



Cultural Advocacy Network of Michigan Advocacy Day Issue Areas

Funding for the Michigan Arts and Culture Council

The Michigan Arts and Culture Council is the primary funder for cultural organizations in the State of Michigan. A variety of grant programs support projects, capital improvements, professional development activities, and operations for museums, historical societies, arts centers, theaters, libraries, schools, and community events. Michigan spends only \$0.98 per resident on arts and culture, while states like Ohio spend \$1.70. Illinois spends nearly five times as much as Michigan on arts and culture. Michigan is 23rd in state spending on arts and culture, even after recent funding increases.

Economic Impact of Arts and Cultural Organizations

- Cultural organizations are economic drivers in all of Michigan's communities.
- We are businesses that increase tourism, employ workers, and provide services.
- The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that arts and cultural production accounts for \$13,915,435,510 and 2.8% of the Michigan economy, contributing 121,332 jobs.

Role of Arts and Cultural Organizations in Community Development

- Libraries, museums, arts centers, historical societies, events, downtown districts and theatre are the heart of every community.
- Cultural organizations are what make each community unique and are the elements of sense of place.

ASK:

Support the Michigan Arts and Culture Council by restoring its funding level to \$30,000,000, the level it previously was funded at pre-2008 budget cuts.

Passage of Legislation Allowing Creative Arts Therapies

Creative arts therapies, like art and music therapy, are innovative disciplines within the practice of mental health that allow professionals to develop therapeutic interventions and treatments for patients. The bills outline education, experience, and accreditation requirements for licensure of art therapists and music therapists by the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. At least 20 other states have enacted creative arts therapy legislation.

Creative Arts Therapies can help individuals:

- Improve cognitive and sensory function
- Improve self-esteem and self-awareness
- Enhance social skills
- Build emotional strength
- Encourage insight into situations that are causing stress
- Resolve conflicts

The bills would:

- Protect the public from unlicensed therapists
- Ensure mental health professionals are properly trained in their fields
- Grow the number of mental health professionals in the state to fill a dire need
- Grow student enrollment in Michigan-based creative arts therapy higher education programs

ASK:

Support legislation to allow for the licensed, responsible practice of creative arts therapies in Michigan.