



An affiliate of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and a chapter of the national Arts & Business Council, Inc.

NEWS RELEASE

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Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia Defends Critical Importance of Arts & Culture to the Region's Economic Vitality

Dismayed by city administration's cuts to arts funding, Arts & Business Council encourages further business advocacy of arts and cultural organizations

PHILADELPHIA – July 9, 2004– The Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia expressed disappointment with cuts in arts funding approved by Mayor Street and City Council, despite the valiant effort and support of the business community to defend the impact of the arts on the vitality of the region and encourage the city to restore arts funding in full.

“Although the final budget restored \$3.5 million of the \$4.5 million in cultural funding cuts originally proposed by the Mayor, the remaining cuts will dramatically affect the impact of the arts on the economy, and puts the Greater Philadelphia Region at a competitive risk,” said Karen B. Davis, president & CEO of the Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia. “As study after study has shown, the economic impact of the arts is undeniable. So we will continue to be a voice and advocate for garnering business support to ensure arts and cultural organizations continue to thrive as one of our most important regional assets.”

The Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia fosters and builds partnerships between business and the arts that are mutually beneficial and contribute to the economic and cultural vitality of the Greater Philadelphia Region. Since its inception in 1981, the Council has provided services to the arts and cultural community and led broad initiatives valued at over \$18 million by engaging more than 1,000 business employees from 150 area businesses. The Council is a chapter of the national Arts & Business Council, Inc[®] and an affiliate of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce. For more information visit www.artsandbusiness-phila.org or call 215.790.3620.

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