

Ohio Citizens for the Arts

Testimony

Senate Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education
Senator Randy Gardner, Chairman

Ohio Arts Council's FY 2016-17 Budget Appropriation
House Bill 64

Presented by

Tim Greenwood
Ohio Citizens for the Arts
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Chairman Gardner, Vice Chairman Cafaro and members of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education, my name is Tim Greenwood and I am from Wood County. I'm an attorney and businessman, and had the privilege of serving in the Ohio Legislature from 1988-1995.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am a member of the Board of Directors of Ohio Citizens for the Arts and served as its President in 2011 and 2012. Ohio Citizens for the Arts is a statewide grassroots organization that was founded in 1976 for the purpose of advocating on issues of importance to the arts in Ohio. Several members of our staff and board are in the hearing room today including our Executive Director Linda Woggon and Bill Blair who serves as our Legislative Counsel. Our Board, staff and members are dedicated to securing public funding from both the state and federal levels to ensure that Ohio has a dynamic arts and culture infrastructure.

Today, I am here as the voice for hundreds of thousands of Ohioans who participate in and support the arts in every county of our state. Over the years, and especially during my time in the Ohio General Assembly, I've had the opportunity to meet and work with these dedicated individuals. Just like you and me, they want Ohio to be a state where people want to live, work and raise a family. And, we believe greater public support for arts and culture is a key element of creating that kind of Ohio.

So last December, the Board of Directors of Ohio Citizens for the Arts set a goal of securing at least \$30 million for arts and culture through the Ohio Arts Council's appropriation for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017. We appreciate everything the Ohio General Assembly and Governor Kasich have done to increase funding for arts and culture over the past few years. As we've dug out from one of the worst recessions in recent history, you haven't left the arts behind, and we

thank you for that. But now, as Ohio's economy is finally getting stronger, we need to make sure funding for arts and culture is at a level that will help us continue the transformation. We believe that is at least \$30 million which is close to the \$32 million authorized for the Ohio Arts Council in 2001-02.

In setting this goal, Ohio Citizens for the Arts relied heavily on our knowledge of the role arts and culture play in Ohio's economic vitality. To discuss that role in more detail, I'd like to ask our second witness, Mr. Jim Dicke, Chairman and CEO of Crown Equipment Corporation to testify and then we are both prepared to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.