



CITY OF BETHLEHEM

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John B. Callahan
Mayor

December 10, 2007

Honorable Edward G. Rendell
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Rendell:

I am writing to you to encourage you to consider providing an increase of \$2 million each year for the next three years in the budget of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

While I certainly recognize the ever-present pressure on state spending, I am concerned to learn that in Pennsylvania approximately two thirds of arts organizations funded by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts actually received reduced grants in 2007. New arts groups are forming consistently throughout the Commonwealth; while I am pleased that these groups are receiving support I feel that existing groups should not see their support diminished.

Your leadership for the arts is well known. Your engagement with the arts as Mayor of the City of Philadelphia has been a model for Bethlehem. As you are well aware, the arts have been important in the transformation of the City of Bethlehem as we recover from losing much of our manufacturing economy and move towards the creative economy of the 21st century. Small high quality organizations like Touchstone Theater and the Bach Choir of Bethlehem and larger organization like ArtsQuest utilize the PCA funding to deliver high quality programming to the residents of Bethlehem and the Lehigh Valley. Other cities and towns throughout the commonwealth are also realizing growth in connection with their arts communities and organizations.

Thank you for this opportunity to express support for an increase in the budget of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. On behalf of the residents of Bethlehem I urge you to include an increase of \$2 million per year for the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts in next year's state budget and an additional \$2 million each year for the following two years. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John B. Callahan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

John Callahan
Mayor