

Good morning Representative Walker et al.,

I am writing urging you to put Music Haven back into your budget. A year ago, Music Haven rallied to save their state funding, and were told that they had won! In fact, their victory was reported in the press:

<https://www.newhavenarts.org/arts-paper/articles/arts-army-rallies-to-keep-music-haven-in-state-budget>

Despite this promise, Music Haven was not included in the budget for this year or future years. According to legislators who have responded to their questions, "it was a mistake", which is what they were told last year.

I am a long-time supporter of Music Haven because I feel very strongly about the vital impact the program has on the low-income kids in the community that it serves. It has been proven that the work that Music Haven does is life-changing and life-saving. Kids who attend Music Haven have been shown to be & better at dealing with stress, focusing in school, and better at being consistent even when other things in their lives may not offer the same consistency. It has also been proven that music has a positive impact on children's educational development, specifically science and math skills.

So far, the program has had a [100 percent matriculation rate](#) to four-year colleges!

I'm asking you to please make good on your promise.

Thanks so much!

Regards,
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