

Thank you for including the Arts Council in your new budget.

Dear Governor Rendell, I am a veteran radio documentary producer with 2 Peabody Awards -- for biographies of Miles Davis and of Leonard Bernstein. I have lived in Philadelphia most of my life, and continue to choose to live here. I am a long time recipient of grants from the PA Council on the Arts, and I know how much they mean to any artist - emerging young artists, or artists like me, who have been around a long time and continue to struggle financially. We are all facing these tough times together, and most of us in Pennsylvania are comforted by your presence as our governor. We know tough decisions need to be made and we need someone both tough and caring to make them. We also know that while arts funding is seen by some as frivolous and unnecessary, there are others, including you, who know that a strong arts climate is essential to a healthy economy, by increasing commerce and tourism, educating young people and in general creating a wonderful quality of life. with deep thanks for your leadership and continued devotion to the arts.

Yours sincerely,
Steve Rowland
Philadelphia, PA 19143