

Dear Committee,

I graduated in 2006 from the Theater department. Other students will write to you about how great ECA is and how much it changed them as an artist. That's not my story, I did not love ECA, and did not have an incredible experience, but I *still* think ECA is vital to the future of the New Haven Community.

I study Economics at Brandeis and, on Friday, we studied the Cobb-Douglas production function. The Cobb-Douglas function has 3 components to an economy - capital, labor, and "A." "A", though undefined, more profoundly effects economic growth than the other two components. On Friday, Professor Hall of Brandeis University, argued that "A" is ideas. He says that ideas and creativity generate the immense growth of the US economy.

These great ideas are inspired by the arts. I am telling you about the Cobb-Douglas production function because ideas and creativity cannot be quantified the same way capital and labor can be, but they deeply affect the economy and our future growth. I want you to understand, ECA is an investment in the future of the New Haven economy. ECA does not just "teach" the arts, it creates an artist community where students generate incredible ideas and learn how to employ their own creativity.

I will not be an actress when I grow up. But I will continue to be inspired by art and I will continue to be creative. Students from my class will continue investing in their creativity and will change the world for the better. ECA is an investment - a genuine economic investment in our future. Do not cut your budget by cutting into this vital center of creativity - the creativity that will only help us in the long run.

Heddy Ben-Atar
Brandeis University Class of 2011