



DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS
JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

To: Co-Chairs of the Joint Finance Committee

From: Democratic Members of the Joint Finance Committee

Date: February 18, 2022

Dear Co-Chairs Born and Marklein,

We write to ask that you please include the Wisconsin Arts Board's 13.10 request for \$109,200 GPR for consideration in the next Joint Finance Committee meeting. In addition to providing funding and relief to the Wisconsin Arts board, appropriating \$109,200 would unlock and another \$109,200 in federal match funds from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Our offices have heard from constituents, advocates, and members of the arts community all over Wisconsin describing the importance of this funding. Our state's creative industry provided a \$10.9 billion economic impact, with over 96,000 jobs before the pandemic. Now, it is crucial that we consider the 13.10 request so that the creative industry can take steps toward a full recovery.

Since the funding for the Arts Board has not been released, grant awards to Wisconsin arts organizations have been delayed and further delay risks the distribution of grants or a reduction of the amount of each grant.

Advocates describe this request as a relatively small amount of funding that packs a big punch. We agree. The creative industry needs this investment and the federal match to help businesses come back, serve their communities, and grow their economic and civic impact to full strength. This is a non-partisan issue that helps every corner of our great state.

Thank you for considering the request to schedule the Wisconsin Arts Board's 13.10 request for a hearing.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Senator Erpenbach in black ink.

Senator Erpenbach

Handwritten signature of Representative Goyke in black ink.

Representative Goyke

Handwritten signature of Senator Johnson in black ink.

Senator Johnson

Handwritten signature of Representative Meyers in black ink.

Representative Meyers