

April 23, 2008

Dear Senator/Representative,

ARTS Day will be held May 14<sup>th</sup> and many General Assembly members will soon receive calls from your arts constituents to schedule a meeting with you during the extended lunch hour of 11:30 – 1:30pm. While new rules regarding the use of Courtyards will prevent our having a sit down lunch visit, we believe personal visits to your office will be more effective opportunities for communications.

The first thing we all want to say is a heartfelt and passionate thank you for the General Assembly's support of grant funding for the North Carolina Arts Council and support for the new educational touring program, cARTwheels. We are "living expectantly" that even in this time of economic challenge, the General Assembly will continue to invest in these two programs. Why? Because the arts return your investment in the form of tax dollars, jobs, and related spending. For every \$1 governments invest in the arts, \$7 is generated in additional economic activity.

Much has been said lately about *creativity and innovation*. You don't have to look far in North Carolina to find rich examples of how the arts make North Carolina unique and distinctive from other states. As you consider the long term needs of our state to attract and retain industries that need creative workers who can invent new products and services, we trust the arts will be foremost in your thinking. We're an industry created in North Carolina and we are here to stay.

**We also invite you to join us in Courtyard 1100 on May 14<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 – 1:30.** In your sixty second stroll, we promise you will understand why support of creative enterprise must be a state priority, and you will gain a fresh understanding of the richness of North Carolina.

We look forward to seeing you in a few weeks and the opportunity to thank you personally for all you have done and will continue to do for the arts in North Carolina.

Sincerely,

Karen Wells  
Executive Director