

Young Masters Art Center, LLC
Re. arts and humanities emergency relief funding
October 31, 2020

To Whom it May Concern: Kindly accept my request for financial assistance under the arts and humanities emergency relief fund. I am the owner of a small children's art school, Young Masters Art Center LLC, located in Montgomery County. I am also a professional artist in classical painting.

Since the onset of COVID in early 2020, our school has been closed for in person classes and has experienced a significant financial impact due to the loss of students. We do not expect to re-open for in person classes until well into 2021. We have also lost a contractual agreement with a local preschool for art enrichment classes, severely affecting our school's income and ability to remain open.

With the assistance of dedicated parents, we have been able to transition some of our classes to a virtual setting thereby retaining some of our student base. While effective for older children, unfortunately, many of our students were very young (ages 4-6) and we find they do not thrive in art instruction under a virtual teaching setting. This has resulted in the loss of nearly all students in that age range.

The change in business model from in person to virtual continues to severely impact our small school and the student base we were able to build. At this time, I do not see a path to remaining open in 2021 without some financial assistance.

I am an over 65 senior who retired from full time employment 5 years ago to finally fulfill my dream of being an artist and art teacher. This profession does not bring a large income under normal circumstances. With the COVID impact, I am barely remaining above financial water with both the school and my professional art work. I kindly request any assistance the County is able to provide.

Mary Scuka

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