



July 3, 2008

The Honorable Karen Bass
Speaker of the California State Assembly
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly appointees to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Arts

Dear Speaker Bass:

California Arts Advocates (CAA) is a nonprofit organization that represents artists, arts organizations, and Californians who support the arts. Its membership is a broad spectrum of budget sizes, arts disciplines, diverse cultures, audiences and regions.

On behalf of its members, arts stakeholders and the families they serve, CAA requests that you appoint six (6) members of the state Assembly to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Arts, at your earliest convenience, and again when the 2009-10 legislative session convenes in January.

This committee is entering its fourth year without full membership. Consequently, it has not been able to meet to hear public testimony and gather information about the impact of the arts and the creative industry on California's economy, tourism, social services, workforce and communities. Committee Chair, Senator Jack Scott last led interim hearings on the arts in 2003, "California Arts Funding"; 2002, "Arts and Education"; and 2001, "The Arts Advantage to California in the Changing World". California's nonprofit arts organizations contribute \$5.4 billion to California's economy, and are a viable partner in creating solutions to the state's current fiscal crisis.

Over the years, CAA has met with numerous assembly members who have expressed interest in filling the six vacancies, and serving along side the current Senate members of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Arts, including Betty Karnette, Mark Leno, Fiona Ma, and Anthony Portantino.

If there are any questions, please feel free to call our legislative advocate, Ms. Kathryn Lynch at (916) 443-0202. Thank you for your commitment to arts and a better, more creative California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Cullen Caretto".

Lisa Cullen Caretto
Executive Director

CC: Kathryn Lynch, Legislative Advocate, Lynch & Associates
California Arts Advocate Board Members

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