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April 26, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Sherri Cornett joined the Women's Caucus for Art (WCA) in 2010 and quickly made herself integral to and driving force for our international program, our status as an NGO of the United Nations and expansion of our international efforts into international exhibitions in South Korea and China.

In 2011, she represented WCA, with our President-Elect, at the United Nations DPI/NGO Conference on Sustainability in Bonn, Germany and became the Chair of our International Committee.

At WCA's annual conference in Los Angeles in 2012, she proposed that this committee become a Caucus, which gave the group more leeway to develop its own goals, budgets and fundraising efforts.

During 2012, the committee did become a caucus, its membership grew from a handful of members to over 90 members, Sherri represented WCA at the UN Commission on the Status of Women Conference and, most significantly, she co-directed an exhibition of WCA members and Korean women artists in Seoul and Gwangju, South Korea. This exhibition, entitled "Woman + Body", was pulled together within 9 months—a herculean and successful effort that developed enduring relationships between WCA and South Korean feminist artists. This last endeavor demonstrated her commitment to and fearlessness about expanding into previously unknown organizational areas and projects.

In 2013, a US-based Chinese artist approached Sherri to create an exhibition and cultural exchange on behalf of WCA between US women artists and Chinese artists. Sherri developed the exhibition "Half the Sky: Intersections in Social Practice Art", into a multi-layered, socially-engaged art experience that occurred in April 2014 at Luxun Academy of Fine Arts in Shenyang, China. During this project, Sherri managed over 40 volunteers, including 16 working delegate artists, 13 of whom would travel with her to China to install the exhibition, participate in opening ceremonies, present socially-engaged projects, and exchange perspectives during a roundtable with Chinese artists. She raised funds through Indiegogo, worked with the Chinese Cultural

Creating community through art, education, and social activism

Ministry to insure that works would be accepted and make it through customs, and surmounted innumerable and unexpected challenges related to working with administrators and government officials in a country with such different ways of working than in the United States.

Also in 2014, she continued to represent WCA at the UN Commission on the Status of Women conference and mentored a WCA member to lead a UN Program Committee within the International Caucus in order to expand WCA's work at the United Nations. To fund the work at the UN, she and Priscilla Otani, a WCA Past President, directed a traveling postcard exhibition entitled "Women Do It!", which travelled across the country for two years. She also headed up panels at the College Art Association (CAA) Conference and at the Open Engagement Conference about the China Project. With the approval of WCA's International Caucus members, Sherri continued as Chair past her term in order to set up the caucus with this funding, to mentor the UN Program Director and find and train her replacement.

In all of this work, Sherri has shown herself as a mentor, networker, community builder and intelligent project director, who is able to see the big picture and is also able to implement smaller, yet important aspects such as website design, fundraising, publications, social media, and marketing, and who emphasizes respect for and acknowledgement of all those who work with her.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Luner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karin Luner
Director of Operations
Women's Caucus for Art

May 27, 2017

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Rosemary Meza-DesPlas, Artist and Writer

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Sherri Cornett

Half the Sky: Intersections in Social Practice Art Exhibition and Cultural Exchange was the juncture where our professional paths crossed: I met Sherri Cornett for the first time in person at LuXun Academy of Fine Arts in Shenyang, China. Ms. Cornett was the Project Director and the Women's Caucus for Art International Caucus Chair. I was the Project Installation Director; therefore, I traveled to Shenyang as a delegate of the WCA Cultural Exchange.

Half the Sky: Intersections in Social Practice Art Exhibition and Cultural Exchange was an enormous and complex art project with a number of moving parts. I was impressed by Sherri Cornett's ability to manage the project from start to finish. Ms. Cornett possesses the following skills: a finely honed communication aptitude, strong analytical abilities, a high sense of integrity, and solid competence in strategic planning. With Sherri Cornett at the helm of this project, I was able to succeed in my role as Project Installation Director.

Sherri Cornett led the WCA delegation of twelve artists through the planning process with vision underpinned by clear and concise written communication. In addition, she followed up with phone calls to provide guidance and assistance to each delegate. International exchanges have challenges, including language and cultural expectations, which can be daunting. Ms. Cornett worked effectively with translators to interface with the staff of LuXun Academy of Fine Arts, Curator Wang Yi Gang, and President Wei Er Shen.

All complicated projects such as *Half the Sky: Intersections in Social Practice Art Exhibition and Cultural Exchange* face unexpected challenges. Sherri Cornett analyzed situations, problem-solved for fair resolutions and was forthright in her actions. She is a strong leader who inspires confidence and positivity.

