

To whom it may concern,

Upon visiting the Fab Lab for the first time I was awe struck staring at the magnitude of instruments and tools at my now apparent disposal. I am a construction worker by trade so I can appreciate this style of work environment and assortment of unique tools. The staff of course was friendly and helping in any questions and concerns. As well I understand that the Fab Lab is looking to expand. I absolutely love this idea and I know many other people will as well.

Bethlehem, as I see it, from the perspective of someone who has been a local most his life, is becoming enriched with small businesses, arts, music, and many other cultural festivities. I see the Fab Lab as a way to integrate perfectly into this environment; something very special that will only grow to enrich Bethlehem tenfold in the years to come. It gives people of all ages a place to come and learn, meet new friends, and work together to achieve wonderful results. In any growing economy and culture, there becomes an ever increasing need for art and expression; the Fab Lab fits the mold perfectly. It is also an opinion of mine, that many young people today are highly intelligent but lack physical capabilities. Talking to people my age and younger (I am 27), I am surprised at how easily young people understand alien ideas and are open to new things and unknown possibilities. However, it has become evident as well that not nearly as many people know how to work with their hands or produce anything physically. So a tipping of the scales, so to say, is occurring and in an effort to balance out a disproportionate outlook, I for one believe, the Fab Lab is wonderful and essential to our progress as a community.

Another opinion of mine, which I think I can validate since I've been working general construction for most of my adult life, is the wonderful reward and satisfaction that comes from perceiving an idea or task mentally and then physically doing the work to materialize it. The ability to stand back and marvel at the end product for any length of time is priceless. A bookshelf for example can be in your home indefinitely, expiring only perhaps when you decide to move out. So for years you will pass by and look, even just for a second, and have a sense of satisfaction that you built it. I believe it is hardwired within our brains and DNA, since we were living in caves, the ability to use tools to expand our environment, improve our lives and enrich our lifestyles.

The Fab Lab stands as a quintessential aspect toward bringing us into closer contact with who we are as people, as well as allowing us to connect with skilled instructors and students alike. Providing access and resource to a community, while fostering a mentality of enrichment and achievement.

Sincerely,

Jacob Filaseta, Current NCC Student