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February 27, 2018

Re: Recommendation for the National Book Day Foundation Grant

## To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to recommend, without reservation, Rita Lorraine Hubbard, for the National Book Day Foundation Grant.

Ms. Hubbard was an educator and school psychologist for Chattanooga Public Schools for over fourteen (14) years. While reading and writing were at the helm of her lesson plans, she also showed a knack and appreciation for technology. Foreseeing its influence as we know it today, Ms. Hubbard set her cap for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Technology award in 1996. This bestowment saw her classroom—the only one in all of Chattanooga's public school system—transformed with bundles of groundbreaking software and Internet-capable computers.

Adhering to her passion for writing and education, Ms. Hubbard became a trade published author in 2007, with her *African Americans of Chattanooga: A History of Unsung Heroes*, being adopted by the New York Public Library and Daughters of the American Revolution.

Ms. Hubbard continues to promote education through the gift of reading—whether through her own writings or the timeless gift of a book. She is affectionately known as the "Book Lady" among the youth at her church home, because of the boxes of assorted literature she arrives with every Sunday morning, without fail.

In 2013, Ms. Hubbard, in conjunction with Hubbard Digital and church leadership, presented the first-ever Hubbard Digital Art and Technology Fellowship to a young and aspiring college student. This monetary scholarship paid for the recipient's school books during their first semester of college.

I am not only confident in Ms. Hubbard's candidacy for the National Book Day Foundation Grant, but in her ability to execute her plans if she is so graciously named its recipient. She is a student of both ingenuity and invention, and a scholar whose works will inspire generations to come.

I ask that the Board of Advisors and Grantees look favorably upon the application of this extraordinary lady.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hubbard President, Hubbard Digital

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