

From: Bill Schubart <schubart@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 12:08 PM
To: Jane Kitchel <jkitchel@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: VT College of Fine Arts and ARPA funding

Dear Jane,

Alongside our AVIC school counterparts, VCFA needs ARPA funding to survive the Covid crisis. Montpelier cannot afford another college closure (NECI). We are asking for a specific allocation of \$684,000 to ensure our survival.

Twice a year, we bring some 500 students and faculty to Montpelier for our extended residencies. Events at the College deeply enrich the cultural community of Central Vermont. We employ 70 Vermonters and have been excellent stewards of one of Montpelier's most historic neighborhoods.

In FY21, we experienced a \$1.2M loss in revenue and additional covid-related expenses. In spite of aggressive cost-cutting efforts in FY22, we're projecting \$1.1M in lost revenue and additional covid-related expenses. Because of the pandemic, the auxiliary revenue on which we rely is gone and we won't see a return of that revenue until FY 23 (July 22-June 23).

Although our applications remain strong - a testament to our enduring value to learners - our leave-of-absence requests have increased dramatically for the semester starting in July -- all pandemic-related.

Former federal allocations have been based on the number of Pell awards an institution receives, but as a postgraduate college, we have no Pell recipients, which has diminished our federal allocations. But as elsewhere, our students experience substantial need and have been severely impacted by the pandemic.

Our extraordinary success as a pioneer in higher ed has all occurred in the last decade since our founding, and as such, we have no substantial endowment to support our operations.

As Chair, I'm deeply committed to the pioneering success of VCFA in the Vermont landscape and am asking you to advocate for a \$684,000 grant on our behalf.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of all Vermonters,

Sincerely,
Bill Schubart, Chair

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