

Dear Sen. Hartley and Sampson;

As an arts administrator, practitioner and consumer, I am writing in support of HB 6119 to increase the percentage of hotel and lodging tax that is allocated to the Tourism Fund (which includes Arts & Culture) from 10 to 25%

As we find our way from the darkness of the past year to light once more, how very important the arts will be to generating income for the state, as well as lifting up our people's shattered spirits. The Pandemic has wrought immeasurable damage to not only the economics but to the psyche of CT's people. However as a people we are resilient and will bounce back assisted in no small measure by the joy to our spirits that the arts and culture offer.

With respect to the dollars and cents - **The arts and culture industry spurs economic activity** and provides revenue to the State. In normal times, Connecticut's arts and culture sector is a vital economic engine that represents 5% of Connecticut's economy, generates \$9 billion in economic activity annually and supports 57,000 jobs. ***The nonprofit arts sector alone returns \$7 for every \$1 invested by the State.***

Federal Legislators and Governor Lamont have stepped forward with financial relief for the arts and culture community with funding to address the economic impact of the pandemic. And all arts practitioners I know are immensely grateful for that support. This bill provides Connecticut legislators the opportunity to add their support. **Arts and culture mean business. This bill can help the arts and culture sector as it rebounds from the pandemic so it, in turn, can help the state to rebound.**

Thank you for your service on behalf of CT's residents and for your consideration.

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