



FLORENCE GRISWOLD MUSEUM

Home of American Impressionism

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February 10, 2021

The Honorable Paul Formica
Legislative Office Building, Room 3100
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Formica,

On behalf of the Florence Griswold Museum, our staff and Trustees, I am writing to express our support for HB 6119 – An Act Concerning Arts, Culture, and Tourism Funding. The support the arts, museums, and other cultural institutions from the State of Connecticut through the Connecticut Office of the Arts, Connecticut Humanities, the annual budget, and other resources has proven to be vital to our success. Each year, we rely upon the funding from the Connecticut Office of the Arts to support our exhibitions and educational programming. Grants made from Connecticut Humanities, which we have applied for and received on an almost annual basis for a number of years, provide funding to engage visitors in new and dynamic ways with the arts. In short, without State funding we would not be able to provide the level of outreach, educational programming, and exhibitions that serve the greatest good and needs of the public.

HB 6119 will allow a greater portion of the hotel occupancy tax to be used in support of the arts, cultural institutions, and tourism initiatives. Over the last decade we have been witness to a substantial decrease in funding for the arts and tourism. More importantly, we have seen the devastating effects that the pandemic has played upon the hotel, service, and tourism industries. Funding at the State level is more crucial now than ever before.

Your support of HB 6119 is vital to our success and that of so many other institutions that rely upon not only tourism but State funding to meet budgeted goals. It was a difficult year, in many ways, for the Florence Griswold Museum in 2020. The challenges we faced through the pandemic – temporary closure, reopening at a limited capacity, loss of revenue – were buoyed through the partnership of institutions that receive funding directly from the hotel occupancy tax. Connecticut Humanities supported the Florence Griswold Museum with not only the award of a \$30,000 Implementation Grant

in 2020 but also the coordination of two rounds of COVID-19 relief funding totaling over \$60,000. Our annual State budget line item and Arts Endowment Fund awards through Connecticut Office of the Arts allow us to reliably plan our exciting exhibition schedule.

Please support HB 6119 as it moves through the legislative process. You are such a great friend of the Museum, and we are deeply appreciative for your support of the role we play as a cultural and tourist destination. As always, feel free to reach out to schedule a tour or visit, or to chat about any questions you may have.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'R. Beaulieu', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rebekah Beaulieu
Director