

Date: March 2, 2015  
To: CT Appropriations Committee  
From: Jessica Morozowich, Arts Advocate, Administrator and Grantwriter  
Re: Testimony in support of DECD and Cultural Funding

Dear State Representatives,

I understand the enormity of identifying solutions to the State's financial challenges, and respect the fact that everyone must share the burden and responsibility of the needed reductions. However, the proposed **14% cut in state funding to the arts sector, and deletion of all line items is extremely disproportionate in relation to the rest of the state budget cuts and will CRIPLE an industry that provides great financial return to the state.**

When you consider the additional cuts to the heritage sector, science museums and other attractions this is a 29.5% cut. Add in the tourism districts which promote these arts and culture venues for the state and now the cuts are over 38%!

These cuts are counter-productive to the states goal of increasing revenue. The recent CT Arts and Economic Prosperity Study found that the states modest support of the non-profit arts sector yields a high financial return:

- **The Arts generates \$653 million** in total economic activity
- **The Arts supports 18,314 full-time equivalent local jobs**
- **The Arts generates \$462.5 million in local household income** to residents
- **The Arts delivers \$59.1 million** in local and state government revenue

These impressive *numbers are actually understated* due to less-than-a-100 percent response rate from Connecticut's arts and culture organizations (329 out of approximately 1,138 in CT responded).

*Please* think about what your town would be like without its local museums, theatres, annual festivals, and arts programming for your children and families. *Please* think about your local entrepreneurial shops and restaurants, many that survive on the traffic these local venues bring to town. The arts and cultural industry is what makes Connecticut GREAT! These places are what make Connecticut "quintessential" New England. They are why I moved back to Connecticut from Philadelphia after college and graduate school. **Support them and they will support you!!** The cost is minimal, but the return is immense.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Jessica Morozowich*

Jessica Morozowich, Arts Administrator, Advocate, and Grantwriter