



Ms. Bari Beasley, President and Chief Executive Officer
Heritage Foundation of Williamson County, TN
112 Bridge Street Franklin, TN 37604

February 10, 2022

Dear Bari,

It is my sincere pleasure to write in support of Franklin Grove. I am incredibly grateful to have the Heritage Foundation of Williamson County as an economic development partner and commend you and your team for the vision of making the Franklin Grove Estate and Gardens a special place to learn, gather, and innovate.

Our first strategic plan, written over a decade ago, included a long-term plan for an entrepreneurship center for Williamson County. The generosity and partnership of the Heritage Foundation is the only reason we were able to establish the Franklin Innovation Center in the LeHew Mansion on the grounds of Franklin Grove.

The Franklin Innovation Center features 6 individual office suites that lease for 1-year terms to selected companies that plan to scale their business and desire to collaborate with their neighbors. In addition to their own private suites, tenants have access to a conference room, kitchen area, phone booths, and large outdoor seating/work area with dedicated Wifi access.

The Innovation Center has been in operation since August 2021 and already one of the three tenants, TETRA Hearing, is taking additional space in the building. The Innovation Center has truly become the front door for entrepreneurship in Williamson County. **The continued success of the Innovation Center is tied directly to the vision of Franklin Grove.**

The LeHew mansion has been renovated specifically for the purpose of serving the needs of the start-up community in Williamson County. Regardless of currently permitted zoning for the Center, the financial arrangement with the Heritage Foundation, which makes it possible to lease at below-market rates so the tenants can deploy precious capital elsewhere, is what allows the Center to exist in the first place. **The Franklin Innovation Center only can survive within the context of the Franklin Grove plan.**

Again, I applaud the leadership of the Heritage Foundation of Williamson County for their incredible vision for the campus of Franklin Grove and for allowing Williamson, Inc. to be part of something incredibly special.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Lergen", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Matt Lergen
President and CEO
Williamson, Inc.