



DATE

The Honorable "Full Name"  
Texas House of Representatives  
PO Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768

OR

The Honorable "Full Name"  
Texas Senate  
PO Box 12068 Capitol Station  
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Representative "Last Name":

Dear Senator "Last Name":

**We appreciated having the opportunity to express our views on the following issues and their importance to music, arts and culture across Texas.**

- Restoring the \$5 million for Cultural & Fine Arts Districts to the Texas Commission on the Arts' appropriation;
- Supporting the current provisions of Texas Tax Code Ch. 351 regarding the use of hotel occupancy taxes to support tourism related to arts and culture;
- Supporting the education, arts, and business community's commitment, in concert with the Texas Education Agency, to ensure that every student has equal access and opportunity to an arts rich education.
- Support ensuring "the arts and music" as defined by Every Student Succeeds Act ("ESSA") include "music, dance, media arts, theatre, and visual arts", and part of a "well rounded education" including professional training for arts educators.
- Fund the Moving Image Industry Incentive Program (Film, Television, Commercial and Video Game Incentives) at the \$70 million level. Current biennium funding is \$24 million. Film incentives are vital for keeping the film business thriving in Texas. The Texas legislature cut the film incentive program significantly in 2015. The film industry is losing business to neighboring states with more well-funded incentive programs.
- Support of the Music, Film, Television, and Multimedia Office in the office of the governor and the moving image industry incentive program.

**The economic impact of the Arts and Culture Industry means that state's investment of public resources in the arts results in an impressive rate of return.**

- The arts generate \$5.5 BILLION each year for our state's economy. (That's how much it takes to run Dallas and San Antonio, two of our state's biggest cities, for a year!)
- The arts contribute \$343.7 MILLION in state sales tax revenue annually.
- Texas' creative sector employs one in 15 Texans – nearly 800,000 innovation workers – whose average wage is \$80,300 compared to \$44,000 for non-creative industries.
- This sector has increased 25.1% over the past 10 years.

We hope you will join us in supporting the music, film, the arts and culture industry as an engine for our economy and a vital contributor to student success across Texas.

Sincerely,