

Mayor's Office
814-437-1670

City Manager's Office
814-437-1485

Finance Department
814-437-1922

Community Services Department
814-437-1430



City of Franklin
430 Thirteenth Street
Franklin, Pennsylvania 16323
www.franklinpa.gov

June 19, 2009

Community Development Dept.
814-437-7841

Fire Department
Business 814-432-3780
Emergency 814-437-2911

Police Department
Business 814-437-1644
Emergency 814-437-2911

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

Dear Governor Rendell:

The City of Franklin understands the economic realities that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the entire nation are faced with, especially as they pertain to budget constraints. Given that, the City of Franklin asks for your support for funding of the Arts in the State's FY-09-10 Budget.

Arts funding, through the Commonwealth, has certainly had a positive effect on Franklin, especially in its downtown, where many of the cultural and social activities are held. Despite the loss of major industries, higher than average unemployment levels, and a population where over 53% are considered low and moderate incomes, Franklin has been able to maintain an active downtown and an enriched quality of life for area residents for the past 30 years. The festivals, concerts, theatre presentations and museums not only help the retailers and dining establishments in the local economy, but they help to buoy the community's attitudes and spirit, as well as the thousands of non-local tourists' that such arts and cultural offerings attract to the area.

Any large withdrawal of funding for the arts will have a decimating effect on Franklin and the surrounding communities in the region that have embraced tourism and the enhancing of our quality of life as ways to stave off economic disinvestment. Once that happens, it becomes so much harder to pull a community back from despair.

It is because of this, the City of Franklin respectfully requests your continued support of the Arts, as you deliberate the 2009-2010 Commonwealth budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert E. Heller". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Robert E. Heller, Mayor