

From: Soura, Christian
To: Peters, Hal <HalPeters@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 8/6/2012 4:16:40 PM
Subject: Arts Commission Letter

Para 1 as revised on paper

As I said in my veto message, supporting the arts and supporting the Arts Commission are not the same thing. I vetoed the Arts Commission's funding because the agency's administrative costs are disproportionately high and because I do not believe we need a separate government agency in order to promote the arts in South Carolina. We shouldn't be pouring more money into this broken model.

Last year, I worked with the House of Representatives on measures that would fold the Arts Commission into the Museum Commission, which would have saved roughly \$500,000 in operating expenses. The General Assembly also considered, but failed to pass, legislation that would transfer the Arts Commission's responsibilities to the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. Either of these approaches would have allowed arts programs to continue to receive support, without needlessly wasting money on overhead.

Ideally, we would return these funds to the public and allow taxpayers to decide for themselves what artistic endeavors merit financial support. In the meantime, I will continue to fight to reduce the cost of the bureaucratic apparatus that allocates state funding for the arts.

Keep para 4 as-is on paper

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