I appreciate the unique opportunity afforded me -- to work alongside Sherri Cornett on *Half the Sky: Intersections in Social Practice Art Exhibition and Cultural Exchange*. Ms. Cornett's leadership of this project allowed me to evolve as an artist and develop new abilities.

I highly recommend Sherri Cornett as an artist, curator and project director. I am available to expand upon my recommendation of Sherri Cornett. I can be reached at 972-358-1670 or rosemarymeza333@yahoo.com.

September 28, 2015

Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

It is my great pleasure to write in support of Sherri Cornett's application for the Montana Arts Council's Artist's Innovation Award. I have known Sherri for the past two years and we are currently planning an interactive exhibition and community project designed to generate community-wide consideration of the resonances and significance of regional bodies to our lives and livelihoods in Yellowstone County. The exhibition and programming, titled *Flow*, will take place in and around the Northcutt Steele Gallery at Montana State University Billings from January–March, 2016, will be free and open to the public, and promises to have a deep and meaningful impact on many sectors of our community.

During the time I have known Sherri, I have been deeply impressed by her exceptional abilities to not only produce provocative artwork, but also to plan and execute numerous, significant, ambitious curatorial and community outreach projects simultaneously. My students, our gallery, our University, and our community have all benefited from Sherri's passion, her seriousness of purpose, her professional and congenial demeanor, her ability to creatively and quickly problem-solve, and her unwavering commitment to realizing her vision and to challenging herself and those around her. Sherri is an artist who is motivated by the transformative potential of art, a potential she has committed herself to in her past projects and that she will build and expand upon in *Flow*. I believe all of Sherri's qualities, skills, past accomplishments, and current projects truly distinguish her among her peers in Montana and I can honestly think of no one better suited for this award.

In concluding, Sherri is highly regarded by the entire Department of Art faculty at MSUB, by the artists and students with whom she has worked and continues to work, and by all the professionals beyond the arts who have worked and continue to work with her. She demonstrates the self-direction, work ethic, interpersonal skills, and the creative and intellectual skills that make her an exceptional candidate for this award. Please feel free to contact me at any time to further discuss her application.

Sincerely,



Leanne Gilbertson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Art History and Gallery Director
Department of Art, Montana State University Billings

I have known Ms. Cornett since 2011 when she and I traveled to Bonn, Germany as Women's Caucus for Art (WCA) delegates to the United Nations DPI/NGO conference. Ms. Cornett envisioned transforming the committee into a special interest caucus that would collaborate with international artist collectives and organizations on activist exhibitions and conferences.

Through Ms. Cornett's efforts, the International Committee became the International Caucus in 2012, and in the same year, she spearheaded WCA's first international exhibition in South Korea. *Woman + Body* was a joint effort between Ms. Cornett and South Korean curator Hye-Seong Tak Lee to mount a feminist exhibition in a country where women's rights still take a back seat to broader issues around democracy and unification. By bringing multigenerational US and South Korean artists together in a contemporary interpretation of the female gaze, Ms. Cornett helped Ms. Tak Lee revive interest in feminism among a younger generation of Korean artists and viewers in Seoul and Gwangju. Also significant is Ms. Cornett's success in mounting an international exhibit for WCA artists for the first time since the 1995 Women's Conference in Beijing.

The South Korean exhibition was a warm-up to the ambitious *Half the Sky* social practice art project in Shenyang, China. This 2014 cultural exchange between WCA and the LuXun Academy of Fine Arts was made possible through the invitation of the President of LuXun Academy, Wei Er Shen, and collaboration of Jing Deng, a former student of LuXun Academy. From the beginning, Ms. Cornett envisioned the cultural exchange itself as a form of social practice art – to help broaden perspectives and provide a transformative experience for all participants. With a timeframe of less than a year, Ms. Cornett embarked on the monumental task of shaping the cultural exchange, organizing an art exhibition, producing a catalog, troubleshooting fundraising, shipping and travel logistics, selecting and organizing US delegates and communicating with Ms. Deng to make sure the Chinese side was equally moving the project forward. The project had its challenges, but the resulting exhibition and cultural exchange was a monumental success. The LuXun Academy gallery staff, faculty and students were deeply moved by the participatory and performance-based art that were cornerstones of our exhibit. Ms. Cornett's work, "Points of Many Connections," was a tent erected in the middle of the gallery with pieces of silk for viewers to write how they "hold up half the sky." It resonated with the Chinese audience, who had not experienced participatory art-making before.

Ms. Cornett is a visionary arts professional who seeks cross-cultural collaborations and is capable of complex project management. I recommend her highly.

Priscilla Otani
Partner, Arc Gallery and Studios
San Francisco
(managed Sherri directly at Women's Caucus for Art)