

Johnny Thomas Fowler

Hairy Toe Productions

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The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, S.C. 29201

March 22, 2016

Dear Governor Haley,

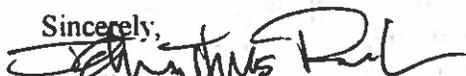
My name is Johnny Thomas Fowler. I am a professional storyteller, musician and author. I recently received a quarterly grant from Arts Partnership of Greater Spartanburg to help in the funding of my children's picture book, *Trotting Sally Races the Carolina Special*. The funding request was for hiring an illustrator only. The story is about a renowned African-American South Carolina folk hero named Trotting Sally. It's a wonderful tall tale that has been handed down from generation-to-generation; about how he single-handedly raced a passenger train from ole Spartanburg Town to the next stop at the Inman Depot. It's one of our very own folktales about culture, art, music, history and folklore. A children's book is an excellent way to share and teach. By supporting this project you are in turn supporting our future generation of teachers, historians, writers and artist. Years from now this story will be shared, in part because of your support for the arts. The opportunity to receive funding is important to our artistry, our future and my ability to serve this community.

My project would have been difficult, if not near impossible, without this grant support. As a traditional performing artist and author I see first hand the role in providing arts funding for valuable projects that supports our community. Opportunities like this are what set South Carolina apart from other states.

As a South Carolina resident, I am proud of our state's commitment to the arts. Your and other legislature's financial investment in the arts is critical to this community and our state. THANK YOU for your ongoing support and interest in our arts community.

In closing I would like to invite you to attend one of my book signings, or to speak with you about my work.

Sincerely,



Johnny Thomas Fowler

2013 South Carolina Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Award Recipient
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