

Craig, Sondra

From: Joshua Doster <jdoster@uwlax.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 10:53 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Rescue Act Funding for the Arts Board

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jdoster@uwlax.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

***** CAUTION:** This email originated from an external sender. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *******

Dear La Crosse City Council Members,

It has come to my attention that there will be a resolution today concerning the allocation of ARPA funds for the City of La Crosse Arts Board. As a member of the local La Crosse arts community, active local artist, and UWL art department instructor for the last eight years, I have directly seen the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on all aspects of life here in La Crosse. The unprecedented challenges left an enduring mark on the total health of our community, affecting all endeavors, be it social, cultural, economic, or creative. I write to you today as a concerned member of this community, advocating the need for art, music, and creative output as a significant and essential need for the total health of the La Crosse community.

I saw the fall of thriving local businesses unable to adapt and maintain relevance under such dramatic shifts in public and private life. Equivalent obstacles had an equally wide-sweeping effect on the local artists and arts community, disrupting means of production, community participation, and avenues for exhibition/performance. Although the function of business and art may vary distinctly, they are intertwined in how they bring our community together, contribute to our cultural identity, and provide economic and cultural opportunities. I think it is vital to understand that the Arts should not be excluded from the consideration for the allocation of funds available to help those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and who contribute to the enrichment and stability of our community.

Sincerely,
Joshua Doster



Joshua Doster

Assistant Professor, Art | [UW-La Crosse](#)
jdoster@uwlax.edu | [608.785.8829](tel:608.785.8829) | 019 Lowe Center For The Arts
Pronouns: he him his