22 October 2012

Councillor Paula Havixbeck
Chair, Standing Committee on Protection and Community Services
City Clerk's Office
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1B9

Dear Councillor Havixbeck,

The Winnipeg Arts Council is pleased to present herein its **2013 Corporate Plan and Budget** to the Standing Committee on Protection and Community Services. We would welcome the opportunity to speak directly to the plan at the convenience of the Committee.

As you will see reflected in the document, the request for 2013 amounts to an increase of $434,127 over the 2012 allocation, for a total of $4,516,779. The Corporate Plan describes the utilization of such funds in detail. The Winnipeg Arts Council remains committed to increasing the benefits to the city through municipal cultural investment with the long term goal being the gradual movement of funding from the current $6 per capita annually to $12 per capital annually over the next eight years.

We understand that the City has to make hard financial decisions and locate funds for many worthy needs. We would like to suggest however, that the ***Land Operating Reserve*** be examined as a source for increased funding to the Winnipeg Arts Council. Just as revenue from the sale of City properties is used to fund activities such as historical building programs and both the operation and capital needs of community centres (all in the broad sense, cultural endeavours), a dedicated portion of gross land sales each year could be invested in the arts in Winnipeg.

We look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,

Carol A. Phillips - Executive Director

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As an arms-length agency of the City of Winnipeg, the Winnipeg Arts Council funds, supports, and advocates for the arts on behalf of the people of Winnipeg.