



**OTHELLO-UW COMMONS**  
UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

---

April 30, 2024

Dear Resilience Seed Grant Review Committee,

I am writing to confirm Othello-UW Commons' support for the Lil Labs Climate Resilience South Seattle project and their application for the Resilience and Compassion Seed Grants.

I currently serve as the Assistant Director of the Othello-UW Commons (OUWC). The OUWC is a learning and collaboration space for faculty, staff, students and community partners situated right next to the Othello Light Rail station. Conversations with local residents inform our programming priorities year to year as we aim to support Southeast Seattle's vision of sustaining an equitable, inclusive, and welcoming community.

Oftentimes the only opportunities for interacting with the University of Washington are school field trips, speaker series, or through other events that take place on campus. The Lil Labs project will create opportunities for the Othello neighborhood and Rainier Valley community to engage with the UW in a different way. OUWC and Lil Labs share the value of community connectedness and creating a space for belonging that activates creativity.

In the last few months, the OUWC hosted community dinners to get a sense of neighborhood priorities. Community members elevated the need for a space to meet other community members and do fun activities in the neighborhood. In early discussions, community members expressed excitement in a Lil Lab at OUWC and participating in art parties. In the past we've hosted Bob Ross (paint) night for our students and have heard from our visitors they would love an opportunity to join a similar event in the future. The staff at OUWC are equally excited to host community events in the form of art parties.

This collaboration directly align with OUWC's mission and goals. We value our budding partnership with Lil Labs and support their continued work at our location and beyond. If you have any further questions about this partnership, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely

**Nancy Huizar**

Assistant Director, Othello-UW Commons  
Community Engagement and Leadership Education Center  
(206) 373 - 1022 | [nhuizar@uw.edu](mailto:nhuizar@uw.edu)