



Julie Dzerowicz
Member of Parliament / Députée
Davenport



February 27, 2024

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Via email

Deputy Prime Minister Freeland,

The people of Davenport have made it clear how important our arts and culture sectors are to them. In fact, ensuring that these sectors receive adequate support was top of mind when Davenport residents were asked about their requests for the 2024 federal budget. Arts and culture are critical to the social cohesion of Canadians, to our ability to understand each other, and to interpret the world around us. In these troubling times, it is more important than ever to maintain our vibrant community. Over the past few months, I have met with artists, creators, and those working in the cultural sector. These are some of their requests.

REEL Canada is an excellent non-profit organization that presents Canadian films in Canadian schools and my request is that we provide them with at least \$1 million in funding. We must also fulfill our promises to ensure better and stable funding for the **Canada Music Fund** – namely, increasing the annual contribution to this fund to \$50 million by 2024-2025. And constituents have stressed the importance of **core funding** for the **Canada Council for the Arts**. Our diversity is one of our nation's biggest strengths, and we must continue to provide funding for initiatives that strive to increase diverse representation.

I am a champion for the **Artist's Resale Right (ARR)**, which would allow creators to have better access to the proceeds generated by their creations and would align Canada with our trading partners. This concept is essential, as it is common for art to appreciate in value over time and the full value of a piece of artwork is often not fully realized on the first sale. This prevents artists from achieving a sustainable income and obtaining the recognition they deserve for their work. Similar legislation has proven to be successful in other countries, such as Australia, the United Kingdom, and Ireland. I encourage our government to act fast to catch up with our own legislation.

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Canadian authors are so important to our country and to Davenport residents. To support our authors and book publishers, we must fulfill our promise to **increase, by 50%, funding for the Canada Book Fund**. This funding would help publishers to invest in authors that reflect Canada's wonderful diversity, to publish books sustainably, and to compete in today's marketplace.

Artists are being pushed out of our cities due to the increasing cost of living. Any housing dollars given to the City of Toronto should allow for the City to allocate a portion to artists, to cover access for affordable housing.

Additional requests include:

- that **festival funding** be maintained
- that the **Media Arts Equipment Acquisition** fund continue
- that we do everything we can to support **local news and broadcasting**, especially in this era of information and misinformation
- that we provide the **matching fund** (the Arts and Culture Recovery Program) that we promised in 2021, to help support the return of audiences and the attraction of new audiences
- that we launch a new **cultural diplomacy strategy** to leverage the work done by our artists and cultural industries, as promised in 2021
- that we increase funding for the **Canada Summer Jobs** program to where it was during the pandemic, and implement more flexibility for the organizations involved to adapt the funding to their needs – students were disproportionately affected by the pandemic, and we must therefore provide extra supports

I respectfully ask that you consider these requests on behalf of Davenport.

My very best,

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