

Sample Curtain Speech

This performance is funded in part through a grant from the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency that supports many arts organizations and quality arts programming throughout the state. We'd like to take a minute to thank the Missouri Arts Council for their support. [applause]

The arts contribute to the productivity, innovation and quality of life in Missouri. Last year, Missouri Arts Council funding supported over 16,000 art events attended by over 8.6 million people. Their grantees provided 6,178 full and part time jobs in the state and hired over 55,000 artists, generating over \$192 million in revenue.

This year, many of the non-profit arts organizations in the state have suffered extensive cuts in the public funding they received from the Missouri Arts Council. Without an increase in the Missouri Arts Council budget these cuts will be even more devastating next year. Now, more than ever, we need to engage our legislators and elected officials to inform them of the value of the arts and request they make funding for the Missouri Arts Council a priority. A quick letter, phone call or email to your State Representative or Senator can make a huge difference. Tell them your experience tonight and that you'd like to see continued funding for organizations like [YOUR ORGANIZATION NAME].

We must join together to make sure [YOUR ORGANIZATION NAME] and Missouri's arts and cultural institutions continue to be a vibrant part of our communities and our children's' futures.

Thank you and enjoy the show!