



ELLEN C. JAFFEE  
Assemblywoman 95<sup>TH</sup> District

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April 23, 2009

Mayor John Shields  
Village of Nyack  
9 North Broadway  
Nyack, NY 10960

Dear Mayor Shields,

I write this letter in support of the Riverspace/Downtown project because like so many Nyack residents, I, too, support the future of downtown Nyack and Riverspace.

While I support the arts and recognize the immense benefits we stand to gain as a society for encouraging and sponsoring them, there are more concrete reasons to support this project.

This project creates desperately needed jobs, for individuals of all skill levels, both in the short and long term. And at a time when we are facing economic downturn, the best thing we can do, as a community, is to create opportunities for work, especially work in green development.

In the long-term, the Riverspace/Downtown project is about turning Nyack into a destination – a destination that will encourage people from neighboring communities, and even counties, to come to the village and help support the economy by patronizing local shops and restaurants.

As you're aware, the long-term sustainability of Riverspace will be realized through an innovative collaboration between commercial interests and the non-for-profit art center, supplemented through philanthropy and ticket sales.

I ask that you and your colleagues on the Village Board join me in support of this creative approach to keeping the arts in Nyack.

Sincerely,

Ellen C. Jaffee  
Member of Assembly