is still here today.

The school's commitment to maintain the historic home, respect the landscape, and open its doors to the community through public engagement is incredibly good fortune. The Suzuki School will become an important member of the community, and will add immeasurably to our community-building events and cultural enrichment. Much like the Waban Library, which is now thriving as a community center and has welcomed new generations of villagers who had never been inside, the Staples-Craft Farmstead will welcome citizens to numerous events and concerts, ultimately strengthening the fabric of our village and our city, and will be an important step to making Newton a cultural destination.

We urge the Council to participate in enabling this endeavour in any way it can.

Sincerely,
The Waban Area Council

Sallee Lipshutz
President

Christopher Pitts
Vice-President