

Hello,

My name is Chris Gresh and I am an eighteen year old college student and board member of the Free Theatre organization that is based in Montgomery County. We are a non profit organization whose mission centers around providing an arts education to all youth regardless of financial status/ background. Our students pay no tuition to perform in the Free Theatre shows and receive training. I am writing on behalf of our company, but in a broader context, I am writing on behalf of theater in general, and its importance within our county and beyond. Theater is a unique art form, as it allows individuals to express themselves in a variety of facets, from dancing, to singing, to directing, and more. Theater combines the perspectives of a multitude of artists and creates a single, unified, special piece of art. Theater is an avenue for people of all backgrounds to have their voices heard and speak their truths. For these reasons, I strongly recommend that the Montgomery county council go forward with the proposal that would provide grants to theater/arts organizations like the Free Theatre. Art is an invaluable aspect of any society, and in our county where we pride ourselves on being diverse and progressive in thought, it is even more essential. All youth should be able to pursue art and tell their truths; please fund the arts.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Chris Gresh