

Burns, Vanessa

From: Susan Smith [ssmith@creativeartsworkshop.org]

Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2011 2:54 PM

To: AppropriationTestimony

Subject: Testimony for Conservation and Development

Dear Senator Tony Harp and Senator Tony Walker,

I am writing to ask that the FY2011 budgets for Culture Tourism and Arts Grants and Basic Cultural Resources not be cut any further. Unfortunately Creative Arts Workshop is not a line-item in the state's budget, nor do we receive any support from those who are, and as such are greatly effected when the budget for Culture and Tourism gets cut.

Now in its 50th year, Creative Arts Workshop, located in New Haven serves students throughout the state who are pursuing life-long learning in the visual arts. We have 2800 students annually, 1000 young people and 1800 adults, enrolled in our extensive curriculum, making us the largest community-based visual arts school in the state. In addition we provide programming for area public schools, community groups and those people with special needs.

One of our students, Vito Bonanno who is a young man with autism , was selected as one of 15 artists in the country to receive an award of \$15,000 and to participate in a national touring exhibition, based the excellence of the art he has produced with one of our faculty members. We have the facility and faculty to provide similar programs to others but we need financial support to do so. The Organizational Grant that Creative Arts Workshop which received in FY2009 was \$40,000, this amount was cut by 66% last year. We need this support from the state to provide programs for those people who would otherwise not be able to afford them.

I would be pleased to discuss this issue with you further. Thank you for continued support of the arts in the state.

Susan Smith

Susan Smith
Director
Creative Arts Workshop
80 Audubon Street
New Haven, CT 06510
203-562-4927 phone
203-562-2329 fax
ssmith@creativeartsworkshop.org
www.creativeartsworkshop.org

enriching lives...building community