



February 1, 2023

NYS Rural and Traditional Arts Fellowship Committee  
Arts Council of Wyoming County  
31 South Main Street  
Perry, NY 14530

Dear Fellowship Committee,

I am writing this letter in enthusiastic support of artist Angelica Palmer's application for the New York State rural and Traditional Arts Fellowship. After reviewing both the Fellowship criteria and Angelica's proposed work, I am certain that the two are a perfect match.

I have known Angelica for over a decade –at first, as a passionate advocate for clean water when Otsego 2000 led the fight to protect our lands and waters from the dangers of fracking for natural gas, and more recently as she has poured her energy and imagination into reviving community in the village of Cherry Valley through song, dance, poetry, theater, and public art projects and events. Angelica is a multi-faceted creative force and a resourceful grassroots community builder. As proprietor of The Telegraph School, which offers innovative programming, Angelica provides a welcome creative hub in the small, close-knit village of Cherry Valley. From Red Tent gatherings to yoga to spoken word open mic nights, music and dance sessions, The Telegraph School is at the heart of Cherry Valley's rebirth.

The project Angelica proposes – The Cherry Valley Water Project – is particularly timely in these times of climate change and upheaval. The Cherry Valley Creek is a tributary to the Susquehanna River, which in turn wends its way from Lake Otsego in Cooperstown all the way to the Chesapeake Bay. The waters that begin in Cherry Valley touch thousands upon thousands of lives before they reach the Atlantic. Angelica's project will explore the symbolic and real world importance of this water to our world, and her multi-disciplinary approach will ensure a rich and varied final product of music, poetry, and performance with a strong message.

My organization, Otsego 2000, was founded over 40 years ago to protect and preserve the rich natural and cultural resources of the Otsego region. We see the continuing vibrancy of our communities as critical to protecting the environmental assets that make Otsego County such a special place to live, work, play, and retire. Angelica's project would continue the strong connection between art and environment that has been a hallmark of our region for the past few hundred years. I strongly encourage you to support her in her work!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ellen F. Pope".

Ellen Pope  
Executive Director