

WBCA: Creating community through art

May 1, 2023

Re: SF 3035, Paid Internship Program at White Bear Center for the Arts

Dear members of the Omnibus Jobs and Labor Conference Committee,

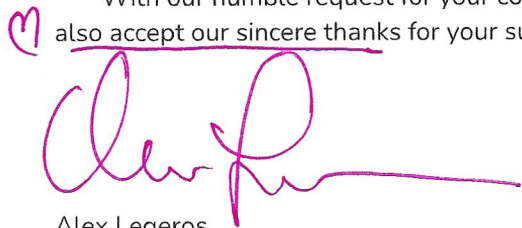
It is a great honor that White Bear Center for the Arts' pilot program for youth internships has been included in this year's omnibus bill. Thank you for recognizing the valuable opportunities for our underrepresented youth who need a path to thrive in Minnesota's remarkable creative economy, the third largest sector in our State.

We write today to urge funding this program at the level recommended by the House, \$400,000 per year of the biennium. **These funds are critical in equipping the students** with the technology and workspace they will need at White Bear Center for the Arts; as Senator Champion will see on his upcoming tour, the space outlined needs this equipment. The students need a **professional program coordinator** to facilitate their year-long experience, migration in learning experiences across departments at the art center, and as a connector with professional mentors and career-enriching experiences. We also need these funds to ensure we can **maximize the program through serving five students per year**.

Please consider meeting the House's level of funding because of the costs related to successfully piloting this program in its first two years. Even with two-thirds of what the program was designed for, we can confidently operate the pilot program with the infrastructure supported by these Legislative dollars.

We just had 450 high school students and their families attend the opening ceremony for our annual High School Visual Arts Contest last Thursday, representing 13 different schools. We are positioned to catalyze talented young people for a career contributing to Minnesota's economy, and it is only made possible by your support and public investment.

With our humble request for your consideration of the House recommendation, please also accept our sincere thanks for your support throughout this legislative session.



Alex Legeros
Development & Communications Director



Sara Nephew
Creative Services Director



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for the
Arts

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Our mission is to:
ENRICH LIVES
by Celebrating Art
NOURISH IMAGINATION
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by Connecting People

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