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June 22nd, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the upcoming documentary series on Jacksonville music history, produced by the Documentary Film Institute of Jacksonville. This project represents a vital cultural undertaking that will preserve and celebrate the rich, diverse musical heritage of our city.

Jacksonville holds a foundational place in American music history. From the vibrant jazz and blues scene of the historic LaVilla neighborhood, often called the "Harlem of the South", to the birth of Southern Rock and the city's contributions to modern hip-hop, Jacksonville's sound has shaped global culture. Despite this immense legacy, much of our local music history remains untold or undocumented. The Documentary Film Institute of Jacksonville is uniquely positioned to bring these stories to light with the historical accuracy, artistic integrity, and community focus they deserve.

This documentary series will do more than just chronicle the past. It will serve as an educational resource for local schools, foster civic pride among residents, and boost cultural tourism by highlighting Jacksonville as a historic creative hub. By capturing the voices of local legends, historians, and contemporary artists, the project creates a permanent archive that ensures future generations understand the cultural shoulders they stand on.

The Documentary Film Institute of Jacksonville has a proven track record of high-quality storytelling and deep community engagement. I have full confidence that their production team will deliver a compelling, visually stunning series that resonates both locally and nationally.

I strongly urge you to support this project. Investing in this series is an investment in Jacksonville's cultural legacy and economic future. Thank you for your time, consideration, and shared commitment to preserving our city's extraordinary history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Hemann", followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line.

Mitchell D Hemann
Archivist