

Dear Old Town School of Folk Music Board of Directors and Executive Administration,

We, the undersigned artists and community members, support The Old Town School of Folk Music as a unique anchor for arts education and community building. The school's history is bound not only to the rich folk traditions of America and beyond, but also to the myriad movements for liberation and justice from which these traditions emerge. Further, we affirm that the lifeblood of The Old Town School is its faculty. They embody its identity and advance its vision daily with patience, joy and dedication.

Unfortunately, faculty voices rarely count in strategic planning decisions. There is a gap between school's published commitment to "constant collaboration" and "cultural democracy" and the actual practice and cultivation of those values. Thus, we support the Old Town Teachers Organization's demand for faculty seats on the OTSFM Board of Directors. The board needs the perspectives of those who both understand the mission of the school and experience the impact of board-level policies.

Democracy in the workplace is a foundational and cherished idea for teachers and students drawn to a school that arose from the pro-worker legacies of Woody Guthrie and Ella Jenkins, Bess Lomax Hawes and Win Stracke. The Old Town School of Folk Music should be a shining example of democratic governance for arts organizations everywhere.

We call on the board and leadership at OTSFM to embrace this legacy that values the voice of the people, the community, and the worker. Open four spots on the board for faculty members. Give our teachers a seat at the table.

Sincerely,