



CITY OF PITTSBURGH

"America's Most Livable City"

Office of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl

June 19, 2009

Governor Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Governor Rendell:

The Pennsylvania state budget situation is of great concern to me and Pittsburgh's arts and cultural community. I am writing to ask you to retain funding for the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (which includes \$14 million for grants to the Arts), restore funding to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) and continue funding the Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. The PHMC supports area institutions such as the Carnegie Museums, Heinz History Center, Children's Museum, Frick Art and Historical Center, and several others. EITC is a valuable incentive to the business community to sponsor and support arts education programs.

Arts and culture mean business for Pittsburgh, supporting over 10,192 full-time equivalent jobs in Allegheny County. The Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council has surveyed leaders of local organizations and drastic cuts, such as those recommended in Senate Bill 850, are likely to cause organizations to reduce their workforces by up to 30%.

Our arts and culture sector is an important economic driver, generating over \$341 million in economic activity, \$204.2 million in household income, and \$33.7 million in local and state government revenue.

Pittsburgh's arts and cultural organizations have a significant impact on our residents and were one of the factors cited in our recent naming as the Most Livable City in America. It is important that these vibrant representations of all that we have to offer as a city remain strong, especially as we prepare to host the G20 summit.

I appreciate your consideration of my request to support funding for arts and culture.

Sincerely,

Luke Ravenstahl
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

Cc: Mitch Swain ✓

512 CITY-COUNTY BUILDING 414 GRANT STREET PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15219

Phone: 412-255-2626 • Fax: 412-255-8602

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