



May 28, 2025

Philadelphia City Hall
1400 John K. Kennedy Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Members of the Philadelphia City Council,

The Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance is committed to advancing the City of Philadelphia's investment in the creative economy through the city's portfolio of assets, programs, public-private partnerships, and artists. As the federal government continues to target the arts and culture community with massive grant clawbacks and little future investment, Philadelphia's investment in our creative economy is more important than ever. The City of Philadelphia must continue to affirm the essential role the cultural sector has in our local economy through strategic investments.

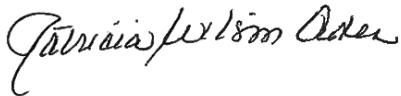
The Cultural Alliance calls upon City leaders to continue to invest in stable, consistent funding across the City of Philadelphia's unique arts portfolio through the following initiatives:

- Fund Creative Philadelphia (formerly the Office of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy) with an additional \$1 million towards the operational needs of our city's arts and culture office.
- Support the City's signature arts organizations, including the Philadelphia Cultural Fund and Mural Arts Philadelphia, that are core to the vitality of our neighborhoods.
 - We support the Mayor's investment of \$3.5 million in the Philadelphia Cultural Fund (PCF), which administers operational grants to small and mid-size arts organizations. The Cultural Fund is an anchor in our community, awarding over 250 grants to arts and culture organizations across all 10 Councilmanic Districts last year.
 - We call on the City to stabilize Mural Arts' core programs, which employ artists and beautify our city, with \$1.5 million in additional funding, for a total allocation of \$5.2 million.
- Provide equitable funding of city-owned assets and the institutions that maintain and operate city-owned architectural treasures.
 - The Parker administration proposed equitable capital investment to the Please Touch Museum, The Mann Center for Performing Arts, and The Dell Music Center. The Cultural Alliance supports proposed and additional investments to meet the unique capital needs of city-owned cultural assets.

- We applaud the Parker Administration's investment in the Five-Year Capital Budget for city-owned cultural assets, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Zoo, and the African American Museum in Philadelphia.
- The Cultural Alliance supports the operating and capital requests of city-owned cultural institutions that contribute to our city's educational, cultural, and economic vitality. The city must continue to invest in these organizations that define Philadelphia's unique cultural experience.

The City of Philadelphia is a premier cultural destination. The Cultural Alliance is grateful for the stability proposed in several FY26 Budget line items. However, there is still work to be done to ensure equity, stability, and growth for the cultural sector as we face growing national attacks. The Cultural Alliance stands ready to partner with the City of Philadelphia to develop strategies that will ensure our creative community is not only stable, but has the resources necessary to thrive.

Sincerely,



Patricia Wilson Aden
President & CEO of the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance