



A Note of Gratitude from the Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture

For almost 13 years, I have had the privilege of leading the Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture, carefully stewarding this precious and complex community resource alongside our dedicated and talented staff, board, and volunteers. Together, we've welcomed thousands of students, performers, and community members, nurturing the creative spark that makes our arts community so special. Through the highs and lows, and seasons of change, I have witnessed the extraordinary spirit of this place, and I am incredibly proud that the Emerson is thriving.

The decisions the board and I make are always guided by a deep and sincere commitment to the future generations who will need the Emerson—a place that fosters the arts, creativity, and community spirit. It's our legacy to this community and what we carefully consider when we are faced with making business decisions for our organization.

Our mission is to build community through the arts. We do this by offering classes, art camps, exhibitions, and providing spaces for local artists, concerts, and cultural events. The Emerson is a safe, welcoming place where everyone can explore creativity, find their voice, and be introduced to the arts in a supportive environment. This year alone, we've welcomed over 100,000 visitors and students through our doors.

I recognize I have a direct management style. It has never been my intent to undervalue or upset any of the Emerson's amazing staff, tenants, and stakeholders. My main goal has been to work hard serving the mission of the Emerson, while celebrating the incredible talent, and artistic diversity in our community. I know I can be a stickler at times, and the current feedback makes me reflective. To this end I will work to improve my management style and smooth out the rough edges. That said, my commitment to excellence seeks to preserve and deepen what is best for the Emerson. I love working every day with each of you.

Despite recent turbulence, it's essential to remember why the Emerson matters. We are a place where memories are made, where the arts thrive, and where people of all ages find connection and inspiration. I see it every day—in the friendships formed during classes, the captivating performances in our theater, the moments of laughter, and tears, the camaraderie of the artist community, and the shared experiences that bring purpose to so many.

I am deeply grateful for the impact we make together. Through the years your engagement and support allow us to stay true to this mission. It inspires us to continue to innovate and evolve so that the Emerson remains a vibrant, relevant and inclusive hub for the arts—a place where creativity and community come alive.

With gratitude,

Susan Denson-Guy
Executive Director, Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture