



March 24, 2016

5149 N Pacific Ave  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
(412) 441-6950

**Subject: Letter of Support for Play.CLOH.org**

Dear Sprout Fund,

We are writing a letter in support of Mark Rauterkus' Play.CLOH.ORG program that is applying for funding through the Sprout Foundation. Play.CLOH.ORG is a digital badging program that combines coding, personal development, and play for youth throughout the school year.

The BGC supports a variety of programs for youth through its Youth Development Center at 5321 Penn Avenue, off of which aim to increase opportunities for young people in education, employment, health care and social development. We have accomplished this through vehicles such as our College and Career Readiness Program, and as a sponsoring site for both the Summer Dreamers and the Pittsburgh Summer Youth Learn and Earn Programs. Through our partnership with Neighborhood Learning Alliance, BGC has hosted and facilitated after-school programs which enrich young peoples' comprehension of website and app development.

We feel Play.CLOH.ORG will enable kids to build skills which will equip them to meet the challenges of functioning in a technology-driven world. BGC sees Mark's initiative as an opportunity for the youth of Garfield and surrounding neighborhoods to bolster their competencies, as well as allow them to further explore areas of interests they may find new or familiar.

In working with Mark through our Summer Dreamers' Swim & Water Polo Camp, we have designed and implemented programming that not only motivates young people to be active, but also teaches them the importance of engaging in social behaviors that reflect tolerance and respect for those around them whether as a teammate or as a citizen of the city.

Sincerely,

Richard Swartz  
Executive Director