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David Kibuuka
Modern Batik Art Workshops
1500 Upper Middle Rd. Unit #3
Oakville, ON L6M 3H5

Dear Mr. Kibuuka:

For the past year I have had the pleasure to work as a project partner with you and MicroSkills on the Modern Batik Art Project "Youth Express". The project was successful on so many levels but especially for the youth trainers. Under your excellent tutelage they learned skills such as developing and delivering a youth art program, teaching techniques, art techniques, marketing, public relations, art gallery installations, etc. In addition, the paid employment helped fund their post-secondary education and support their artistic pursuits, as well as giving them work experience and a reference for further employment.

Due to your efforts, many other opportunities sprang up and branched out beyond the "Youth Express" project. This alone is a testament to the talent and creativity of the trainers and your dedication to continue the project's legacy. You rallied corporations, agencies, and the school board to assist in creating additional opportunities to showcase the talent of these youth. You have been a tremendous mentor and your enthusiasm for Modern Batik Art is infectious. I attended several of the masters workshops last fall and witnessed first hand how engaged the youth were and their eagerness to perfect techniques and learn more from the master.

From the outset, you have been an advocate for the youth and even at the end of the project, you continue to work with them toward the formation of a Modern Batik Art Guild so that they can continue to learn and grow in a creative environment. This sustainability is rare but so critical in youth programs to have lasting effects.

I want to thank you for all your advice and support for our South Etobicoke batik workshops. It has been personally enriching to work with you and I am inspired by your commitment to youth especially those in disadvantaged neighbourhoods across the city.

I wish you all the very best in your future artistic endeavours.

Sincerely,

Thelma Amos
Sr. Arts Consultant
City of Toronto, Cultural Services

