

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

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

The economic impact of the arts is substantial:

- More than 5,606,500 million people attended 49,431 City funded arts events and cultural events in our City in 2009.
- 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 2009, the City's investment of \$14.2 million leveraged \$123.3 million 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, and the arts are a key factor in attracting such activity. There are cities in much worse shape than Dallas who are not considering such draconian cuts. In fact, no other city in the USA has suggested cutting arts funding so severely.

### **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.