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International Music Camp SUMMER. SCHOOL. OF FINE ARTS AT THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE GARDEN ON THE NORTH DAKOTA-MANITOBA BORDER

3/23/2021

Greetings Senate Appropriations Committee,

My name is Tim Baumann and I am one of the Camp Directors for the International Music Camp. I am writing today to express my support for HB 1395.

The COVID-19 pandemic has imposed an incredible burden on our organization and other cultural institutions in our state. In particular, the International Music Camp has been burdened by travel restrictions for our Canadian campers, faculty, and staff who represent approximately 40% of our operations. In 2020, the International Music Camp Board of Directors chose to not operate in person for fear of becoming an infection hotspot following virtual learning. We recognize the need for young people to interact with each other and the fine arts over the summer months, but our residential camp (with indoor dining and close-quarter dormitories) limits what we are able to offer and our ability to generate profit through efficiency and scalability.

The North Dakota Council for the Arts (NDCA) has been an invaluable agent in helping the International Music Camp to keep the lights on through this difficult time. Their work to procure and distribute additional support funds on top of the Institutional Support they already provide means that the International Music Camp can continue to fulfill our mission of enriching lives through artistic expression and personal growth for young people ages 10-19 in 2021 and for years to come.

Please consider granting the NDCA an additional reallocation of unspent Coronavirus Relief Fund moneys. Previous awards have helped cultural organizations like the International Music Camp care for our people and remain financially solvent. Additional funds would help us continue our service to young people from around the world without risking future financial hardship.

Thank you for considering my comments. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if there is further information that I can provide.

ENRICHING

LIVES THROUGH

ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

AND

PERSONAL GROWTH Sincerely,

Tim Baumann Camp Director

International Music Camp

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