



ALLENTOWN
SYMPHONY
ASSOCIATION



Members of Allentown City Council
% City Clerk Michael Hanlon
Allentown City Hall
435 Hamilton St.
Allentown, PA 18101

November 30, 2020

Members of City Council:

Allentown's arts and culture organizations have been uniquely impacted by COVID-19 and are in need of assistance from the City of Allentown. Like most organizations, we have experienced financial difficulty during the COVID-19 pandemic, but different than some other organizations, we are anticipating a longer road to resuming in-person cultural programs, at least to the scale we were producing prior to the pandemic.

We don't want to imagine Allentown without the vibrant cultural organizations that enrich the lives of so many residents, attract tourism, and provide jobs for our community. Yet as we look toward 2021, we are deeply concerned about the lack of governmental support that could keep our arts and culture organizations afloat until our programs can resume at their pre-pandemic levels.

City Councilwoman Cynthia Mota has proposed a 2021 Budget Amendment to provide \$100,000 in city funds that could be granted to arts and culture organizations in Allentown. We write to ask for your support. \$100,000 for arts and culture non-profit organizations will demonstrate a commitment to the arts in our city and will assist our organizations in navigating the challenging financial climate ahead of us. What's more, it will send a message to private funders that arts and culture organizations need support to not only survive the COVID-19 pandemic, but also to return to our thriving cultural programs once the pandemic is over.

Arts and culture organizations enhance and enrich the lives of so many in our city. The City budget should ensure that we have the resources to make it through the COVID-19 pandemic so we can continue our important cultural work for years to come.

Allentown Art Museum
Allentown Symphony Association / Miller Symphony Hall
Baum School of Art
Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center
Civic Theatre of Allentown
Community Music School
Cultural Coalition of Allentown
Discover Lehigh Valley
Lehigh Valley Arts Council