



200900421

March 23, 2009

MOTION

We move that City Council restore (as a priority for the December budget update) funding in the amount of \$142,000 for competitive arts grants for small arts organizations and individual artists. This is the same funding level as in 2007 and 2008. The \$142,000 is the grant amount for small arts organizations and individual artists, independent of administrative salaries.

STATEMENT

A vibrant cultural life is one of the requisites for a city that can compete in the world economy. One of the advantages that Cincinnati has over other cities its size is a long established, vibrant cultural scene. Numerous galleries and arts organizations have been major catalysts for the exciting new development in Over-the-Rhine. The Kennedy Heights Arts Center, the Madisonville Arts Center, the Covedale Performing Arts Center, and the newly developing Clifton Cultural Arts Center are bringing new activity to our neighborhoods. Cincinnati needs to build on this asset, not retreat from it.

In 1989 the City of Cincinnati adopted a policy to provide arts operating at the rate of 0.14% of the General Fund. 73% of that amount was granted to large arts institutions and 27% to small arts organizations and individual artists. The 2009 budget has eliminated operating funding for all arts organizations and reduced the competitive grant program for individual artists to \$15,000. This motion restores operating funding for small arts organizations and individual artists to its historic level.

Roxanne Qualls, Councilmember

Chris Monzel, Councilmember