

January 26, 2007

Governor/Senator/Assemblymember [full name]

_____ State Capitol

Sacramento, CA _____

Dear Governor/Senator/Assemblymember [last name]:

I am writing to you regarding the restoration of funding for the California Arts Council (CAC) in the 2007-08 state budget. It has been four years since state funding from the general fund was reduced from \$32 million to \$1.1 million. At just \$0.03 per person, California spends less per capita than any other state or territory in the United States – less than Mississippi, the District of Columbia and Guam. In comparison, New York spends \$2.35 per person.

As a result, California no longer funds artists' residencies in the schools, community institutions and jails; the state's touring program has disappeared; and there are no fellowships for individual artists. Without support, we will continue to lose our State's most creative and talented people – a trend which is already beginning.

The arts play a vital role in communities throughout California, impacting public safety, youth development, health issues, tourism, economic development and quality of life. In addition, the arts industry has a positive economic impact of \$5.4 billion per year. The non-profit arts sector also has a huge social impact in reducing juvenile delinquency and recidivism among released prisoners.

[Please include any personal experience or specific examples of arts, cultural or arts education programs that impact the community]

The Governor and legislature approved increases for arts education in California schools this year. I urge you to take the next step and support restoration of general fund support for the California Arts Council in the amount of \$37 million, or \$1.00 per capita, and help bring back vital arts programs to California.

Sincerely,

[Your name]

[Organization/affiliation/profession, if applicable]

[Address]

[Contact information]