

Pamela S. Ulmer

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Name: PAUL C Riner

Type of Meeting: Harrisonburg City Council

Date of Meeting: Tue, 06/22/2021

Agenda Item Number: 7.a.

Comment:

The Arts Council of the Valley is an IMMENSELY important part of our community's efforts to pull out of the last year and a half of COVID-related economic hardships and move even more towards business-related reopening. The arts showed us how to cope, deal, and heal over the last year and a half. The arts connected us, even when we couldn't connect in person with one another. The arts helped us thank our first responders, doctors, and nurses through #ARTfeltthanks. Our kids need the arts as an outlet to be creative and discover who they will grow to be. We need to be in awe of great talent, whatever medium it shows up in. Our school system need the arts to help educate well-rounded students. That all is in addition to the incredible amount of money that the arts pumps into our local economy on a regular basis. Many residents and visitors consume art only before or after purchasing hotel stays, meals, tank of gas, or other goods at local businesses. The arts make James Madison University a destination for students and their families who would otherwise never know about Harrisonburg, VA. In short, the arts are needed in so many ways- more than can be explained. The Arts Council of the Valley deserves our City's BEST investment, both in time, money, and the space to grow and evolve so that they can contribute to a bright future for everyone.

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