Tēnā koe Councillor [Name] / [Local Board Member Name]

I/we were concerned to read in the Mayor’s draft proposal for the Council’s 2023/2024 budget, that one of the options being considered is the discontinuation of all contestable regional grants (across arts, events, community recreation, environment, heritage etc $8m in total), and the removal of another $20m from community and social innovation and economic development programmes, which includes art events programmes.

Like many arts organisations and artists, the impacts of COVID-19 were substantial for us.

[Briefly list the impacts of Covid lockdowns/ sickness etc on you/your organisation – loss of opportunities for income generation etc – be as factual as possible]

Over recent months, we have started to see some recovery. [Note what is happening for you / your organisation now].

While this process is underway, the loss of the funds available from Council would have severe impacts on us. [Note the importance of Council as a funder for your organisation – what funding you have received, what it has made possible – facts such as audience numbers are useful OR if your organisation is not likely to be affected, note your concerns for the wider sector.]

In the overall scheme of the Council’s funding these are relatively small amounts of money, but the many arts, community, environmental and educational programmes, and initiatives these funds are not small in impact and help make a real difference to the quality of Aucklanders’ lives.

I/we hope that you will advocate for the retention of this small amount of funding which delivers so much to our communities.

Ngā mihi

[Name / Organisation]