**April 3, 2025**

**S.B. No. 1551** AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S SPENDING ON ARTS AND HUMANITIES ACTIVITIES

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee, Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Somers, Representative Nuccio, and esteemed Connecticut General Assembly members of the Appropriations Committee:

I am a resident of [Town] and [insert professional relationship to CTH].

I am submitting testimony in support of SB 1551 with respect to the need for increased investment in statewide arts, culture, and tourism infrastructure, specifically at least $5M to CT Humanities, $5M to CT Office of the Arts, and $12M to CT Office of Tourism. I also support HB 7176 which also addresses humanities, arts, and tourism funding.

[insert 150-250 words to help us demonstrate how the cultural sector contributes to Connecticut’s success in 1-2 of the following ways:

* **Federal Funding Threats:** Federal funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services has been suspended, and funding to the National Endowment for the Humanities and National Endowment for the Arts may be threatened. This could have a damaging impact on CT’s cultural sector, making state funding even more critical.
* **Workforce Development:** Investment in CTH helps retain jobs and hire new staff members, keeping CT residents employed and bringing in talent from other states;
* **Economic Development:** Our support brings dollars into cultural organizations, restaurants, hotels, and other businesses (see our AEP6 Connecticut calculator), supporting local economies;
* **Educational Attainment:** Museums and cultural organizations support schools and teachers by providing classroom materials, field trips, and educational opportunities and digital resources;
* **Out of State Investment:** Support from CTH increases your ability to leverage federal and private funds to advance your mission;
* **Cultural Vibrancy:** Cultural organizations make your town a place that people want to live in and visit.
* **Engagement:** Our organizations foster a sense of community and keep residents more informed and engaged, fostering empathy and building relationships.]

Connecticut Humanities provides support and guidance to nonprofit cultural organizations and accountability on behalf of Connecticut residents. During the past four years, in partnership with DECD, CTH administered nearly $60M in state grants to support cultural investments through the Connecticut Humanities Fund, Connecticut Cultural Fund, Connecticut Summer at the Museum, and Good to Great 2.0.

Sincerely,

Name

Title

Organization

Address

Contact Information