

02-10-2020

Dear Ms. Walker,

I am writing to you as a committed Music Haven Board Member, who has been honored to be part of the organization for the past nine years, including three as Board Chair. It has come to my attention that the CT Department of Economic and Community Development and the Office for the Arts, has decided to remove Music Haven from the list of organizations receiving line item funding for the next year. In the previous year we were on the list as recipients of \$100,000, which is significant for our organization, with a \$650,000 budget.

Now in its fourteenth year, Music Haven has enjoyed success and recognition as the only program in New Haven offering 100% free music tuition and instruments to students from our low-income neighborhoods. The mission of the organization is to use the teaching of music to:

1. Develop strong teacher/mentor relationships, which promote basic work and study habits and perseverance, that extend to all aspects of their lives.
2. Involve parents, by requiring their support and engaging them in their children's experience and education, fostering family and community connections.
3. Promote a sense of individual worth and accomplishment, leading to continuation of education, post high school. (100% of our high school graduates to date have gone on to four year colleges).

The dedication, enthusiasm, and tireless work of the staff, the musicians who play and teach and the administration who make it possible, serves the program and is also a model to the students who participate.

I would urge and request that you reconsider your decision to remove us from the budget, and reinstate Music Haven as a recipient of state funding. Your participation sends an important message about this administration's values and commitment to community. Thank you.

With respect,

Wendy D. Marans  
Music Haven Board Member  
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