



## **Support CAMPAC and the WI Conservatory of Music today!**

Dear Friend of the Arts,

Milwaukee County's longstanding arts and culture funding program (CAMPAC) is about to be suspended from the 2012 county budget and we must not let it happen!

Grants from this program allows us to present our Conservatory Sundays concerts for \$5.00 admission, and provide the benefits of music education to more than 8,800 children in grades Pre-K through 12 each year. Milwaukee County arts funding also supports many other arts organizations in our community.

The Milwaukee County arts and culture budget is \$377,688, a tiny sliver of the overall 2012 budget (.027%). But its impact on our county's educational and cultural offerings and local economy is incalculable. Without it, programs that define Milwaukee as an attractive cultural center will fade or disappear. Other businesses such as restaurants, shops, and galleries will also suffer. Jobs could be lost.

We understand that Milwaukee County is facing a \$55 million+ budget shortfall. We also believe that suspending a program that generates good publicity and significant tax revenue can only add to Milwaukee County's short- and long-term financial woes. It also exacerbates the massive cuts to K-12 education that are affecting music and art programs across the county. We must keep music and art in our schools and community!

The Conservatory, with other recipients of Milwaukee County arts and culture grants recommend restoring this funding to the 2012 budget with a 15% reduction. This percentage would align to cuts proposed in other arts programs funded in the 2012 Milwaukee County Budget, and would allow programming to continue. It would also allow some of our smallest arts partners to continue operation.

### ***How can you help?***

**There is much that you can do before the County Finance Committee Meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 2011:**

If you live in Milwaukee County and your Milwaukee County Supervisor serves on the Finance and Audit or Parks, Energy, and Environment Committees (please refer to the attached list), call, email, write, or schedule a meeting and ask her/him to restore County Arts and Culture/CAMPAC funding to the 2012 budget with a 15% reduction. Also contact Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele!

Here's a link to find your Milwaukee County Supervisor's contact information:

[http://www.address.milwaukeecounty.org/SEWRPCAddr\\_list.asp?so](http://www.address.milwaukeecounty.org/SEWRPCAddr_list.asp?so)

If you live outside of Milwaukee County, please contact any family members and friends who live in Milwaukee County and ask them to contact their Milwaukee County Executive and Supervisor.

Also, please follow this link to Arts Wisconsin to send a message through their Legislative Action Center:

[http://capwiz.com/artsusa/wi/issues/alert/?alertid=54313526&type=LO&show\\_alert=1](http://capwiz.com/artsusa/wi/issues/alert/?alertid=54313526&type=LO&show_alert=1)

Thank you so much for supporting the arts in Milwaukee County, and for helping to share the benefits of music and arts education with our community!

Your friend in the arts,

Karen Deschere  
President and CEO

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