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Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (1979-1992): Correspondence 07

Claiborne Pell

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January 24, 1989

Ms. Iona Dobbins
Executive Director
R.I. State Council on the Arts
95 Cedar Street
Suite 103
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Iona:

Just a brief note to thank you for sending along a copy of the Council's 1988 Annual Funding Report. I am always delighted to see how the Council's support reaches into every corner of Rhode Island.

You also deserve congratulations for securing such an impressive legislative appropriation for the Council. We can all be very proud of Rhode Island's increasing support for its artists and cultural institutions.

With warm regards,

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell
Chairman
Subcommittee on Education,
Arts & Humanities
DIPIETE PROCLAIMS 1987 "YEAR OF THE ARTS"

Governor Edward D. DiPrete said today that to "highlight the importance of arts in our state, both economically and culturally, and to add further enrichment to the high quality of life we all enjoy," he is proclaiming 1987 as "The Year of the Arts." The Governor noted that this celebration coincides with the 20th anniversary of the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA).

At a news conference in his office, the Governor noted that the arts community is growing and flourishing in the state and, according to the latest figures, represents an economic impact totaling $125 million.

In addition to events and activities planned for the year, including a celebration of the Labor Day weekend in honor of the working men and women of Rhode Island, the Governor said that he would sponsor a "Governor's Arts-Business Conference." The conference, being planned by the Department of Economic Development (DED) and the RISCA, will offer the expertise of
national experts, as well as local artists and economic development officials, on how to improve the linkage between the economic development community and the arts community.

"In an effort to highlight, encourage and to maximize the potential for economic growth within the arts industry," the Governor said, "I am also directing the Director of DED, Lou Fazzano, and the Executive Director of RISCA, Iona Dobbins, to work together to enhance the relationship between the development of the state's economy and how it interacts with the arts community."

The Governor also named a prominent Rhode Island businessman, Thomas Dimeo, and Dr. Thomas F. Schutte, President of the Rhode Island School of Design, as Honorary Chairmen of "The Year of the Arts."

The Governor also said that he will be introducing two pieces of "arts" legislation. One would require that up to 1% of all new construction, remodeling and renovation of state facilities be used to incorporate works of art; the second would involve setting aside proceeds from a "Lottery for the Arts," with the revenue generated being used for events during "The Year of the Arts."

"As we all know," the Governor stated, "Rhode Island is a unique place to live and work. Over the past twelve months, as part of the RI 350 celebration, we have been successful in bringing Rhode Islanders together to celebrate the founding of our state. A large segment of our population provides us with the cultural nourishment and entertainment we all enjoyed over the past 12 months."

"This community," he concluded, "which many of us are now recognizing as a growth industry, has every reason to be proud"
of the progress it has made. It is now time for state government, the business community, the arts community and all Rhode Islanders to join together and celebrate the arts in Rhode Island."