

Paul Pearson  
Acting Executive Director  
Alberta Foundation for the Arts  
10708 - 105 Ave  
Edmonton, AB  
Canada T5H 0A1

**RE: Artists and Education grant funding**

Dear Mr. Pearson,

I am writing in concern of the funding to the Artists and Education grant provided by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

As you know, in 2015 the AFA received a 5% cut to its funding from the government. Internally, the AFA decided to cut funding to only two of its programs. The Artists and Education grant received a 50% cut, losing \$500,000 of its total \$1 million budget.

However, now that the AFA is receiving a \$5 million funding increase from the government, I strongly encourage you to allocate these funds to reinstate funding to the Artists and Education grant.

Without this funding, approximately only 70 schools will be able to host a resident artist through the grant. In 2009, 264 residencies were approved with a budget of just under \$1.3 million. This grant offers students across Alberta the chance to work with professional artists directly in their school. Cuts to this program have the greatest affect on rural schools that are unable to afford hosting such programs due to large transportation costs.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Sincerely,