

May 7, 2007

Attn: TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Re: LETTER OF REFERENCE FOR DARAB SHABAHANG

My name is Linda Feil and I have held the position of Executive Director of the North Vancouver Community Arts Council for the past eleven years. Our organization which has been in existence for thirty-eight years is the largest deliverer of arts and cultural product on the North Shore of the Lower Mainland in Vancouver, British Columbia and acts as an umbrella organization for all the smaller cultural agencies. The mandate for the organization is "to enable emerging and professional artists in all disciplines and to bridge cultures and build strong communities through arts and heritage". We offer a broad variety of programmes, projects, events, opportunities and information while acting as a strong advocate and catalyst for the arts. In this position I was awarded a Heritage Award by the District of North Vancouver in 2001 and the Women of Excellence Award in the category of Arts in 2004.

In my capacity as Executive Director I was fortunate to meet professional artist Darab Shabahang as a new artist to our community in 1997. His great talent and diversity of professional skill were immediately evident and I assisted him in making contacts and getting established in his new community. Over the next number of years, Darab became a great artistic resource for myself and our organization and a very active member of the artistic community. He was a member of the Board of Directors for four years and also acted as a professional adjudicator for a number of visual art projects and exhibitions. Independent of our organization he successfully created a new cultural agency, the Web Association of Canadian Artists and a private arts business called Artspar.

In addition, in 2004 I was honoured to work with him at an international level to mount an outstanding exhibition of contemporary artwork from the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tehran. This extraordinary event was featured in North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada and would not have been possible if not for the esteemed position of Mr. Shabahang at the international cultural level.

Darab Shabahang is a gifted artist and arts advocate and is an excellent asset to any community that he wishes to make his home.

NORTH VANCOUVER COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL



Linda Feil
Executive Director