**Email copy**

[*It would be an enormous help in reaching as many Alberta voters as possible if you could either include this in an existing newsletter or send it on its own to your community!*]

Dear Arts Supporter,

IT’S TIME FOR THE ARTS

Ahead of the election at the end of this month, we would like to call for more arts funding in Alberta. Despite increased government expense budgets, high inflation, and growing population, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts funding has been cut back by 27% (almost $10 million) since 2009. This funding is crucial to the health of Alberta arts and culture, which has also been decimated by Covid-19.

The Rozsa Foundation and the CCVO have started a non-partisan effort called [VoteArtsAB](https://rozsafoundation-my.sharepoint.com/personal/lisa_rozsafoundation_com/Documents/voteartsab.com) and are asking to double the AFA budget over the next three years – that is an additional one one-hundredth of one percent of the budget a year (0.0124%) from a budget of over $68 billion.

THE FACTS ARE STARK

In the last 14 years:

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* Alberta’s expense budget has increased from $36.7 billion to $65.6 billion ( up 86.1%)
* Provincial inflation has risen considerably (up by 33.7%)
* Alberta’s population has grown significantly (up by 26%)
* Arts funding has been cut by over $9 million (down by 26.6%)

The arts sector in Alberta has been expected to serve more people at a higher cost of business with less funding.

Especially now that the talk of surpluses and new sports arena infrastructures are on the table, this increase request is incredibly tiny by comparison. A doubled AFA budget would still only account for less than one tenth of one percent of the currently proposed budget. Investment in arts and entertainment infrastructure without investment in arts and entertainment makes no sense.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

**Simply text ARTS to 587-875-5751**. This will send an email to every party leader asking them to pledge to increase funding to the AFA in support of Alberta artists and arts organizations. There is no cost for you to do this, and no endorsement of one party over another – just a step to make sure that our political leaders are aware of the importance of the arts in the province, and that Albertans like you support an increase in funding.

You can also help spread the word by visiting [VoteArtsAB.com](https://rozsafoundation-my.sharepoint.com/personal/lisa_rozsafoundation_com/Documents/voteartsab.com) and using their helpful posts on social media with the hashtag #VoteArtsAB to make sure as many Albertans as possible can make their voices heard.

On behalf of all of us working in the arts in this province (over 46,000 people!), thank you.

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