

## Sample Phone Script

Hello Senator/Representative (Name).

My name is (Your Name) and I live in your district. I am calling today to ask for your support for state funding of the Missouri Arts Council.

You may not be familiar with all the programs the Missouri Arts Council supports.

- The Missouri Arts Council provides grants to non-profit arts organizations throughout the state. In FY24, these funds help support 5,195 full and part time jobs.
- Many of these grants also support arts education initiatives that are often in collaboration with local public schools. We now know that Missouri schools with higher participation in the arts see better attendance records, higher test scores in communication arts, and higher graduation rates. from, Arts Education Makes a Difference in Missouri Schools, at [www.moaae.org](http://www.moaae.org).
- The arts organizations funded by the Missouri Arts Council are also drivers in the economic development and tourism. Attendance at arts events generates income for local businesses—restaurants, parking garages, hotels, retail stores, as well as the cost of admission to an event. In 2022, Missouri's nonprofit arts and culture industry generated \$1.725 billion in economic activity. (Americans for the Arts, Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 study, at <https://missouriartscouncil.org/economic-impact-of-missouri-art/>)

Annually, Missouri Department of Revenue collects approximately \$36 million in new funds from the income tax on professional non-resident athletes and entertainers who work in Missouri. By statute, 60% of that revenue could be transferred to the Missouri Arts Council Trust Fund but, in FY2025, only \$10.1 million was transferred to the Missouri Arts Council Trust Fund. I urge you to please support funding the Missouri Arts Council Trust Fund at \$12 million for FY2026. This would be a \$1.9 million increase to fund new and existing programs at the Missouri Arts Council.

Can I count on your support?

Thank you for your time today.

Your support is vital to our citizens and to the work of the Missouri Arts Council.