June 8, 2021

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
Senate Pro Tempore  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon  
Assembly Speaker  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear President Pro Tempore Atkins, Speaker Rendon and Budget Chairs Skinner and Ting:

On behalf of the City and County of San Francisco, I am pleased to join the more than 500 public and private arts organizations, businesses, unions, municipalities, and individuals advocating for a $1 billion investment in California’s arts, culture, and creativity industries over a four-year period.

This funding request comes at a critical time for the arts and culture sector. The arts have been among the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and performers are bearing the brunt of the sector’s 20% unemployment rate. It is projected that, without financial support, this sector will not fully recover for four more years. This $1 billion investment will have a profoundly positive impact on jobs creation, tourism, and tax revenue, and will maintain the stability of the arts we emerge from this public health crisis.

The Arts are vital to California’s economic sustainability and to who we are as a state. According to a March 2021 report from the Bay Area Council Economic Institute, every $1 million that San Francisco invests in nonprofit arts and cultural organizations generates $17.5 million in economic output and supports 385 jobs. With one of the top arts economies in the nation, the San Francisco arts community is a $1.7 billion industry and employs 37,000 individuals. And as a former leader of an arts and culture organization in San Francisco’s Western Addition neighborhood, I know how crucial these investments are on delivering on a recovery that focuses on equity and lifts up all communities.

As we look to brighter days of reopening I will continue to keep my focus on supporting the arts, redoubling our efforts and seeking innovative strategies to help our economy return even stronger than before. I urge the State of California to do the same by supporting local arts economies that will promote statewide economic recovery. If we help the arts throughout California recover, the arts will help California recover.

Sincerely,

London N. Breed  
Mayor