



Advancing the arts in Pennsylvania through advocacy, programs, and services.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITIZENS FROM ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE IMPACT OF THE ARTS Citizens for the Art in Pennsylvania Organizes PA Arts Advocacy Day at the State Capitol

Harrisburg, PA Citizens from across the Commonwealth will join voices as they gather in Harrisburg, at the State Capitol, to call for increased funding for the arts. Scheduled for Wednesday, May 25th, 2022, PA Arts Advocacy Day will draw attention to the impact of the Arts & Culture Sector on the PA Economy, mental/physical health & wellbeing, community development, tourism, and general quality of life for PA residents.

Citizens for the Arts in PA has organized a multitude of cultural organizations and private individuals from across the Commonwealth to participate in the event. The day will begin with the Arts & Culture Caucus meeting at 9:00am in the Senate Majority Caucus Room. Presenters from both the **Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and PA Humanities** will be sharing details about ongoing programming, and their impact across the commonwealth.

Following the Art & Culture Caucus meeting, a press conference will be held in the Main Rotunda of the Capitol Building, starting at 10:00am.

Victory Brinker, a 9-year-old opera singer from Latrobe, PA, will be opening the press conference with the singing of at least one aria. Victory was recently a “golden buzzer” contestant on America’s Got Talent and was honored with a placement in the Guinness Book of World Records for being the worlds youngest professional opera singer.

Following Victory’s performance, CFAPA Executive Director, Pamela Snyder Ethers, will give a statement on the position of Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania, asking for action from Pennsylvania officials in support of increased funding to the arts. Several elected officials, including Arts & Culture Caucus chairmen, Sen. Jay Costa, Rep. Tim Briggs, and Rep. R. Lee James, are also slated to speak on the impact of the Arts & Culture sector. Additionally, founders of the **I’m Fine Project**, Carrie Breschi and Maureen Joyce, will share the impact of their program across the commonwealth. “I’m fine.”, a phrase we often say when we are not fine, is a statewide community project dedicated to sculpting mental health awareness, conversations, and support through art.

Following the press conference, attendees will make legislative visits to update their lawmakers on the impact of increased funding for the arts in their communities.

A special highlight of the day will be the more than 30 students attending from multiple school districts across the Commonwealth. Students will participate in every aspect of the day including attending the Arts & Culture Caucus meeting, meeting with state legislators, attending the press conference, and participating in the I’m Fine project in a mask making workshop in the afternoon. The workshop will take place in Rep. Causer’s conference room located in 147 Main Capitol.

Additional plans for the day include the possible live streaming of performances happening throughout the Commonwealth on small screens placed throughout the capitol building, a mini performance of the play Cato, a play said to have been used by General Washington to motivate his troops at the crossing of the Delaware, and an additional aria performance by Victory Brinker.

For additional information on PA Arts Advocacy Day and registration details, go online to www.citizensfortheartsinpa.org, call 814-932-0457, or email execdir@citizensfortheartsinpa.org.

Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania (CFAPA) is a statewide arts advocacy organization that organizes the arts community to challenge the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Legislature to support funding and legislation that will bolster the arts and culture sector. Our mission is to ensure the practice of, access to, and appreciation of arts and culture for all citizens in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Through advocacy and policy development Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania works to create a Commonwealth where the arts and culture sector is viewed as a critical component of a livable, workable, and educated Pennsylvania.

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