

November 19, 2007

The Honorable Eliot Spitzer
Governor
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Spitzer:

I am writing on behalf of the Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester and the 800 members we represent, including cultural organizations, educational institutions, and artists from a broad range of creative disciplines.

I strongly encourage you to include the requested funding increase for the New York State Council on the Arts, \$51.5 million (8.4% over 2007-2008), in your 2008 Budget.

As you know, the arts play a vital role in education, public safety, and economic development throughout New York State. In fact, Americans for the Arts has recently released a national economic impact study, which provides concrete evidence that the nonprofit cultural industry is a strong contributor to economic development.

In Monroe County alone, nonprofit cultural organizations and their audiences generate nearly \$200 million each year in economic activity, supporting over 6,000 full-time equivalent jobs. Even more importantly, the [study](#) documents that each dollar invested in a nonprofit cultural corporation generates a return on investment for local and state government as well as local business.

I strongly encourage you to include in your budget the investment in the arts represented by increased funding for the New York State Council on the Arts.

Sincerely,

Sarah E. Lentini
President and CEO
Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester, Inc.