

November 28, 2007

The Honorable Eliot Spitzer
Governor
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Spitzer,

I am writing to you on behalf of The Long Island Museum of American Art, History and Carriages, along with the 1,045 museums and historical organizations across the state that annually provide exceptional educational programs to 6.6 million schoolchildren - without benefit of any State Education Department funding support - to urge you to include in your Executive Budget \$30 million to support the Cultural Education and Museum Act.

The Act provides formula-based funding to museums and historical societies that offer verifiable, standards-based educational programming to K-12 schoolchildren, along with competitive grant programs that promote science and technology literacy and collaborations with performing arts organizations. The Act also addresses much-needed longitudinal evaluation of the educational effectiveness of the museum-based educational programming.

If the Act is funded, the Long Island Museum will be able to continue the library and school partnerships that we have developed with the North Babylon, Middle Country, Longwood and Three Village school districts as well as the Middle Country Public Library. Our programs are developed to use authentic artifacts—particularly horse-drawn vehicles, costumes, and 19th and 20th century American art—as documents to tell the story of America's past. All of our programs directly support New York State standards in social studies, history and language arts.

It is our goal to make our programs affordable and accessible to all children on Long Island. We currently have a local grant which enables us to offer reduced-price field trips to school districts in which 20% or more the students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch under federal guidelines; if this Act is funded we will be able to continue to do so.

Sincerely,
Jackie Day
President and CEO

Betsy Radecki
Director of Education
The Long Island Museum of American, Art
History and Carriages
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