

JOSEPH F. BRENNAN, MEMBER
133RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



25-A EAST WING
PO BOX 202133
HARRISBURG PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2133
PHONE: (717) 772-9902
FAX: (717) 780-4762

7 WEST FOURTH STREET
BETHLEHEM PENNSYLVANIA 18015
PHONE: (610) 882-1510
FAX: (610) 861-2112

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

COMMERCE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS
MAJORITY SECRETARY
GAMING OVERSIGHT
LIQUOR CONTROL

NORTHEAST CAUCUS

E-MAIL: jbrennan@pahouse.net
www.pahouse.com/brennan

November 21, 2007

Governor Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capital Building
Harrisburg PA 17120

Dear Governor Rendell:

I am writing to you today to encourage you to consider providing an increase of \$2 million each year for the next three years, in the budget of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. Your leadership in recognizing the arts as an important part of the economic revitalization of Pennsylvania cities has generated national attention and has provided much needed support for the communities in the Lehigh Valley. From the Allentown Symphony to the Allentown Art Museum to ArtsQuest, the Bethlehem Bach Choir and the State Theatre in Easton, the residents of the Lehigh Valley have greatly benefited from arts funding through the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

It is my understanding that as many as two-thirds of the organizations supported by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts experienced reduced funding in the 2007-2008 budget year because of the increasing number of arts organizations seeking support.

It is also my understating that Pennsylvania lags behind its neighboring state in terms of per capita support for the arts. Clearly the investments made by the state in the arts are bearing fruit for our communities. The new art park in Allentown celebrates the anchor arts organizations in the Lehigh Valley's largest city. The State Theatre in Easton has provided a significant anchor for Easton's downtown and ArtsQuest in Bethlehem has provided high quality events plus the Banana Factory to support with the revitalization of that city.

I appreciate your support of the arts in Pennsylvania, and I respectfully request that you increase the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts budget by \$2 million each year for the next three years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Brennan".

Joseph F. Brennan
Representative, 133rd District

CC. Jeffrey Parks