



# HSPVA FRIENDS

SUPPORTING A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

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April 23, 2017

Sarah, Jeff, and Karl:

We are sharing a letter that HSPVA Friends and HISD received from the Kinder Foundation on April 21.

We are deeply saddened that the Foundation felt the need to respond in this way. At a critical time last fall when HSPVA needed help, our long-time supporter, the Kinder Foundation, renewed and increased its commitment to the school in an unprecedented way.

Recognizing the Foundation in our school's name is not only in accordance with HISD's policy and the subsequent vote, but also indicative of the permanence of our partnership and the level of our gratitude. This gesture of recognition is commensurate with the impact the Foundation has made and will continue to make for HSPVA students.

Make no mistake: we could not complete and sustain this 21<sup>st</sup>-century campus without this gift and could not think of a more outstanding partner than the Kinder Foundation.

Teachers, alumni, parents, and community leaders have worked tirelessly for many years to put HSPVA into a state-of-the-art learning center with the spaces and equipment needed to grow young artists in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We have always responded to that generosity with joy and gratitude. After all, HSPVA is not an island – it is an active member of a thriving Houston community full of partnerships. Supporters like the Kinder Foundation, which has been part of our family since 2008, have allowed the culture to thrive for 45 years. Your uninformed response to their generosity does not reflect HSPVA's values. The petition puts the future of HSPVA in jeopardy and is a threat to all public schools that wish to seek their own private-public partnerships in order to offer stronger opportunities for young Houstonians.

Attaching HSPVA to a foundation of this caliber is a monumental success and opportunity for future students. We will be meeting with HISD to make our position clear: HSPVA is honored to be associated with the Kinder name. We will live up to our commitment – our word. We accepted the Kinder Foundation's \$7.5-million gift, will invest it as outlined in our agreement with HISD and the Kinder Foundation, and will celebrate the opening of the new Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in 2018. That is in the best interest of the reputation for excellence that HISD, the Houston community, the Kinder Foundation, HSPVA, and our alumni inspire.

We appreciate your passion, as we share it. This exceptional school is our common bond and what draws so many to be part of its success. Thank you for considering the facts noted above and for continuing to support HSPVA, HISD, and HSPVA Friends.



Alene Haehl Coggin  
Executive Director



Bob Boblitt  
Board Chair

Enclosure