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Dear Seed Grants Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I am writing this letter of support for the proposal of DXARTS graduate student Althea Rao *Ground Ensemble: Co-Creating Social Fabric of Belonging Through Bobbin Lace Choreography*, for a UW Seed Grant. Since Althea joined our department three years ago, I have had the opportunity to work closely with her as her research advisor, and I have witnessed first-hand an outstanding amount of artistic and scholarship growth. Althea's research centers around the idea of what she calls 'poor body', which refers to the datafication of the human body, and the loss of resolution that results from the multiple translations of bodily data in algorithmic systems. Her artworks manifest through multimedia installations, e-textile interfaces, media performances, interactive artifacts, material activism, and community engagement. Since Althea has joined our department, she has excelled in instigating interdisciplinary collaborations by engaging with faculty and students from across campus, such as Drama, GWSS, HCDE, Computer Engineering, Physics and Biology. She is an active member of the Simpson Center's *Minoritarian Performance Research Cluster*, and her work employs methods from the Digital Humanities, Performance Studies, and Science and Technology Studies.

Althea's proposal *Ground Ensemble* aims to coordinate a socially-engaged, movement-based performance as an interdisciplinary special topic course that will cultivate a space for reflection and dialogue in which participants can celebrate their individual identities, but also think and act as a whole. Her practice-based and applied learning approach is inline with the goals of the Resilience Lab and the Campus Sustainability Fund, and will provide an excellent context to bring together people from different communities across UW.

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at apsarra@uw.edu.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Psarra".

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