



ADVOCACY ALERT - October 2017

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE: ADVOCATE NOW for CT'S ARTS!

The current budget proposal from the Connecticut Legislature threatens any National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funding to Connecticut, **and** has severe and damaging reductions in our state's funding of the Arts sector.

THE PROPOSAL

The proposed CT budget structure is that a new account would be formed - *Marketing, Culture and Tourism Account* – and it's funds would come from a percentage of the hotel tax in CT, which is not a general fund source, nor is it a source that is *controlled* by state government.

The CT Arts Alliance has been informed that, of those *Marketing, Culture and Tourism Account* funds, \$12 million is likely to be allocated to Arts, Tourism, Preservation, and Marketing. It is more than likely that State-wide Marketing will get the bulk of those funds.

WHAT TO FOCUS ON IN YOUR ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Please explain to your State legislators and to the Governor, via email, phone message, text or messaging:

1. In order for CT not to completely disqualify itself from receiving federal NEA matching funds, **CT's budget MUST have at least \$1 million in funds sourced through the General Fund**, and not through the fund that is controlled only by revenues generated by the hotel industry, as is currently proposed. *What is currently proposed will disqualify CT from receiving NEA funds.*

AND

2. In order to maintain an already bare bones nonprofit cultural sector that has proven to be a sound and dependable return on investment, **Arts needs to receive at least \$5 million in additional funding from the new *Marketing, Culture and Tourism Account***. *That is what will allow the Arts sector to continue to generate state and local revenues and make our state a great place to live, work and play.*

Help those in government understand what will be lost if the current proposal moves forward.

Tell them why it's important to receive those NEA matching funds, that these funds, together with State Arts funding, provide affordable access to the arts FOR ALL CT'S RESIDENTS (not just tourists) in the form of programs and services that are integral to quality of life, to education of our children, to healthcare services, to public safety concerns, and of course to tourism and the economic vitality of municipalities.

Tell your specific story about your personal experience with the arts in Connecticut; how it has made a meaningful and important impact on you, people you know, your town, etc. If you work or volunteer for a nonprofit arts organization tell the story from that perspective and what you have observed about impact.

We are not asking much, because the Arts have been getting so little from the state over the years – just 2 1/100th of a percent of the most recent state budget! We are just asking that they allow the arts to survive and remain accessible to everyone – not just the wealthy or the tourists - while remaining a great return on investment.

Find your Legislators - <https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/cgafindleg.asp>

Contact the Governor - governor.malloy@po.state.ct.us