

A Message from Barbara Silzle

Dear friends,

I hope this email finds you well. I'm writing to let you know that Friday, July 15th will mark the end of my 7-year tenure as the Philadelphia Cultural Fund's Executive Director. Leading the Cultural Fund and serving Philadelphia's arts community in this capacity has been a profound honor and joy. While I'm ready to pursue other interests, my devotion to Philadelphia's artists and arts organizations remains and will no doubt manifest in other ways.

The board and I are committed to a smooth transition that seamlessly continues the essential work of the Cultural Fund in support of our grantees. The board has appointed an Interim Executive Director, Caralyn Spector, and will conduct a search for a permanent Executive Director. A link to that announcement is [here](#). Our Program Manager, Camille Halsey, will continue to manage the grant program and guide organizations through the process. The Cultural Fund will provide updates on the transition via email and our website.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made their voices heard, who rallied, testified before City Council, and who wrote letters and emails to encourage the City to restore funding to PCF for 2023. The good news is that the Mayor's proposed budget that would have reduced PCF's allocation to \$2.5 million was revised and our funding has been fully restored to \$3.5 million! Please stay in engaged in this vital advocacy for the arts and the Cultural Fund.

Thank you for the work you do to enrich the lives of everyone who lives, works, plays and goes to school here in Philadelphia. I know our paths will cross again soon.

Gratefully,
Barbara



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