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PinArts Coalition's Recommendation Funding Support of the Arts

St. Petersburg Arts Alliance

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PinArts

PinArts Coalition's Recommendation Funding Support of the Arts

PinArts is a growing coalition of Pinellas County artists, arts and cultural agencies and institutions, museums and creative businesses.

Creative placemaking is a strategy for many American cities in competition for jobs, for business relocations, for creative young people, for tourists and visitors. Beyond the economic benefits, creative places make communities more livable for their citizens and reflect the diversity of our multicultural society. We cannot afford to fall behind in supporting the foundation blocks of our arts & cultural community. Established galleries are moving to other cities due to lack of sales. Performing arts have cut arts education, performances, musicians and actors to survive.

Now is the time to support our arts economic development generators.

1. From 2002 to 2011, based on tax returns, the number of independent artists, writers, and performers in St. Petersburg, Clearwater and Tampa **has increased 40%**.
2. From 2009 to 2012, the number of arts related businesses in Pinellas County increased from 2,548 employing 10,989 people, to 3,407 employing 15,451 (**29% increase in jobs in three years.**) They market a creative county that attracts visitors and residents, supports business relocation, and employee recruitment and retention. Businesses look to the cultural vibrancy of our county to recruit employees.
3. **The County used to award \$600,000 to arts organizations;** reduced to \$350,000 in 2010 -- after which the Cultural Affairs Council was eliminated. The TDC also awarded some \$750,000.
 - While Creative Pinellas was established and supports the arts through marketing, funds are no longer available to arts institutions that stimulate our economy.
 - According to an article in the *St. Petersburg Tribune*, Pinellas County is the only county that has chosen this path for funding a local arts agency.
 - The TDC rotates arts organizations that used to be funded into advertising.
4. Cultural tourism is one of the largest and fastest-growing global tourism markets. **In 2006, Florida Tax Watch reported that 74.9% of all visitors participated in cultural activities.** Cultural Tourists represent that “extra day” of a vacation.
5. Arts & Culture is the fifth largest economic generator in Pinellas County (2010 study).

PinArts' Request to County for Arts & Cultural Support

More funding = more jobs + more \$ into the economy.

No increase = more risk and potential loss of arts groups in our community.

Now is the time to build upon our emerging reputation as a county of the arts, of creative industries, and renew significant investment, capacity-building support for the artists and creative businesses. Our arts and cultural institutions cannot keep cutting programs that generate economic benefits for all.

1. We recommend that the County and TDC restore funding to \$1,500,000. Restore \$600,000 funding from the County and \$750,000 from the TDC for our arts and cultural organizations and institutions.
2. Establish a \$150,000 artist resource fund.
3. We recommend that the County support an arts commission, or support a current arts organization or alliance of organizations to manage the program and lead arts economic development.

We look forward to working with our County Commissioners to develop options to restore funding, and provide an income stream for supporting our arts and cultural institutions, arts organizations, artists, and creative businesses.

PinArts

4/11/14

A Simple Theatre
Al Downing Jazz Association
American Stage Theatre Company
Art4All-Pinellas
ARTicles Gallery & Framing
Artists of Tampa Bay
Clearwater Arts Alliance
Craftsman House, The Arts Association of St. Petersburg
Creative Pinellas
Dali Museum
Dunedin Fine Art Center
Dunedin Historical Society and Museum
Feathered Serpent Gallery
Florida Craftsmen
Hillsborough Arts Council
Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art at St. Petersburg College
MGA Studio, The Warehouse Arts District Association
Office of Cultural Affairs, City of St. Petersburg
Painting with a Twist, Examiner.com
Pinellas Cultural Foundation
Ruth Eckerd Hall, The Capitol Theatre
St. Pete City Theatre
St. Petersburg Arts Advisory Committee
St. Petersburg Arts Alliance
St. Petersburg Museum of Fine Arts
St. Petersburg Public Arts Commission
Tarpon Springs Art Association
Tarpon Springs Public Art Commission
TESSA
The Beach Art Center
The Florida Orchestra, St. Pete Arts Steering Committee
The Palladium Theatre
The Pangaea Project