

California
ARTS *Advocates*

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March 16, 2010

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The Honorable Curren Price
California State Senate
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via fax: 916-445-8899

RE: SB 1076
Position: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Price:

California Arts Advocates (CAA) 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. Its membership also includes non-profit arts organizations who serve communities with the help of California Arts Council (CAC) funding and programs.

On behalf of its members, CAA thanks you for introducing SB 1076 and supports its passage. Since 2003, California has ranked last among all the states in per capita investment in the arts—allocating just three cents per person from the General Fund, when the national average is one dollar. SB 1076 would assist the California Arts Council to offset the 81% reduction to its budget over the last 8 years—cuts which have resulted in reduced arts education programming and less funding for arts programs in rural and underserved urban areas.

SB 1076 will boost resources for the important work of the Council by attracting voluntary donations from individual California tax-payers. SB 1076 enables personal income tax filers to donate money to the California Arts Council to fund art and art education programs by checking a box in section 400 of Form 540 and 540A for the purpose of funding arts education programs in schools and arts programs in rural and underserved areas, as well as other California Arts Council programs.

The arts are vital to the quality of life that we are so very proud of in California. The arts-related sector statewide supports 86,000 arts-related businesses employing more than 485,000 Californians. The state's nonprofit arts sectors specifically generates \$5.4 billion in total economic impact each year, creating 66,000 full-time and 95,000 part-time jobs, and returning \$300 million in state and local taxes.

Additionally, the arts

- Are part of the core curriculum for our state's school children, sparking creativity and spurring achievement in all study areas
- Unite our communities, celebrating diversity and building bridges of tolerance and understanding
- Are a magnet for cultural tourism
- Revitalize depressed neighborhoods
- Attract creative workers and industries of all kinds
- Provide an infrastructure for innovation that drives California's creative industry

Your legislation will provide crucial new funding from concerned taxpayers for the important work of the California Arts Council—without touching the General Fund. Thank you for your commitment to a better California.

Sincerely,

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Brad Erickson
President

cc: Michael Pro시오, Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office
Ms. Kathryn Lynch, Legislative Advocate, Lynch & Associates