

Time Warner

December 14, 2005

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of Urban Word NYC.

Time Warner currently funds Urban Word through its Youth Media and Creative Arts grant program, a competitive grant initiative that identifies and funds high quality media and arts programs for underserved teens in New York. A pioneer in the youth arts field, we selected and support Urban Word because of its innovative programming and its leadership in arts-based, youth-centered development and learning for NYC teens.

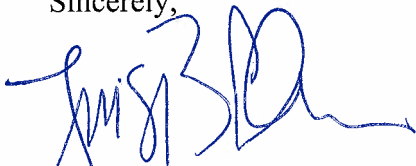
Urban Word engages youth in ways that are driven by and compelling to the youth themselves. Urban Word helped launch youth spoken word poetry in New York. By using spoken word and hip hop as vehicles for youth to learn, express their views and nurture their own voices and perspectives, Urban Word has helped young people build knowledge, confidence and self- and social-awareness.

Opportunities for youth development and learning go beyond participation in Urban Word programs. Youth play a critical role in the organization as well. Teens are incorporated into every aspect of the organization – from the teaching process, outreach to other youth and program development.

Urban Word has also been a valuable addition to our cohort of Media and Arts grantees. In addition to providing groups financial support, through our grant program we seek to foster peer networking and information-sharing opportunities between and among grantees. From our initial introductory meeting Michael Cirelli, the organization's Executive Director, has sought out and established partnerships with other grantees to provide new opportunities to educate, engage and empower youth.

For these reasons, I am pleased to recommend Urban Word NYC. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Luis Castro', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Luis Castro
Director, Philanthropic Programs
Office of Corporate Responsibility