

**From:** [Gwyn Hughes](#)  
**To:** [CSC](#)  
**Cc:** [Rebecca Hildebrandt](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of support for Maydm  
**Date:** Sunday, November 20, 2022 9:53:42 AM

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Dear Community Services Committee,

My name is Dr. Gwyneth Hughes and I am a Maydm board member writing to support the funding of Maydm's grant proposal to the City of Madison.

Since joining the Maydm Board in 2019, I have been impressed with the organization's ability to engage students of color and girls in meaningful tech learning opportunities.

As a middle school math teacher in Madison School District I know firsthand how STEM, and particularly tech opportunities, can give students insight into future career paths that they may not have seen as accessible or been aware of.

Maydm does a phenomenal job of recruiting students in their target demographics by partnering with community organizations and schools to provide STEM training and opportunities that connect students with Maydm programs.

Maydm programs teach a variety of technological skills through accessible and engaging projects. As a board member I've had the opportunity to talk with Maydm summer program students about how they learned coding, problem-solving, and robotics to complete projects they are really proud of.

While such learning opportunities are key for educating students about tech jobs and concepts, Maydm's internship program truly prepares teenagers for working in the tech industry. Maydm partners with corporations like CUNA Mutual Group, Exact Sciences and First Business Bank to employ young people in STEM-based internships, giving them an incredible advantage when applying to college and careers. My background is in science (PhD in Geology and MS in Geophysics), and I have seen how pathways into STEM professions are incredibly important for diversifying STEM fields.

This industry connection is particularly important for the city of Madison because Madison has one of the fastest growing high-tech sectors in the country. Maydm is one of the only organizations in the city working to prepare students for STEM careers.

Based on the fact that Maydm's application had one of the highest scores on the scoring metric (97.13 of 100), I highly support the recommended funding that was put forth by the city staff.

Thank you,  
Gwyneth Hughes

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