



Good afternoon. Thank you, members of the Joint Finance Committee and the Controller General's office, for the opportunity to speak today. I am here to voice my support for increased state funding for the Delaware Division of the Arts to help sustain arts organizations and individual artists across our state.

My name is A.T. Moffett, and I live in North Wilmington. I am the Executive Director of Delaware Institute for the Arts in Education, an organization that has been providing arts-integrated programs and teacher professional development in schools and early learning centers across Delaware since 1982.

At DiAE, we are not just engaging students in the arts—we are helping develop Delaware's future leaders. Creativity, innovation, and problem-solving are skills that today's students need to thrive in tomorrow's job market. Through our artist residencies and strategic partnerships with schools and districts, we are helping young people see the arts not just as a fun extracurricular, but as a potential career pathway.

We bring professional artists into schools, modeling what an artist does and how the artistic process closely aligns with academic inquiry. Exposure and mentorship matter, and we are laying the foundation for students to see themselves as future creators, performers, and entrepreneurs.

Additionally, DiAE is committed to workforce development for artists. Our programs provide independently contracted teaching artists with professional development, 1:1 coaching, and paid teaching opportunities, strengthening their ability to make a living in Delaware. By investing in our teaching artists, we help them build sustainable careers, and contribute to Delaware's cultural and economic landscape.

Supporting the arts is not just about enrichment—it is about investing in Delaware's creative economy and ensuring that the next generation has the skills and opportunities to succeed.

Thank you for your time and your support of the arts in Delaware.

Sincerely,

A.T. Moffett
Executive Director DiAE
moffett@udel.edu/302-660-4783

