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Arts & Cultural Council Calls for State Budget Parity

The New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) faces another cut to its already diminished Local Assistance Program, vital to funding arts and cultural organizations in our region. Considering the modest upfront costs versus the sizeable long-term benefits of funding the arts, there are concerns throughout the arts community statewide that the cuts to NYSCA's Local Assistance budget are *penny wise and pound foolish*. Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester President and CEO Sarah Lentini stated, "The arts are vital to the growth of New York State, especially as we compete in a world market. Here in Rochester/Monroe County alone, nonprofit arts organizations generate \$200 million in economic impact each year, a significant portion of which directly supports New York State. Further cuts in arts funding – already an unbelievably scant .0003% of the overall state budget – are truly counterproductive. We need to work toward the sustainability of our exceptional cultural community statewide – it's in the best interests of all New York State residents."^{1, 2, 3}

The Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester is participating in efforts to restore funding for NYSCA at Arts Day on February 8, 2011, at the Legislative Office Building in Albany. Arts Day will include: a press conference featuring Assemblymember Steve Englebright (D-8), Chair of the Assembly Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development, and comments by artists and arts organization leaders from across the state. The Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester is calling on the Governor and the New York State Legislature to restore the \$2.8 million in NYSCA's Local Assistance funding, which would reduce the cut to 2%, on par with other State agencies.

¹ [The Arts & Economic Prosperity III, a study conducted by the Arts & Cultural Council, in partnership with Americans for the Arts](#)

² [Cuomo unveils \\$132.9 billion budget, Rochester Business Journal, February 1, 2011](#)

³ [New York State Division of the Budget 2011-2010 Budget, Agency Presentations: Council on the Arts](#)