



# HSPVA FRIENDS

SUPPORTING A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

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Alene Haehl Coggin

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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

# KINDER FOUNDATION

RICHARD D. KINDER  
CHAIRMAN

April 21, 2017

Mr. Robert L. Boblitt, Jr.  
Chair  
HSPVA Friends  
4119 Montrose Boulevard, Suite 210  
Houston, TX 77006

Mr. Richard A. Carranza  
Superintendent of Schools  
Houston Independent School District  
4400 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Houston, TX 77092

Dear Bob and Richard,

On October 13, 2016, the Kinder Foundation made a commitment to donate \$7.5 million (of which \$3 million has been paid) to the Friends of HSPVA to help fund added amenities at HSPVA and provide assistance for future activities that would enhance the quality of the educational experience of present and future HSPVA students.

We did this because we are great believers in the unique education provided by the school and wanted to ensure that the new facilities were completed and finished in a manner consistent with the highest standards for this type of institution. We have contributed to HSPVA since 2008 and will always remain supporters.

In return for our gift, the HISD Board agreed to affix our name to the school. We were appreciative of this honor, but it was not the primary reason for our gift. The last thing we would want is to create any controversy which could negatively impact the institution, its faculty and students. Consequently, we release the Friends of HSPVA and HISD from any and all obligations concerning naming rights included in Article 7 of the Grant Agreement. We will of course honor our side of the Agreement and complete our gift as pledged.

The Kinder Foundation is committed to doing the best it can to better the quality of life in Houston and we feel that the HSPVA is a vital part of that quality of life.

Sincerely,



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