

February 10, 2016

TO: Conservation and Development Committee

FROM: Ryan Odinak, Fairfield, CT

RE: Arts Funding Changes

As a concerned citizen and long time arts advocate I urge you to consider the following suggestions regarding arts funding when making your response to the Governor's Mid-term budget proposals:

- reinstate the 25% cut in arts funding that is in the Governor's proposed FY 17 budget revisions,
- vote against consolidations of all Office of the Arts line items into one account, DECD Agency Operations
- reinstate the Governor's proposed 5.75% cut to the DECD Operations account
- prevent any move of arts and culture line item funds from DECD to the Comptroller, and
- reinstate the annual contribution to the State's Arts Endowment.

The arts and cultural sector is a revenue generating sector that is a significant employer and creates tax revenue for the state. The arts and cultural sector has proven that it is a sound financial investment and an asset to the State. The State's last Arts & Economic Prosperity study convincingly illustrated that investing State dollars in the nonprofit arts and cultural industry pays back more than five and a half times in State tax revenues what the State provides in funding to the Arts – *and those figures are a conservative estimate.*

I recognize the enormity of identifying solutions to the State's financial challenges. Thank you for all that you do and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ryan Odinak
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