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PA ARTS COUNCIL AMONG GOVERNMENT'S 'BEST AND BRIGHTEST'

HARRISBURG: Arts Council Executive Director Philip Horn today announced that the agency has been named a semifinalist in this year's Innovations in American Government Awards. The Innovations Awards competition, now in its 17th year, is a program of the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. The award is administered in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government.

"We are extremely excited to have reached the third round of this exclusive award competition, and are honored by this recognition of our Responsive Funding Program and of our ongoing efforts to create an ideal fit between our resources and ability to best serve our constituents" said Horn.

The Innovations in American Government competition, sometimes referred to as the "Oscar"® of government award programs, seeks to recognize superior and unique programming initiatives within the public sector of the United States. The award cycle involves a four-round process and results in the selection of five winning programs from an original applicant pool of about 1,000.

The final five winning programs, to be announced in Washington, DC, in July, will each feature a model program that is both innovative and can be replicated by other such agencies

across the nation, in order to continue to achieve ever higher standards of excellence in state government.

The PCA's Responsive Funding System represents a new approach to application, review and allocation of state arts funds. Clear funding tracks for applicants, elimination of project-based funding and request amounts coupled with the exclusive use of past performance review has created a granting system that is rational, authentic and transparent. Also, the System's sophisticated funding formula incorporates past funding history, rolling average fiscal size and calibrated assessment scores to empower agency leadership in making policy-based funding decisions.

The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts is a state agency. Its mission is to foster the excellence, diversity and vitality of the arts in Pennsylvania, and to broaden the availability and appreciation of those arts throughout the state.

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