Subject: Funding/Arts, Culture, and Tourism Fund

I am writing to let the Appropriations Committee know that Connecticut arts participants, whether art makers or arts appreciators, want the State to support the Arts AND see the Arts as a valuable economic and cultural gem. Connecticut has been very responsive and supportive of the Arts, and it is hoped that Government and the Arts can continue to work together for the benefit of all Nutmeggers!
I am a visual artist and member of the Naugatuck Valley Arts Council (currently based in Ansonia), and former member of Greater New Haven Community Chorus. These groups actively participate in bringing arts activities to everyone in their communities. Every time such groups benefit from the policies of our legislators, children, youths, and adults all around the state benefit.
I would like to be on record as supporting the past, well illustrated by the New Haven Arts Council Director, that follow:

- Thank you for your consistent support for the creative sector, particularly creating the Tourism Fund (PA 17-2) last year. However, the overall investment you have been provided to appropriate has decreased 60% since 2009.
- We thank the Governor for maintaining current funding levels for arts and culture in his budget, which will prevent further negative consequences. However, with a $7 to $1 return on investment, a greater investment is imperative to maximize our community and economic impact.
- The recommended adjustments to the Tourism Fund from the Lamont-Bysiewicz Arts, Culture, and Tourism Policy Committee provide a clear and strategic path forward:
  - Adjust the portion of lodging tax revenue deposited from 10% to 25%, placing Connecticut proudly in the lead among our neighboring states for arts and tourism with just 0.17% invested from our overall state budget
  - Dedicate 40% to arts and culture and 60% to tourism, mirroring the current allocations
  - Appropriate 100% of the available dollars annually to support arts, culture, and tourism
  - Change the names of the "Tourism Fund" itself and the "Statewide Marketing" line to "Arts, Culture, and Tourism Fund" and "Statewide Tourism Marketing," respectively, reflecting how these resources are used.

I hope the Committee and the General Assembly will consider these points going forward.

Respectfully,
Betsy Chorney Rosenberg
Artist, After Midnight Creations