June 11, 2025

Mayor Scott Gillingham
Mayor's Office
510 Main St.
Winnipeg, MB
R3B 1B9

Dear Mayor Gillingham,

On behalf of the Osborne Village Business Improvement Zone (BIZ), I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the restoration and renovation project of the historic sanctuary of Augustine United Church. We believe this initiative has the potential to transform the corner of River and Osborne and revitalize this iconic part of Osborne Village.

Transforming Augustine's sanctuary into a performance center would significantly improve the public's perception of this corner, which currently struggles with a negative reputation due to open drug use and safety concerns. By establishing a vibrant hub for culture and the arts, we can foster an environment that promotes creativity, collaboration, and community engagement. Additionally, this initiative would complement the upcoming revitalization of the Gas Station Arts Centre's outdoor space, enhancing the overall appeal of the area.

The restoration of Augustine United Church is not just about preserving a historical building; it is about revitalizing our community. The sanctuary will serve as an invaluable venue for performing arts groups, conferences, and community festivals, and inject new life into Osborne Village. This project aligns perfectly with our goals as a BIZ to enhance the local economy and improve the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

We are particularly impressed by the significant financial commitment of $5.4 million already invested in the early stages of this project, showcasing the dedication of the Augustine Centre Board to not only save a vital piece of our heritage but to also ensure its future as a self-sufficient community hub.

Thank you for your ongoing support and vision,
Zohreh Gervais
Executive Director, Osborne Village BIZ