



# Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)  
Email: [info@VeniceNC.org](mailto:info@VeniceNC.org) / Phone or Fax: 310.606.2015



April 22, 2009

The Honorable Paul Krekorian  
Member of the California State Assembly  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 700

Dear Assembly Member Krekorian:

The Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) was certified by the LA Department of Neighborhood Empowerment in March, 2002 and the original bylaws of the organization were approved and the area of representation defined. On March 29, 2006, the Board of Officers approved amended bylaws. These bylaws were ratified by Venice stakeholders on May 1, 2006, and approved by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) and subsequently amended. We are a duly elected body of community officers governed by state and local laws and assisted by the City of Los Angeles DONE.

On behalf of the VNC, I thank you for introducing AB 700 and support its passage. California is in its sixth year spending three cents per capita from the General Fund on the arts, and it remains last in the nation for state spending. AB 700 will provide funding to invest in California's creative sector which contributes to the state's economy and its ability to compete in the global marketplace.

- The non-profit arts community, large and small, that the CAC has nurtured over the years is a feeder to California's very profitable creative industry that employs 500,891 as of January 2008. (Dun & Bradstreet data.)
- Non-profit arts organizations are a proven economic driver for California's economy, a \$5.4 billion industry that generates \$300 million in state and local taxes.
- Providing a designated funding stream for the CAC can help grow programs that help non-profit arts organizations and artists serve 37 million Californians and the millions of people who visit California every day.

The arts are vital to the quality of life that we are so very proud of in California. With your legislation providing a stable revenue source for the CAC and its programs, the arts can continue to be a significant contributor to California's economic recovery



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through tourism, jobs, social services and education outreach. AB 700 proposes a sound investment for California. Thank you for your commitment to a better California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike R. Newhouse".

Mike Newhouse  
President  
Venice Neighborhood Council

Cc: Ted W. Lieu, AD53  
Karen Bass, AD47  
Julia Brownley, AD 41  
Ms. Dana Mitchell, Consultant, Assembly Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism  
& Internet Media Committee  
Ms. Kathryn Lynch, Legislative Advocate, Lynch & Associates California Arts  
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