



November 2, 2016

Jay Dardenne, Commissioner of Administration
Division of Administration
1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-210
New Orleans, LA 70802

In response to HCR 25 of the 2016 Regular Legislative Session

Commissioner Dardenne,

In response to HCR 25 of the 2016 Regular Legislative Session, The New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) is Louisiana's Conservatory for High School students. NOCCA's mission is to provide professional arts training, coaching, and performance and academic opportunities for high school level students who are in training to be creative artists and the next generation of leaders in the creative and cultural economy.

As a public school and a state agency, we have to balance our ability to provide a 21st century education that will prepare students for their next logical step, with the state's limited resources. Over the past decade, along with many other state entities, NOCCA has managed cuts to funding while continuing to provide the highest caliber of training for Louisiana's aspiring young artists. During this time of austerity, NOCCA has increased our student population by 40% and has also added an additional 64,000 square feet of instructional space. That additional instructional space was completed through a public/private partnership that did not include any state funds to complete the construction of the classroom spaces.

NOCCA has maintained sending 95%+ of its graduates to higher education with average offered scholarships of \$150,000 and its ranking as an "A" high school in Louisiana while also managing the reduced revenue available to operate. In the 2016-2017 fiscal year NOCCA will work to continue performing at the highest possible standards set while maintaining the previous reductions necessitated by the financial constraints that limit the state's ability to fully fund our programs.

We will continue to work with the administration and the legislature to find ways to improve the efficiency of services.

In Service,

Kyle Wedberg, President/CEO

New Orleans Center For Creative Arts