

Testimony Submitted re Governor's Deficit Mitigation Plan

I am writing in response to Governor Rell's proposed Deficit Mitigation Plan's drastic cuts to the Culture & Tourism Budget. I'm a 34 year Connecticut visual artists and past recipient of artist grant awards from the Commission on Culture & Tourism and the Greater Hartford Arts Council. State funding for the arts is a vital component to attracting and sustaining creative communities in our state. Visual and performing venues are a significant tourist attraction, draw costumers in to our retail and restaurant businesses and directly benefit our public schools. Please do not permit these drastic and substantial cuts to the Culture & Tourism Budget to move forward and commit to preserve state support of Connecticut's creative resources.

Sincerely,
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