



Tips for Contacting Your Legislators – May 24, 2021

Although we cannot arrange in-person meeting with your legislators in Harrisburg this year, Citizens for the Arts has compiled some tried and true tips to help you have a successful experience in contacting your legislators virtually. You may be able to meet with your legislator in-person at their district office, however, so consider contacting your local office to arrange a meeting with them in-person!

Thanks for advocating!

Tips for your virtual contact:

- Keep your message short.
- Share a personal story.
- Be positive and friendly.
- Attach Citizens for the Arts policy position statement and information about your organization.
- Ask your legislator to support a state budget for the FY 2021-22 that includes **\$10.59 million in grants to the arts**. This represents a requested increase of \$1 million in support of an ailing sector. Follow up the ask with that personal story about how you/your organization/ community would benefit from increased cultural funding from the state.
- Remember that your legislator may be unaware about funding for arts grants so be prepared to discuss this briefly (especially if your organization has received funding from the PCA). Legislators are interested in their constituents, so **your story is powerful!**
- Suggest that you might serve as a resource for arts & culture issues.
- If you receive a response and are asked questions for which you do not know the answers, **DON'T MAKE ANSWERS UP!** Tell them you will get back to them with an answer. Contact Citizens for the Arts and we will provide you with research to answer the question.

Additional Tips for an in-person visit:

- Be on time.
- You only have a short window of time so be concise and brief in your remarks. **Get to the point!**
- After your meeting, follow up with a letter or email thanking the legislator or staff for the time and offer to serve as a resource on issues concerning arts and culture in Pennsylvania.