

February 10, 2021

My name is Carla Sullivan and I am the Vice President of External Relations for The Shubert Theatre New Haven. I am also a current member of the Board of Directors for Broadway Method Academy in Fairfield and a former board member for Center Stage Theatre in Shelton.

Our 106 year old theater and these two smaller community based, education forward, creative institutions have all been profoundly impacted by the nearly year-long shut down of the performing arts industry due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

As an arts professional, volunteer leader and devoted patron, I write to express my strongest support for HB6119 which comes before the Commerce Committee on February 11, 2021. Increased investment from the State of Connecticut will be essential in providing a source of operating funds for arts organizations as we prepare to reopen our doors and welcome patrons back to live performance. Investment will also be required to build back our cultural institutions and welcome visitors back to a state who depends greatly upon revenue generated by tourism.

By changing the name of the Fund to include ARTS CULTURE AND TOURISM, you will elevate the importance of the Arts and secure its vital role in the sector.

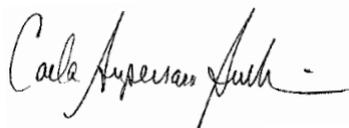
By increasing the Hotel Occupancy tax to 25%, split 40% to the Arts and Culture 60% to Tourism, you provide a stable and dependable source of operating support for these vital organizations so they can focus all of their energy on mission and creative output.

Bringing arts and culture back will be more important than ever, not only to lift our spirits and bring us back into community with one another, but to reinvigorate our local small businesses and restaurants, all of whom are suffering during this difficult time.

When we look back on this dark time in our history, we will remember how music, dance, film, literature, visual art and the entire creative economy helped us get through very difficult days. As the first to close and the last to re-open, the road ahead is still long. NOW is the time to restore much needed funding to this crucial sector and establish a firm and solid foundation upon which we can build back stronger than ever!

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carla S. Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carla S. Sullivan

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