



JB Pritzker
Governor

Shirley R. Madigan
Chairman

Joshua Davis-Ruperto
Executive Director

March 3, 2022

The Honorable JB Pritzker
Governor
First Lady MK Pritzker
State of Illinois
James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph, Suite 16-100
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Governor and First Lady Pritzker,

I write to you today with my resignation as Board Chair of the Illinois Arts Council Agency (IACA) due to personal reasons.

In my 37 wonderful years as Board Chair of the IACA, I have had the privilege of working with you and 6 other Illinois Governors, numerous legislators and thousands of artists and arts organizations throughout Illinois.

I've helped to shepherd an incredible number of the best and most qualified Board members from all over the state and insure the work of the IACA was done with excellence. It has been my greatest honor to serve the state of Illinois and its people throughout the years. I have given a lifetime of commitment and service to making the arts accessible to all the citizens of Illinois. Appointed to the IACA in 1976, I have served with passion and pride during my tenure.

While serving as the IACA Board Chair I conceived and developed a partnership with WTTW to produce the public television series, Arts Across Illinois, which highlighted the arts throughout the state and brought the general public's attention to how artists, organizations, and citizens throughout Illinois benefit directly from government support of the arts. The ensuing success of this series and the partnership between the IACA and WTTW led to the development of Beauty Rises: Four Lives in the Arts, an original documentary project promoting the public value of the arts in Illinois and celebrating the anniversary of the IACA. This presentation won two regional Emmys for Documentary of Cultural Significance and for Videography.

In 2006, I worked in collaboration with the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Office of Tourism, leading the IACA's efforts to create the Great Performers of Illinois series, and bringing performers and visual artists from throughout Illinois to Millennium Park one weekend of each summer to showcase their talents.

I spearheaded the passage of legislation creating a partnership between the Illinois Board of Education and the IACA, thereby codifying the Illinois Arts and Foreign Language Education grants program, an initiative that supports school districts in implementing or expanding arts and foreign language programs. Illinois was the first state in the nation to have such a statutorily mandated partnership.

Outside of the IACA I have served on national, regional and statewide boards including the National Endowment for the Arts Advisory Board on Arts Education, the National Association of State Arts Agencies, Arts Midwest, After School Matters, Erikson Institute, Lincoln Academy of Illinois, Loyola University of Chicago, the Cultural Advisory Council for the City of Chicago and many more.

Throughout all of this, it has been my pleasure to oversee what I believe to be the greatest staff in not only Illinois, but also the nation. I have full confidence that the arts sector will be well looked after in their capable hands.

My final ask is that you please continue to fight for the arts in this great state. Now more than ever we are needed to mend both the hearts of our citizens and reinvigorate our devastated economy. This is why we do what we do. We are where the healing begins.

Thank you for all of the wonderful years and memories. God Bless.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shirley R. Madigan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Shirley R. Madigan
Chairman