

TALKING POINTS RESTORATION OF BUDGET CUTS TO OCA ARTS FUNDING

ECONOMIC IMPACT/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The economic impact of the arts is substantial:

- 4,157,491 people attended 50,143 City funded arts events and cultural events in our City in 2008. Of these, 1,585,600 were children and youth.
- More people attended major cultural events, exhibits, classes and arts festivals than attend all professional sporting events in the Metroplex combined.
- For every \$1.00 invested in the arts in Texas, more than \$298 of cultural impact on the economy occurs (Ray Perryman study).
- The City's investment in the cultural arts leverages substantial private support. In 2008, the City's investment leveraged \$90,207,611 in private sector support.
- Less investment by the City equals less economic development and investment by the corporate and private sectors.
- In 2008, the City completed seven public art projects and 46 public art conservation projects.
- When added together the combined totals of the budgeted expenses for all city-funded arts groups for 2008 was \$95,306,257. The City of Dallas invested \$4,612,866 in those organizations through their grants, or 5% of the total amount spent on employment in our local arts industry.
- The arts are essential to the long-term economic development initiatives in our community.
- Wide-ranging broad-based investment in the arts can be a fundamental force in providing greater opportunities for the least advantaged segments of society.
- In a time of economic downturn, it is not logical to cut something that has proven to have great economic impact.
- With construction costs increasing, deferring repairs to our cultural facilities will only make them more expensive later. The result will degrade the public and private investment in arts facilities and the quality of operations within those facilities.
- Other cities are moving forward to compete with Dallas for corporate relocations, tourism, convention business, and events such as the Olympics. The arts are a key factor in attracting this activity.

CRIME/PUBLIC SAFETY

The Best Crime Prevention Program is better quality of life:

- The arts programs offered to the youth in our community are effective tools for reducing crime, truancy and gang involvement.
- Some of the very best programs for at-risk youth are being produced by our arts groups during the non-school hours and are a cost-effective way of creating alternatives to crime and drug-use. If the arts budget is cut, many of these programs will be cut or drastically reduced.
- Arts plus youth equals less crime and in the long run, will reduce the need for law enforcement.
- Arts Programs during non-school hours take place in every neighborhood in the City.

EDUCATION

The arts are a key component in the educational system. They are a vital element of educational success, linked to superior student performance across a broad range of measures.

Arts Programs are critical to reducing the drop-out rate in our schools. According to the study “*Champions of Change*” (GE Fund/MacArthur Foundation Report), the arts have a measurable impact on students in "high-poverty" and urban settings and the arts in after-school and summer programs guide disadvantaged youth toward positive behavior and goals:

- Students with high levels of arts participation outperform "arts-poor" students on virtually every measure.
 - The arts have a measurable impact on students in "high-poverty" and urban settings.
 - Learning through the arts has significant effects on learning in other domains.
 - The arts enable educators to reach students in effective ways.
 - Arts experiences enhance critical thinking abilities and outcomes.
 - Non-school hours are the most likely time for adolescents to engage in at-risk behavior. Young adolescents are least likely to get the support they need, leaving them at great risk of teen pregnancy, alcohol and drug abuse, suicide, violence and inadequate education.
- Arts Programs will help develop the creative workforce of the future. The future workforce will enter “a world in which comfort with ideas and abstractions is the passport to a good job, in which creativity and innovation are the key to the good life.” (*Tough Choices or Tough Time – UDE/NEA*)
 - Arts Programs provide our citizens with lifelong learning opportunities.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Dallas is a city that values imagination, quality, industry and achievement:

- The City of Dallas is making an extraordinary commitment to the arts in the Arts District with the Center for the Performing Arts that will benefit the entire community providing a broad spectrum of high quality cultural activities. Programming cuts would jeopardize the ability of local groups to perform in these new venues.
- Now is not the time to slow the process of developing Dallas arts organizations into world-class institutions when we are on the cusp of completing the finest arts district in the country.

INCLUSIVE CREATIVITY/LEGACY

The arts are critical to the expression and celebration of our diversity and are also our most fundamental means of communication:

- We can communicate to people from other countries and cultures without knowing their language through the arts.
- We can communicate across centuries through the legacy of the arts we create today. The arts are an important bridge to understanding between cultures.
- Our knowledge of ancient cultures is known primarily through their art – cave paintings, mosaics, sculpture, drawings, and frescoes. It is important to leave a long lasting legacy for future centuries.
- The Neighborhood Touring Program is the only City of Dallas Program that employs individual artists from all disciplines, age groups, and ethnicities. If we eliminate this program through funding cuts, we will lose vital access to cross-cultural participation.
- Arts organizations are working in all council districts to bring cultural programs to all citizens.
- iMedia is an important link to bring cultural programs to the entire City. Their programs ensure access and opportunities for self-expression to a broad cross section of artists, arts groups and citizens.