Friends of Artistry,

As you may know, Artistry is living in exceptionally challenging times. Our financial standing has put our relationship with artists and audiences that are so important to us at risk.

First of all, thank you for your patience while we worked diligently with our many partners to uncover Artistry's liabilities and clarify the financial status of the organization. The staff has also reached out to our partner artists, volunteers, donors, and other constituents.

There have been great questions directed our way. We are thankful for those questions and continue to work to operate with transparency and equity for all involved. One of those questions is "How did this happen?"

In short, that answer is Covid and lack of financial transparency.

What we’ve accomplished so far:

1. We fully understand our financial situation, and we are in the process of building a new business plan and model that will help move Artistry into a stronger future.

2. As of today, thanks to an important grant, donations, and accountable financial management, we are able to pay artists and staff for completed work.

3. Artistry programming, exhibitions, classes, community engagement, and theatrical productions are continuing. We have a process in place going forward to ensure sustainable programming.

4. The board of directors has made the following changes: Adding an audit committee to the current audit process, committing to enhanced board training; new membership (including a non-board community member) to the board finance committee with continued monthly review of all Artistry finances; the continued retention of a nationally respected accounting firm.

5. We are connecting with funders and developing programs for new sources of revenue to ensure investment in a sustainable future for Artistry.
While COVID was a huge factor challenging the work of Artistry, looking back, the board wishes it would have seen the deeper financial implications sooner. We deeply apologize to the City, Artistry employees, the artists, our partners, and the community. It’s our responsibility to fix it and make sure it never happens again.” - PATRICK J. MILAN, ARTISTRY BOARD PRESIDENT

There is no perfect email-no perfect post-no perfect words to express the disappointment that so many of us feel at this moment. After working diligently to understand our situation, we are convinced that Artistry can expand her impact for community good through the arts in Bloomington and across the state. We are not there yet but we continue to work together with diligence and hope.

We have been overwhelmed by the amount of support and offers of ways to help Artistry step into its next moment. Thank you all, so very much. Stay tuned as we have plans to bring folks together in support very soon.

With gratitude and humility,

THE STAFF AND BOARD AT ARTISTRY