

## **TALKING POINTS RESTORATION OF BUDGET CUTS TO OCA ARTS FUNDING**

### **ECONOMIC IMPACT/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The economic impact of the arts is substantial:

- More than 4 million people attended 50,143 City funded arts events and cultural events in our City in 2007. Of these, 1,585,600 were children and youth.
- 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.
- The arts are essential to the long-term economic development initiatives in our community.
- In a time of economic downturn, it is not logical to cut something that has proven to have great economic impact.
- 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*”, 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.
- 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 Times*)
- 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.
- Arts organizations are working in all council districts to bring cultural programs to all citizens.