

lawrenceartscenter

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RECEIVED

MAY 25 2011

CITY MANAGERS OFFICE
LAWRENCE, KS

David Corliss, City Manager
City Hall
6 E. 6th Street
Lawrence, KS 66044

May 23, 2011

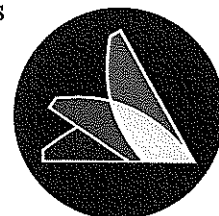
Dear David,

Thank you for taking time to talk with Ellen Chindamo and me about the Lawrence Arts Center. Lawrence is fortunate to have such an amazing place. I think our future is bright, and with the support of the City of Lawrence, we can ensure that children across the city can take part in arts performance and education all year.

The city has given 25,000 a year to the Arts Center for scholarships for years. We request additional help from the city in order to continue to make it possible to offer arts experiences to all children and teenagers. For the next fiscal year we have requested 44,500 which we will more than match through gifts from other funders.

The Arts Center, while a 501c3, was conceived in partnership with the City of Lawrence and is intended to serve our entire community through arts education, performance, and new, contemporary exhibitions. We work to keep costs low, reach across the city, support social services, and we request additional financial support from the city to ensure that theater, dance, and visual arts education are available to everyone in this fabulous city-owned facility.

- We have given approximately \$65,000.00 in scholarship help to over 350 children and teenagers in the first 9 months of fy 2010-11, following our process of application and careful review of each request. To fulfill our mission of reaching all children, we need to budget \$100,000 for financial aid for fy 2011-12. The application we sent to the city requests under half of this amount, and we have a plan to raise the balance through private giving.
- The Arts Center continues to work to increase non-city revenue through tuition, and through grants, individual and corporate support for our programming. We also work to keep tuition costs as low as possible.



- In addition to the classes for individuals and families, our restricted financial aid fund also supports outreach to Little Nations, Big Brothers BigSisters, Family Promise, CASA, Ga Du Gi, and Boys and Girls Club.
- Families have greater need than in many years. Children have greater need. Schools have less to offer in terms of time and funding for arts education. We have lost Kansas Arts Commission funding, a total of approximately \$20,000 per year that helped us keep costs manageable.
- The \$44,500 request represents: just under 50% of our financial aid need in one year and 3% of our total projected revenue for 2011-2012.
- \$44,500 means we will be able to offer 12 week/ 165.00 classes to over 300 children OR 50% scholarship to 30 preschoolers and 50% scholarships to Over 100 middle and high school students to 5 weeks of all day Summer Youth theater experience and 50% scholarships to 116 elementary school students for all day summer camp.

Thank you for your consideration and for helping us keep our commitment to equal access for all Lawrence children to the arts.

Sincerely,



Susan Tate, Executive Director

