



April 26, 2021

Dear Professor Choy,

Re: **PERFORMING BODY, MIND, SPIRIT**

I am writing this letter of support regarding the live-stream webinar event: **PERFORMING BODY, MIND, SPIRIT** hosted by the Asian American Studies Program (AASP) and Dance Department, UW-Madison.

The Studio is a residential learning community that houses 64 students who have expressed an interest in the 'Arts'. Living, studying and creating in the same space creates community spirit and illustrates one example of how art practice can exist in the real world.

Artists are the shapers of social consciousness, from the first objects carved in Africa, the paintings from the Renaissance and now the arts in social media. The Studio allows students to understand visual forms from the seminars through practice-based learning. Painting, photography, drama, and creative writing are only a sample of what our diverse cohort experience in their first semester.

Diversity breeds success and this timely webinar will provide the perfect platform for exposing our students to fresh perspectives from contemporary practitioners who I have worked with (Nejma Nefertiti) and are based in the Madison community (Lacour Yancey). The artists invited address societal inequities, improve health and well-being, all of which are the founding principles of the Wisconsin Idea - my primary reason for endorsing this event.

We are excited to participate in this important webinar that will address the current anti-Asian sentiment that is plaguing our society. It is our hope **PERFORMING BODY, MIND, SPIRIT: Community Healing in the Time of #BLM, Anti-Asian Violence & BIPOC Solidarity**, will transform the lives of all the participants, by making us better critical thinkers and more compassionate citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop followed by a smaller, more intricate flourish.

Dr. Faisal Abdu'Allah | Faculty Director
Chazen Family Distinguished Chair in Art