



ART · REACH

March 13, 2009

Hon. Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Rendell:

On behalf of our Board of Directors and other volunteers; the hundreds of human-service agencies, arts organizations and individual artists we partner with; and the over 15,000 underserved audiences we serve each year, I am writing to thank you for including a \$14-million appropriation for arts grants in next fiscal year's budget.

Your commitment to the arts—and your deep understanding of the major role they play in quality of life, education, and community and economic development—is commendable, especially in difficult economic times when so many people see the arts as expendable or extraneous.

Art-Reach is the only organization in the Philadelphia region that is solely devoted to connecting underserved audiences with cultural experiences. Each year we enable over 15,000 people with disabilities or economic disadvantages to enjoy and benefit from the transformative powers of the arts through attendance and education, workshops and residencies, and information referral and advocacy. The support we receive from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts is essential to our mission and to our ability to serve so many people who can benefit the most from the arts but so often have limited or no access to them.

Thank you again for demonstrating your continued commitment to the arts in Pennsylvania in next year's budget—and for all you have done to strengthen the cultural community across the state.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Norris
Executive Director

C: Philip Horn, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
Jenny Hershour, Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania

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