

U.S. Senator Chris Murphy meets with Cultural Coalition

1 message

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SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION



On Thursday, the Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition welcomed U.S. Senator Chris Murphy for a roundtable for arts and cultural leaders at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum. About forty leaders attended the roundtable and had the opportunity to share information and hear from the Senator about issues

affecting the arts and culture sector.

During the roundtable discussion, a wide-range of issues that demonstrate how pervasive the arts and culture sector is in the economy, job creation, education and quality of life were discussed. Murphy provided insight into local and national issues affecting the industry, such as local rail plans, arts in education in CT schools, and the status of the charitable tax deduction.

"Yesterday's meeting at Lyman Allyn Art Museum brought together an incredible cross section of community leaders from the arts, theater, museums, and the military. We had a lively discussion about both the challenges - like aging transportation infrastructure - and the strengths that make this region ripe for economic growth. Tourism is the lifeblood of the regional economy, and I'll keep doing all I can to be the best advocate for all we have to offer in southeastern Connecticut," said U.S. Senator Chris Murphy.



Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition Executive Director, Wendy Bury, said, "We are delighted that Senator Murphy reached out to us to tell us he energetically supports what we are doing, and left us with an offer of his assistance on initiatives where he can be helpful as a voice in the U.S. Senate and member of the appropriations committee."

Bury continued, "Senator Murphy was very clear in demonstrating his understanding of the significance of the arts and culture industry and his appreciation of the value of the Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition. We count him among our growing number of partners in Connecticut."



Senator Murphy has supported increased funding for the Office of Museum Services at the Institute of Museum and Library Services. He has also supported National Endowment for the Arts grants to many Connecticut organizations and helped to secure funding for the National Coast Guard Museum in downtown New London. He also played a significant role in prohibiting the relocation of the Coast Guard Band from New London.

The Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition launched in 2014 and today works with 450 partners that make up the creative economy. At the onset of the roundtable, Bury provided an overview of the sector in the region highlighting partnerships between the Cultural Coalition and educational institutions, municipal leaders, chambers, military, arts in health providers (social and human service organizations), and economic development agencies.

The Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition is our region's Designated Regional Service Organization (DRSO) of the Connecticut Office of the Arts and part of a statewide network to support the Department of Economic & Community Development.



Sam Quigley of Lyman Allyn Art Museum, Wendy Bury of Cultural Coalition, U.S. Senator Chris Murphy, and Preston Whiteway of the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center and Cultural Coalition Co-Chair

Department of Economic and
Community Development

Office of the Arts

Connecticut
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