

Action Alert to support Contemporary Craft
Speak up for Pittsburgh's oldest craft organization for important state funding

Founded in 1971, Contemporary Craft seeks to engage the public in creative experiences through contemporary craft with core focuses on sharing cross-cultural perspectives, using art to build community, providing vital support for artists, and filling critical gaps in public education. Its free admission policy provides accessibility to all in the community and beyond.

Contemporary Craft is an international tourist attraction, valued regional arts education resource, accessible local makerspace, and unique shopping destination all under one roof. Contemporary Craft was recognized with an Award of Distinction in 2018 by the American Craft Council – one of only a few organizations to receive this honor in the United States – and the only one in Pittsburgh.

Right now, you can help Pittsburgh’s oldest craft organization by speaking up for important state funding! The Public comment period is now open for Round 1 of 2019 RACP submissions. The Office of the Budget will accept comments via letter or email **ONLY** during the open comment period, which ends on March 9, 2019. No verbal comments will be accepted.

To fully benefit from your contribution, we are requesting that you follow the simple guidelines below:

- Subject Heading – Include full Project Name (as identified on the RACP Project Submission List: for this project, it is Contemporary Craft Relocation)
 - Example of Subject Line – Public Comment for Contemporary Craft Relocation
 - Please note that letters/emails without clear indication of the RACP Project Name may not allow us to benefit from your important contribution.
- Letters can be addressed to ‘RACP Administration’ (see address/template below).
- Letter Content – Please be as clear and direct, as possible.
- Signatory – Please provide a name and/or organization associated with the comment. (Anonymous letters will be accepted and are subject to the State Right to Know Law.)
- Supporting Documentation – If necessary, additional documentation can be included with letters or attached to emails as support to the context of the comment.
- A separate comment letter/email should be submitted for each project.

Please be advised that it is the quality and content of the comments that will be weighed during the selection process as opposed to the volume of letters supporting each posted project. See the next page for a sample email/letter from Contemporary Craft.

When complete, please mail or email your letter to:

RACP Public Comment Period
Office of the Budget
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
18th Floor Harristown 2
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101-2210

AND

Contemporary Craft
Attn: Development
2100 Smallman Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

OR

RA-OB-PublicComment@pa.gov

OR

donorsupport@contemporarycraft.org

February 2019

re: Contemporary Craft Relocation / 2019 RACP support

Dear RACP Administration:

I am writing to you in support of Contemporary Craft's 2019 request for funding through the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP). As a resident of the Commonwealth, I appreciate the role of high-quality arts organizations in making Pennsylvania a culturally rich and rewarding place to live, which is why I am proud to ask for your support of Contemporary Craft today.

Since 1971, Contemporary Craft has been contributing to the cultural landscape of Southwestern Pennsylvania through multicultural exhibitions, educational programs and workshops, and outreach to the most vulnerable groups in our community. The organization has gained national recognition for its cutting edge exhibitions that address critical social issues that affect us all, and provide resources and support for those in need. Just last year in 2018, Contemporary Craft received the American Craft Council's prestigious Award of Distinction—one of only a handful of organizations in the nation with over 25 years of service that have received this honor.

At the end of 2019, Contemporary Craft must relocate from its longtime home in the Produce Terminal building due to a private redevelopment project. In order to preserve this community asset, I hope that you will support Contemporary Craft's RACP capital funding request this year. The \$5.5 million capital relocation will transform the organization while maintaining its near 50 year commitment to serving the people of Southwestern Pennsylvania through thoughtful and engaging arts programming.

Thank you for your attention to this request, and for your recognizing the importance of arts and cultural institutions in the lives of Pennsylvanians, everyday.

Respectfully,

Name: _____

Email: _____