

Hi Everyone,

I am writing this letter to ask for your help.

The Alberta Foundation for the Arts has made huge cuts to the Residency Program Funding. (AFA Arts and Education Program). Anyone who ever wants to do another residency program - with any artist - needs to be concerned.

In the spring of 2015 the AFA cut 50% of the funding from the program. **In the past funding round only about 75 schools were funded.** There is now only \$500,000 in the program. **In 2008-09 there were about 260 schools funded** from a grant pool of just under \$1.3 million.

In 2010 the AFA tried to eliminate the program and cut 100% of the funding. That cut was reversed by the Culture Minister of the day, after he was taken to task by the Minister of Education - Dave Hancock. This can happen again! The Minister can reverse the cut.

Please join this movement to reverse these cuts. **It can happen now - in time for this next round of funding apps - April 1, 2016.** See the website below for details.

[www.arts-ed.squarespace.com](http://www.arts-ed.squarespace.com)

**Most important - call and write your MLA ( contact info on the website)**

**And the Minister of Education/Culture - David Eggen. Tel: 780.427.5010**

**Email:** [education.minister@gov.ab.ca](mailto:education.minister@gov.ab.ca)

This program is virtually the only AFA program that supports Alberta youth coming into contact with professional artists - especially rural youth. For an organization charged with the task of providing arts experiences to Albertans, this cut seems like a big step backwards.

No other AFA program has taken cuts like this. A couple of other programs have taken 5% cuts.

The AFA Arts and Education program is the best program of it's kind in Canada. It has made huge contributions to both the Arts and Education in Alberta. It is not a program that needs to be cutback - but rather encouraged so that it can continue to inspire Alberta students and teachers.

**Please help by picking up the phone and talking to your MLA and the Minister's office.** An email would be great too, but a phone call is fast and easy. If you have done a residency or have one planned - tell them how important it is to your school, if you were turned down - tell them how much of a loss that is to your school.

**Please share the advocacy page with your parent council.** The power to reverse the cut lies with administrators, teachers and parents. The artists can help organize and publicize the cut, but we are small in numbers. It is the tens of thousands of parents and teachers that love the program that can make the change.

**Join the schools that are sending a message to all of their parents** - and send the weblink to all of your parents. There is also a 1 page email flyer on the Take Action page of the site. This also contains the links.

The amount of money in question is tiny in the big picture of Education/Culture. But as we all know, it makes a huge contribution to the student experience. Doing residencies with professional artists has become an integral part of the Alberta School Experience. That needs to continue in a way that works for schools across the province.

Let's do it. Together - we can reverse this cut.

Thanks

David Chantler , Producing Director , Trickster Theatre

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