

Monday, July 18, 2016

«AuthFirst» «AuthLast»

«Organization»

«Address»

«City», «State» «Zip»

Dear «AuthFirst» «AuthLast»,

Congratulations on your grant award from the Arizona Commission on the Arts for Fiscal Year 2017.

As announced in May 2016, the Arizona Commission on the Arts received a one-time allocation of additional funds for FY2017 in the amount of \$1.5 million. **As a result, the Arts Commission's aggregate FY2017 grant investment more than doubles total funding awarded last year.**

Secured through the tenacious efforts of community leaders, arts workers, and steadfast arts supporters across the state, this additional allocation represents an encouraging vote of confidence from our state's elected leaders.

Suddenly there is a new set of prospects ahead of us as an arts sector, to convert this confidence into momentum, to potentially extend and grow this one-time allocation into more robust investment over time.

Together, we can write tomorrow's story: a narrative of exponential return on investment, an arts sector's potential unleashed, and increased recognition of powerful cultural assets within and across Arizona communities.

We can be the headline we want to read: broadening the reach of our programs, digging deeper into ourselves, speaking with greater authority, and engaging more intentionally with the communities we serve.

In March 2017, the Arizona Commission on the Arts will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In recognition of this historic milestone we are embarking on a visionary planning initiative called Next50. Central to the initiative is a question: How can Arizona's arts sector help Arizona realize its brightest future? In other words, how can we be *even more* valuable to Arizona's communities?

Tremendous opportunities are in front of us, and momentum is on our side. We look forward to engaging you as a partner in Next50's programming and exploration, and also look forward to experiencing the impact of your work throughout the year and beyond.

Once more, congratulations on your grant award. Thank you for your ongoing service to Arizona.



Robert C. Booker, Executive Director