

## Craig, Sondra

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**From:** Drew Duggan <dugg.drew@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 8, 2023 4:46 PM  
**To:** ZZ Council Members  
**Subject:** Arts Board Support for ARPA funds

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Dear Members of La Crosse City Council and Mayor Mitch Reynolds,

I am writing to voice my support for the funds Legislation is requesting as a voting member of the City of La Crosse (Alderman District 7/Ward 17) from the American Rescue Plan Act in support of the Arts Board. These are the same funds that the Finance and Personal Committee has voted in support of as well.

The work that the Arts Board is doing is truly making impact on our community. Local artist are a vital part of our who we are, and they make an indelible mark whether it's the murals and sculptures we drive by daily or the music and poetry we hear or the dancing we see enjoyed by passerby's. Unfortunately, they were uniquely impacted by the pandemic we all suffered through. This nominal amount of funds will help make a difference so these community members can continue to lift up all of us.

On a personal note, I'm someone who grew up in the area, left, and stayed away for nearly 20 years. I came back after being gone for nearly 20 years. My family no longer lives here, so that's not what brought me back. I have friends here, which helped. But I wanted to lived somewhere that I was proud to live. I wanted to live somewhere I loved showing off to family and friends visiting from out of town. The work that's been spearheaded by groups like the Arts Board has helped build that very city I'm proud to call home.

It's just so happened, that I've been fortunate enough to live in several cities the size of La Crosse in the Midwest as an adult. I say "fortunate" because I've seen the communities La Crosse is competing against. We're trying to attract and retain people and families who will be positive contributing members to our community. Our businesses need to know they're supported by a local government that will help present a desirable community for their workers to want to live in. The work that the Arts Board has done, and the artist community they've helped support has helped La Crosse put its best foot forward. It's imperative that support continues so we don't don't lose momentum.

Each generation has its opportunity to leave its mark — if it so chooses. There are so many amazing organizations and non-profits in the Coulee Region today that have chosen to work collectively to better our community. The strongest places are built with commitments from public and private organizations working together to make desirable places for people to live, work, and play. One of the faces of that is the incredible work being done by the Art Board. The passion, energy, and commitment to bettering our community is evident, but we cannot rest on the few without continuing to invest in these organizations. Public and private partnerships are what make us strong as the work isn't done.

So again, I cannot voice my support more strongly for the requested funds Legislation is requesting from the American Rescue Plan Act to be directed towards continued support for the amazing work the Arts Board is doing in of our local artists.

Thank you for your time,  
Drew Duggan  
Community Member