

I heard of the budget hearing scheduled for Saturday November 17<sup>th</sup> in Rochester I am not able to attend this hearing however I want the decisions makers responsible for crafting the Executive Budget to know that I encourage continuing the financial support to the States cultural organizations,

As the Director of the Arts for the Rochester City School District, we depend on the local cultural organizations to provide integrated arts learning experiences for our students. The Cultural organizations also assist us in providing professional development for Rochester City School District Teachers. Five years ago the District initiated a program where local cultural organizations deliver professional development to RCSD teachers on integrated instruction and offer our students an arts learning experience at the cultural institution, whether it be the Memorial Art Gallery, the Museum and Science Center , the Seneca Park Zoo or our local Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra

The cultural institution also co-developed a curricular packet for teachers' use as they prepare students to attend or visit the cultural organization. Below is the chart of the integrated arts learning experiences that our students participate in.

Kindergarteners, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Graders and 5 <sup>th</sup> Graders	Attends a Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra concert	The concert integrates science, ELA and social studies content
1 <sup>st</sup> Graders	Visit the Seneca Park Zoo	To learn about animals and their habitats'
3 <sup>rd</sup> Graders	Visit the Rochester Museum and Science Center	To learn about the solar system
6 <sup>th</sup> Graders	Visit the Memorial Art Gallery	To learn about ancient civilizations

Locally the cultural organizations support and enhance the educational goals of our students; so I ask that the NYS budget continue to support the cultural organizations.

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 Rochester City School District