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1 Fayette Park
Cambridge MA 02139
November 15, 2000

Cambridge City Council

2001 JUN 13 A 9:48

Dear Sirs:

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

I have found that the Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center (CMAC) uses its resources in a wasteful way. I am writing to you to suggest that you reduce their grant from the City of Cambridge correspondingly.

The CMAC facilities include a concert space. The CMAC policy is not to schedule different uses of that space on consecutive days. In my case, I found that I could not have a concert in their space on a certain Friday night (January 26, 2000) because a "private party" was using that space on Saturday. By CMAC's rule, their space would also not be available on the following Sunday night. The "private party" was paying for the space only on Saturday.

No private venue - theater, hall, or other - would have such a relaxed policy. CMAC can do so only because it is partly supported by public contributions. CMAC's policy foregoes the income CMAC might get from using its space fully. In addition, CMAC presumably rents its space in order to fulfill its mission. To the extent that it does not use that space, it does not fulfill its mission.

The City of Cambridge contribution to CMAC for the year 2000 was \$200,000. I suggest that next year that this be reduced by \$15,000, to \$185,000.

I arrive at this number as follows: assume that each weekend of the year, there is one night that the CMAC space could be used when it is not used, according to the CMAC policy. Multiply approximately 50 weekends per year by the rental (\$300) of the CMAC concert space, giving \$15,000.

This is of course a somewhat arbitrary calculation. I suggest that the Cambridge City Council might use it as a basis of discussion.

Let me point out that CMAC cannot have a count of the number of events that did not take place at their center because of their policy. In my case, the concert I was arranging could not take place on another date. When I learned that the hall was not available on that date, I did not make an application to CMAC, so CMAC has no record of my interest.

The other side of this letter is a copy of an earlier letter I sent to CMAC. I have had no reply to that letter.

Yours very truly



David Golber

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL: PLEASE READ OTHER SIDE FIRST

1 Fayette Park
Cambridge MA 02139
October 19, 2000

Director
Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center
41 Second Street
Cambridge MA 02141

Dear Sir or Madam:

A few weeks ago, I visited CMAC to ask about using your theater for a music event. I find your policy for the use of the theater, as explained to me then, so strange that I am writing to express my astonishment.

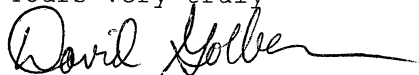
The woman I talked to explained that, although the theater was not scheduled to be used on the Friday night I asked about, a "private party" had reserved it for Saturday. The woman told me that the CMAC policy was not to schedule the theater for use by different groups on consecutive nights, and therefore it would not be available on that Friday night. She told me that the reason for this policy is that CMAC has in some cases had difficulty with clearing out the stage setup from one group in time for the next group to come in, and so CMAC has adopted the policy of not allowing different groups to use the theater on consecutive nights.

Since the musician for whom I am arranging this concert is traveling internationally on a fixed schedule, no other weekend is of interest to me, and so I have not sent CMAC a proposal for this concert.

I am quite aware of the problem of setting up and breaking down stage arrangements. Every theater and every stage performance in the world has to deal with this. But it is usual to deal with this by charging for time for setup and break down, asking for deposits, and so forth. It is hard to imagine a theater that would cheerfully give up use of its stage for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, in return for the rent for Saturday only.

This policy of yours, as I see it, wastes your resources. It loses you both the income from renting the theater, and the use of the theater as a resource to accomplish your mission. It also denies the public the use of a beautiful and convenient space. Since CMAC is funded at least partially by public contributions, I am writing you this letter. I am very interested in your response.

Yours very truly


David Golber

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Consent Communication #9

A communication was received
from David Golber, regarding the
Cambridge Multicultural Arts
Center.

In City Council June 18, 2001

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