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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

December 4, 2007

The Honorable Ed Rendell
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Room 225, Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Rendell:

I am writing to respectfully request your consideration for additional funding in the amount of \$2 million each year for the next three years in the state budget for the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA). As you know, the arts can be an extremely important component of the economic revitalization of Pennsylvania's urban centers.

I am advised that two-thirds of the organizations that are supported by PCA experienced reductions in funding in the current fiscal year due to the increasing number of arts organizations seeking support. I also understand that Pennsylvania lags behind our neighboring states in our level of funding for the arts.

I can personally attest to the value of the arts in the Lehigh Valley's three largest communities. The State Theatre in Easton has provided a significant anchor for Easton's downtown. ArtsQuest and the Banana Factory are providing high quality events in Bethlehem. The new art park in Allentown celebrates the anchor arts organizations in Allentown.

I would appreciate it if your administration could include additional arts funding in your proposed budget. Meanwhile, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Freeman".

Robert L. Freeman
State Representative
136th Legislative District

RLF/ldr