

Northfield Union of Youth

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**Providing power and
voice to Northfield youth**

October 4, 2021

Dear Mayor, City Councilors, and Economic Development Authority Board Members:

The Northfield Union of Youth is petitioning for the inclusion of the Key Youth Center, located at 109 6th Street SW, as a downtown building for purposes of its inclusion in eligible area for the Façade Improvement Grant Program. Though outside the boundary outlined in the adopted program guidelines, the Key is part of and an important component to Northfield's downtown area. The building is designed in a manner consistent with the downtown, and includes a stone façade. The building is placed up to the street, and is designed to be pedestrian supportive with large windows that allow for street-level activation like many other downtown storefronts. Over the time the Key has been located at 109 6th Street SW, there has been a concerted effort to ensure that the building's exterior matches the ambiance of the southern terminus of the historic downtown district. Continued maintenance of the stone façade will support the facility's functionality.

The Northfield Union of Youth's (NUY) mission is to provide power and voice to youth and to create a caring and enriching community. NUY works with more than 400 youth ages 12-20 every year, with an emphasis on outreach and empowerment to the most at-risk youth in the community. After a complete interior remodel in 2019, attention has been on the exterior of our structure. Continued maintenance is important to us, as is the way in which the Key building provides for a transitional design between the historic downtown and the neighborhood to the south.

NUY is committed to fully funding the 1:1 match requirement of the program. The full cost of the masonry work will provide for stabilization of the building envelope and create opportunity for future energy use reductions for heating and cooling. These improvements will provide for improvements to future operations to serve our community's youth population. NUY respectfully requests that the youth center be allowed to apply for the 2022 Façade Improvement Plan funding to ensure the safety and functioning of our programs.

If you have any questions about the organization and/or our organizational capacity and commitment to this endeavor, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Emily Fulton-Foley'.

Emily Fulton-Foley, Executive Director
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Mary Dunnewold, Board Chair
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