Appropriations Committee

April 3, 2025

**Public Hearing on S.B. 1551**

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S SPENDING ON ARTS AND HUMANITIES ACTIVITIES

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Somers, Representative Nuccio, and esteemed members of the Appropriations Committee,

**[Make it personal!]**Introduce yourself, your organization and the programs & services you provide to your community.

I am submitting testimony in support of S.B. 1551 with respect to the need for increased investment in statewide arts, culture and tourism infrastructure.

**[Make it personal!]**

If you received funding from the Cultural Fund during COVID, or you receive funding from the Connecticut Office of the Arts or Connecticut Humanities this is your chance to tell your story about how it impacted your organization and your community. In 150-250 words help us demonstrate how our sector contributes to Connecticut’s success in 1-2 of the following ways:

* **Workforce Development:** Investment in our sector helps retain jobs and hire new staff members, keeping CT residents employed and bringing in talent from other states;
* **Economic Development:** Investment in our sector brings dollars into cultural organizations, restaurants, hotels, and other businesses ([See CT Humanities' AEP 6 Calculator](https://cthumanities.org/aep6calculator/))
* **Educational Attainment:** How do you or your program support schools and teachers by providing classroom materials, field trips, and educational opportunities/digital resources;
* **Out of State Investment:** How has funding from Office of the Arts or CT Humanities increased your ability to leverage federal and private funds to advance your mission;
* **Cultural Vibrancy:** Cultural organizations make your town a place that people want to live in and visit, tell your story about how you impact your community!
* **Engagement:** How do you foster a sense of community and keep residents more informed and engaged, fostering empathy and building relationships?

The entire creative sector drives nearly $12 billion to Connecticut’s economy, employs 54,000 people, and represents 4% of our GDP. State investments in the arts are an investment in the Connecticut economy, our cities and towns, and the quality of life for all our residents. This investment also has a net positive effect for our communities, every dollar invested by the state returns at least $7 in economic activity. Non-profits alone generate $348 million in revenue for local businesses, expend over $600 million in our communities, support over 16,000 jobs, and bring in more than 10 million people to our downtowns.

Despite this clear impact Connecticut lags far behind our neighboring states in investment in this sector. This increased support is an important step toward making Connecticut a leader in New England and across the country in the arts, culture and tourism sectors. Please support increasing funding for these organizations doing important work to bring our communities together through arts and culture, increase creative and innovative economic activity in our downtowns, and increase community health and vibrancy.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Title

Organization

Contact Information