

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

As the president of the Allied Arts Fund Drive (AAFD), I would like to express the concern of our board, the nine member organizations, and the other recipients of the City Subsidy regarding the significant budget decrease the Arts received for 2003. We are asking the council to re-instate this funding at the level requested \$14,678, which is the 2002 budget allocation plus 3%. As requested and approved by the Mayor Munson, City Council President Ron Kroeger, and Mr. Preston, we will be attending the Legal and Finance Committee meeting on January 29, 2003 at 1:15 P.M. Members of our board and the affected arts organizations will be in attendance asking for your support for this request. Julie Smoragiewicz, AAFD Past President will be representing me at the meeting.

I appreciate your willingness to include this issue early in the agenda.

Our concern is broad. First, and foremost, each arts organization depends on the city subsidy as a substantial component of their operating expenses. The decrease in funding will directly affect operations and depress growth in many areas. Of even greater concern is the negative message we perceive the City Council to be sending to the community in terms of the importance of the arts to this community's cultural and economic growth.

We ask for your support and look forward to discussing this issue with you at the Legal and Finance Committee meeting on the 29th. Please contact our office (394-4106) if you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Karen Mortimer
President, Allied Arts Fund Drive