

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Vinny Mraz and I'm a sophomore at Emerson College in Boston studying Theatre education with an emphasis in performance. I graduated from the Educational Center for the Arts in New Haven in 2007. While at ECA I studied in the theatre department and worked with some of the most talented theatre professionals I have ever met. The faculty at ECA, both in the theatre department and the school as a whole are some of the most dedicated, passionate and inspiring educators working in their fields. They gave me the skills and knowledge I needed to continue on with my study in theatre, and I know for a fact if it were not for ECA I would not be at Emerson now.

My education at ECA prepared me so well that much of the material covered in my classes my first year at Emerson was practically a review for me. I was able to get a full grasp on all the material because of my training and education at ECA. ECA is a gift to the arts in New Haven, and a rare but incredible program at least. As a student studying both theatre and pursuing a career in education, institutions like ECA are near and dear to me. I know that it is programs like ECA where I will find myself making a living and hopefully inspiring my students, much like my teachers did for me. It is because of ECA that I have such a passion for the arts; it is because of the teachers there that I want to continue in the field of education. My words alone may not mean much, but I know I am not alone in saying that ECA is a gift, it is an important stepping stone in many young artists lives and it is a school that provides students with contact to some of the most knowledgeable, passionate and inspiring professionals in the artistic field.

It would be a devastating loss to New Haven and Connecticut alone if ECA were to shut down, and it would negatively effect the lives of many students to whom ECA is a place for flourishing, for honing their crafts, and for developing a mature appreciation for the arts and bringing that appreciation out into the world. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Vinny Mraz
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