

Friis, John

From: benjaminseaman@gmail.com on behalf of Benjamin Seaman [ben@benjaminseaman.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 6:05 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: HB6666, Section 5

Dear John Friis,

I am writing to let you know how important The Educational Center for the Arts in New Haven, Connecticut was to my growth and prosperity.

When I first entered ECA I was what I now know is considered an "at-risk" youth. I had run away from home at 15, was staying with friends and sometimes parents of friends' homes, I was attending high school and waiting tables to support myself. ECA was the one place during the day where I got taken seriously - even at my young age - as someone with potential, and as someone who could make a contribution to the world of art, design and creative writing. It was ECA professor Anna Broesnick who pushed me to apply to art school when the only thing I pictured for myself was waiting tables, and thanks to her support and the support of other teachers there I attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago on scholarship, which led to a rich and varied career involving performances of my creative writing, exhibitions of my paintings, and an art director position at the Wall Street Journal which I held for 5 years. Now I am a psychotherapist specializing in creative people and am very clear the support I got at ECA was a model for what I do now. Please do everything in your power to maintain this amazing and essential resource in the community.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Seaman
Class of 1986
Education Center for the Arts

BENJAMIN G. SEAMAN, LCSW
Psychotherapy & Consultation
Bilingual English/Spanish
156 Fifth Avenue, Suite 620
New York, NY 10010
212.465.3126 Voicemail
646-415-8531 Office
www.benjaminseaman.com

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The information in this E-Mail may be confidential and may be legally privileged. It is intended solely for the addressee(s). If you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, copying, distribution or any action taken or omitted to be taken in reliance on this e-mail, is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this E-Mail message in error, notify the sender by reply E-Mail and delete the message.