

March 8, 2023, HEARING ON WHITE BEAR CENTER FOR THE ARTS' PROPOSED WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION

Hello, my name is Arianna Vann-Cook, and I am an 11th grader from White Bear Lake - South Campus. I want to thank Chair Jay Xiong and members of the. House Workforce Development Finance and Policy Committee for allowing me to submit written testimony to support this bill.

Problem: There are a lot of kids who have talents. I have witnessed a great deal of passion with no outlet, having nowhere to fulfill their dreams without being met with roadblocks. Talent is something that can often be overlooked if there is nowhere to apply it. Through my experience with the White Bear Center for Arts, I have grown to prosper as an artist and take my gift and build upon it.

Experience: The art of writing is something that I have always been interested in. Although family, peers, and teachers have acknowledged my interest, a whole new door was opened up when I decided to submit my writing to the WBCA-sponsored WriteNow! High School Writing Contest. It completely validated my talent and helped me realize what I was capable of on a new level. Every single time I've gone to WBCA I have been met with nothing but kindness, encouragement, and motivation. My experiences are always worthwhile, and I leave feeling filled up, ready to challenge myself artistically.

Impact: The ability to work alongside those at White Bear Center for the Arts would be so impactful to me and the many others. A new way to direct talent and be taught by those who assisted my goals as a writer. I am now published through the White Bear Center for the Arts' *Repose* magazine and look forward to many more publications in the future.

Workforce: An internship will give students with non-traditional interests such as writing, painting, and pottery a chance to flourish and grasp new skills. It would give students like me, the opportunity to learn how to thoroughly run a business, tend to customers, manage finances, and be met with the reward of a wage.

White Bear Center for the Arts has helped create a spark in my life, and with your help, it can for so many others. Thank you.