

Dear Legislators:

I've heard the alarming news that funding to the Community Investment Act--and thus to the initiatives and missions of invaluable organizations such as CT Humanities and the CT Trust for Historic Preservation, for example--may be slated for destruction for at least the next two years. This is news that few citizens will hear of unless they are reading or listening very, very carefully; even fewer will realize the impact of these cuts on their quality of life within our state.

To name just one very local and specific effect, consider the fact that the Madison Historical Society's Frederick Lee Lectures, which I have curated for the past seven years, have been, finally, after great effort, funded through a grant from CT Humanities both this year and last. Those lectures, twenty-four in all since the inception of the series, help not just to educate Madison's citizens and the others who travel to us from across the state but also help to build the sense of community in which we all take pride and comfort. Losing that hard-won funding may very well mean the end of the series and a loss to the greater community, which often fills the hall to capacity, eager to gather the knowledge that makes us proud to live together and to contribute to the growth of a town with historic roots.

Secondly, a consortium of Madison educational and cultural organizations, including the historical society and the Charlotte Evarts Archives and others such as music faculty & students from Daniel Hand High School, are collaborating on a CT Humanities grant application that will help fund a townwide World War One exhibition. Again, should the funds allocated to CT Humanities be seriously curtailed, our local educational and patriotic exhibition is in true peril.

Lastly, all of the programs of the CT League of History Organizations (CLHO), which receives 60% of its budget from CT Humanities, are overwhelmingly threatened. These three examples are a fraction of the overall statewide picture.

I beseech you to vote against this devastating budget cut. The CIA ensures that all CT communities can be exemplary places to live, work, learn, and play. I would like to feel certain that our appropriations committee and other state representatives care about CT's cultural and educational institutions. Please do not allow partisan concerns and political philosophies to blind you to the need to support the arts and humanities that sustain and encourage and enlighten all of us, particularly in tough economic times.

Thank you for your time and service.

Best regards,

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