



City of Ketchum

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Nina Jonas

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Jim Slanetz

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City Administrator
Suzanne Frick

Assistant
City Administrator
Lisa Enourato

July 12, 2017

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

I recently attended a presentation regarding an arts and economic prosperity study involving Sun Valley Economic Development and Americans for the Arts. The presentation of data gathered in my community over the past year clearly indicates the incredible significance and essential role that the arts plays in our small and rural, yet sophisticated, community. We love the arts in all iterations!

In following closely your term in office thus far, I was not pleased with your proposed budget cuts to federal cultural agencies such as the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Indeed, your proposal calls for full termination of these important organizations. Beyond their significance to the country on a federal level, these organizations' function and support is translated down to small communities like mine; we receive grants through the Idaho Commission on the Arts to support our local Arts Commission that supports public art programming among other benefits that the NEA, NEH, IMLS, and CPB provide to ours and other private and nonprofit organizations locally.

A constituent of mine recently told me that she feels safe in a community that supports, displays, and promotes art and artistic expression. She tells me it indicates to her a level of sophistication and diversity that gives her comfort and peace.

I vehemently urge you not to de-fund these programs as you have proposed. I sincerely and humbly appreciate your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Nina Jonas
Mayor