

monumental



**11 Edwin Avenue, Toronto, ON
M6P 3Z5 Canada
info@monumentalprojects.ca**

Date: Sept 30th 2022

To: OUR PARTNERS

From: Monumental Projects Inc.

Subject: Endorsing the Establishment of Somali Cultural and Recreation Centre Project in Toronto

Dear Partners,

I am writing in support of the establishment of a Somali Cultural and Recreation Centre in Toronto.

The Somali community is a vital part of the social fabric of Toronto. We see the impact of people of Somali descent in many facets of life in our city, from contributions in the arts, politics and business, to the food, to even the influence on Toronto vernacular. As so many other communities have done before, members of this community are looking to add to the physical infrastructure of Toronto by establishing a community center. This Centre is an important community infrastructure project that will tangibly benefit the vibrant and diverse Somali community in Toronto and the residents of the city at large. We know how important social capital is to the health and integration of communities.

Social capital has two elements bonding (within your community) and bridging (connecting across

communities). A space like this provides ample opportunity for both, for individuals of Somali descent to strengthen and increase social connections and for other communities to deepen their understanding and relationships with their fellow Torontonians of Somali descent.

We are excited that this Centre will serve as a hub of excellence that preserves and celebrates the immense cultural contributions of Toronto's Somali community and enhances the cultural fabric of this world-class city. Further, we are hopeful the establishment of this Centre will provide a unique and innovative space for community-based organizations to create, build and grow. Most importantly, we support this important initiative because it will create a high-quality, accessible public space that serves as the core of Somali community life in Toronto. As an organization dedicated to building a more just Toronto and promoting the development of BIPOC leadership, Monumental is proud to count itself as a supporter of this work.

Sincerely,



Kofi Hope
Co-Founder