



April 8, 2008

The Honorable Betty Karnette
California State Assembly
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Position: SUPPORT

Location: Assembly Committee on Arts,
Entertainment, Sports, Tourism,
& Internet Media

Re: AB 2728 (Karnette) Arts Council – As Amended 04/03/08

Dear Assembly Member Karnette:

On behalf of the California Association of Museums, I thank you for introducing AB 2728 and support its passage as amended. California is in its fifth year spending three cents per capita from the General Fund on the arts, and it remains last in the nation for state spending. AB 2728 will provide badly needed funding for the CAC when California is fiscally sound again, and in turn it can provide programs for all Californians, not just for some.

- Current funding levels are inadequate to meet the needs of arts programming in California museums. There was a 25% increase in the number of schoolchildren being served by museums between 1998 and 2006. And, California museums are performing 31% more activities now than they were in 1998.
- The non-profit arts community, large and small, that the CAC has nurtured over the years is a feeder to California's very profitable creative industry that employs 500,891 as of January 2008. (Dun & Bradstreet data.)
- Non-profit arts organizations are a proven economic driver for California's economy, a \$5.4 billion industry that generates \$300 million in state and local taxes.
- Providing a designated funding stream for the CAC can help grow programs that help non-profit arts organizations and artists serve 37 million Californians and the millions of people who visit California every day.

The California Association of Museums (CAM) is a non-profit service organization representing the interests of California's museums with approximately 200 institutional members in 51 of the state's 58 counties, from art and natural history museums to historical societies, children's museums, aquariums, and zoos. CAM assists California museums in fulfilling their missions as educational and research institutions that interpret and preserve their collections for public benefit. CAM provides a variety of programs that address issues pertinent to all museums and serves as an advocate for museum interests on a state and national level.

California Association of Museums
P.O. Box 1455 Santa Cruz, CA 95061
831/471-9970 www.calmuseums.org

Located at the Seymour Marine Discovery Center

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The arts are vital to the quality of life that we are so very proud of in California. With your legislation providing a stable revenue source for the CAC and its programs, the arts can continue to be a significant contributor to California's economic recovery through tourism, jobs, social services and education outreach. AB 2728 proposes a sound investment for California. Thank you for your commitment to a better California.

We look forward to working with you to strengthen the state's commitment to the arts and cultural community in California. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Celeste DeWald at (831) 471-9970 or call our legislative advocate, Ms. Kathryn Lynch, at (916) 443-0202.

Sincerely,



Phil Kohlmetz
Chair, CAM Legislative Committee
Executive Director, Western Railway Museum



Celeste DeWald
Executive Director

cc: Michael Pro시오, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office
Dana Mitchell, Consultant, Assembly Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism & Internet
Media Committee
Jared Yoshiki, Consultant, Assembly Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, & Internet
Media Committee
Kathryn Lynch, Legislative Advocate, Lynch & Associates
California Association of Museums