

Testimony

It is my honest absolute belief that Connecticut as a community must increase funds for arts, entertainment and tourism as a response to Covid related deterioration of interaction and educational forums. As a playwright and actor here in CT as well as NY & Boston, I can attest to the far reaching benefits of the arts here in CT. Utilizing state grant funding, I was able to bring to life a full stage production at the Klein Memorial Theater in Bridgeport, CT. in 2019 titled "Her Time". It was a story based on true life experiences of a woman released from federal prison after serving 25 yrs. for a crime she didn't commit. It served as an accurate theatrical account of the urban trauma and struggles she had to overcome to be reintegrated back into a society she no longer recognized, while wearing the scarlet letter of "ex-felon".

The show was greatly received by CT's re-entry population and the overall community and opened to an audience of over 900 theater goers in it's opening weekend. We were able to hold a "talk back session" between the audience and cast of local actors (some of which were actual ex-offenders). Dr. Maysa Akbar author of books on Urban Trauma, moderated the discussion which educated and enlightened members of CT communities on issues of incarceration and urban trauma. All this was made possible by the use of grant funding! CT has a rich history for entertainment thus I encourage and will help push for this legislation as an absolute need. Increase the funds!!!

Charles Grady

FOUNDERCEO

Hang Time Organization