P. O. Box 1632 • Santa Cruz, CA 95061 • (831) 607-8952 • www.williamjamesassociation.org

[Participant First Name], [Participant Last Name]
[CDCR#]
[Housing]
[Site], [Address], [City], [State] [Zip Code]

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the William James Association, I am writing to commend Mr. [First Name] for his artistic skill and his deep knowledge of the acrylic medium. His dedication to the creative process is evident not only in his own work but also in the support he consistently offers to fellow students of all skill levels.

Mr. [First Name] has taken the initiative to assist others in the classroom, and we have observed him engage his peers with respect and patience. He listens attentively, demonstrates techniques with clarity, allows students to try the techniques themselves, and follows up to ensure understanding. Through these actions, he fosters an inclusive and collaborative environment, modeling that it is not only acceptable but encouraged to support others—regardless of race, religion, economic background, political beliefs, or gender identity.

In addition to his informal role as a peer mentor, Mr. [First Name] regularly helps with setting up and cleaning up the classroom. He is consistently respectful toward fellow artists, teaching staff, correctional officers, and other staff. While supporting others, he continues to develop his own painting practice and remains open to feedback and instruction.

Mr. [First Name] has contributed to group projects, donated artwork to nonprofit fundraisers, and served as a valued representative of the arts program during CMF's Prison Palooza event. His passion for painting and commitment to empowering others—both inside and outside the classroom—speak volumes about his character and leadership.

Should he be released, the William James Association remains committed to supporting our alumni. We offer workshops on pricing artwork, securing business licenses and seller's permits, grant writing, and project budgeting. We also provide opportunities for former participants to exhibit their work, speak at public events, serve on panels, and even return as artist instructors in prisons, jails, and juvenile halls.

Respectfully,

_____

[Teaching Artist] Date
William James Association
[Site] Artist Instructor

_____

[Site Coordinator] Date
William James Association
[Site] Site Coordinator