

Cultural and Museum Education Act

Dear Governor:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Rockwell Museum of Western Art in Corning, NY and the 1,045 museums and historical organizations across the state that annually provide exceptional educational programs to 6.6 million schoolchildren – without benefit of any State Education Department funding support – to urge you to include in your Executive Budget \$30 million to support the Cultural Education and Museum Act.

The Act provides formula-based funding to museums and historical societies that offer verifiable, standards-based educational programming to K-12 schoolchildren, along with competitive grant programs that promote science and technology literacy and collaborations with performing arts organizations. The Act also addresses much-needed longitudinal evaluation of the educational effectiveness of the museum-based educational programming.

This Act will directly support the Museum's mission to "preserve, interpret, and enhance the Museum collections, emphasizing American Western and Native American art and culture." It is our mission to "foster a deeper understanding of these cultures and aesthetic traditions through dynamic exhibitions and educational activities that attract interest from a broader public." The Rockwell Museum of Western Art serves nearly 6,000 students annually and provides curriculum to educators, meeting NY State Teaching Standard. The multi-faceted education program at the Rockwell Museum provides real value to our area schools and students. It is through government and private funding that the Museum is able to provide all programs free of charge.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

~Beth Manwaring

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