

## LETTER TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

<Date>

<The Honorable First Last>

801 North First Street  
San Jose, CA 95110

Re: City Support for the Arts and Culture in San Jose

Dear <Mayor/Councilmember Last>:

It has come to my attention that funding may be cut for arts and culture programming in the FY 03-04 budget. On behalf of <organization>, I am writing to request thoughtful reconsideration of this action. Exposure to arts and culture activities are important for the development of our core essential skills as human beings. Recent studies show exposure to the arts builds an individual's analytical, team-building, self-esteem and confidence levels.

The arts and culture industry not only builds core essential skills, but is also a sound economic investment. Arts and culture in San Jose boosts the local economy by creating jobs, stimulating consumer spending and generating tax revenue. A recent study commissioned by the San Jose Arts and Culture Roundtable revealed that the nonprofit arts and culture industry in San Jose generated an estimated **\$177 million in economic activity**, directly and indirectly supporting **5,800 jobs** in FY 01-02. The study also found that the industry contributed an estimated **\$18.2 million in tax revenue** to local and state governments. Furthermore, in FY 01-02, the industry leveraged an additional **\$25.2 million in contributed income** from other public and private resources.

Reducing funding for arts and culture programming in San Jose would have a devastating affect on numerous programs. <Briefly describe a program at risk of losing funding and the harm that would create. For example, funding cuts could result in the termination of the Summer Arts Studio program at the Museum of Art, which would affect over 300 youth, eliminating a positive, self-esteem building experience in their lives.>

Please consider the economic impact, as well as the quality of life issues, associated with the arts and culture industry when budgetary issues are reviewed. I strongly believe that this industry nurtures essential core skills necessary for the healthy development of San Jose residents. I urge you to protect arts and culture programming from significant budgetary cuts.

Sincerely,

<Name>

<Organization>