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State of New Hampshire  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES  
STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

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ARTS

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January 28, 2026

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte  
and the Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Pursuant to RSA 4:8, Gifts to the State, authorize the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Arts to accept and expend a donation of \$10,000 from Delta Dental New England effective upon Governor and Council approval.

Funds will be deposited in the following account:

	<b><u>FY2026</u></b>
03-035-035-353510-41000000, <u>State Art Fund</u>	<b>\$10,000</b>

**EXPLANATION**

Effective July 1, 2025, RSA 19-A:9 established a continually appropriating, non-lapsing fund known as the Granite Patron of the Arts Fund that “shall be the depository of all gifts, grants, federal funds, or donations made to the division of the arts or the New Hampshire council on the arts” and “Implementation expenses, the expenses of the division and council, any employees of the division or council, and operations and initiatives of the division and council shall be paid from such fund.” Delta Dental New England would like to donate \$10,000 in accordance with RSA 19-A:9 for the ongoing operations of the Division of Arts.

Also, effective July 1, 2025, RSA 77-A:5, XVII allows donating taxpayers to claim a credit of 50% or a share of the maximum aggregate credit amount allowed. The maximum aggregate credit amount is \$350,000 per year and there will be no carry forward credit allowed. This generous program is anticipated to encourage additional donations to the Granite Patron of the Arts Fund.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah L. Stewart  
Commissioner

February 4, 2026

Department of Administrative Services  
25 Capitol Street  
Concord, NH 03301

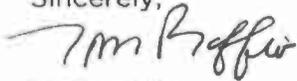
To Whom it May Concern,

We are pleased to inform you that Northeast Delta Dental is committing \$10,000 to the New Hampshire State Council of the Arts, in support of the Granite Patron of the Arts Fund. This is in recognition of the vital role arts organizations play in our culture, creating community and supporting economic vitality.

The commitment is intended to advance efforts that strengthen access to arts and support the organizations that enrich our communities through promotion of the arts and artists. Thank you for your continued commitment to elevating the arts and ensuring that our state continues to benefit from a community that embraces the arts. We are proud to be able to support the mission of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts.

We look forward to seeing the lasting impact of these efforts.

Sincerely,



Tom Raffio  
President & CEO, Northeast Delta Dental  
Former BIA Board Chair