



**PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS**

ROOM 216, FINANCE BUILDING  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

(717) 787-6883

March 6, 2009

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

We have received a number of phone calls from grantees since Governor Rendell presented his budget address on February 4<sup>th</sup>. It seemed an important time to be in touch with you and to provide as much information as is currently available. As you recall, the PCA's budget was reduced this year by 4.25% or \$670,000.

We continue to face an incredibly challenging economic environment. The state budget for FY 2009-2010 was prepared under conditions our Governor described as "the worst economic crisis of our lifetime" and "the likes of which Pennsylvania and the nation have not seen since the Great Depression." The anticipated budget shortfall for state government next year exceeds \$2.3 billion.

Accordingly, the Governor's proposed state budget for next year cuts funding in 89% of line items in the budget. Of the 500 line items under the control of the Executive Branch, 100 have been proposed for elimination, totaling more than \$395 million.

In that sobering context, the Governor has proposed a \$14 million appropriation for grants to the arts for next fiscal year, down 8% from \$15.225 million at the start of this fiscal year. That proposal is a statement of the Governor's support for arts for both its intrinsic value and as an economic driver, pumping \$1 billion dollars into the economy and supporting 36,000 full time equivalent jobs. Please take the time to acknowledge the Governor's support.

It is vitally important that you understand that the Governor's proposed executive budget is only the beginning of a long negotiation process that involves both chambers of the General Assembly and the Governor's Office. We will continue to update you as events unfold.

On another front, last November when the impending recession was apparent, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts convened a session in Williamsport on *Strategies for Survival*. We have posted materials from that session as well as other resources on our website at [www.pacouncilonthearts.org](http://www.pacouncilonthearts.org) and will update those as new materials become available.

On behalf of the Council and its staff, thank you for all that you do for the people of Pennsylvania through the arts. We are deeply proud to work with you and all the members of Pennsylvania's outstanding arts community.

Please share this information with the members of your Board. Please stay in touch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Philip Horn".

Philip Horn