

May 23, 2018

Chairman Asim Z. Haque
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

DP&L Rate Proceeding Case No. 15-1830-EL-AIR

Dear Chairman Hague:

I am writing to you today to express my support for Dayton Power & Light in its current rate proposal. DP&L is an integral part of our community, playing a critical role in driving economic development, supporting children and education, and enhancing the overall quality of life in the region. We believe DP&L has taken a fair approach with a reasonable rate increase that ensures reliable service and rate stability.

DP&L has been working closely with our organization, Muse Machine, since 1998. Their support has taken many forms—board service, community connector to other local education partners, social media promoter of our programs, and funder. Their ongoing support has been critical to Muse's success and to ensuring all children have access to high-quality learning experiences through the arts. They are committed to teaching excellence and help to support Muse's free year-round professional development series for teachers in Muse schools.

If you are not familiar with Muse, we are a nationally recognized arts education organization that serves approximately 76,800 participating students and 600 teachers in 13 counties in southwest and central Ohio and now in Kentucky. Muse serves children ages three to 18 through its Preschool and Elementary and Secondary Schools (middle and high schools) Programs. Today, 109 schools and organizations (Dayton Children's & Dayton Metro Library) participate in and/or present Muse programming.

At Muse we often say that "children are often one opportunity away from finding success." Through DP&L support, Muse has broadened access to the arts and creative learning experiences for our region's children who face multiple risk factors in their lives. For example, Dayton's child poverty continues to climb: 51.7% for the period of 2012-16 from 48.1% for 2007-2011. With this context in mind, Muse has examined all its programs to ensure they are inclusive of students from across the entire community, especially those in under-resourced Title I schools. Of the 62 secondary schools Muse affiliates with, 53% are Title I ($\geq 40\%$ receive free or reduced-price lunch); 62% of its preschool and elementary schools are. These percentages compare with 40% and 50%, respectively, when last calculated in 2016.

Student success is at the forefront of our minds when we create programming. Thus we draw from more than two decades of research that has revealed that teaching through the arts helps children master skills across a range of subjects, as well as demonstrate higher levels of skill in initiative, social relations, creative representation, logic and mathematics. Muse students, especially those who face multiple risk factors in their schools, homes and communities, benefit

the most from strong arts-integration programs because of their experiential, engaging and multi-sensory nature.

Additionally, DP&L funding has allowed Muse to create in-school performances that are STEM- or STEAM-based. Through our new Arts in Context program, Muse powerfully demonstrates the ways in which the arts can illuminate content in all subject areas and provoke deeper thinking in those subject areas. This program allows Muse to creatively collaborate with independent artists to develop in-school performances that are educational, multidisciplinary and participatory.

- In its first year, local artists created and performed a multi-media performance, “Now Hear This: The Story of Sound.” The live music and motion picture event drew on a wide range of disciplines—science, music, history and social studies—and explored the ways in which the brain makes sense of sound and why music has been a human obsession since the dawn of man.
- In 2016-18, Muse presented “On the Air” that revealed the influence of media in people’s lives today. This performance highlighted media’s influence (and manipulation) while showing students how to keep their perspective on the images and messages that are part of media and youth culture.
- New research is underway for a new performance, “Now See This: The Story of Color.” This performance underscores the fact that, today, nearly 65 percent of people identify as “visual learners.” It also reveals how people’s brains interpret color; and, why some colors excite while others have a calming effect. Further, the performance will show how color is influenced by history and culture.

DP&L support allows students to learn things in more open-ended ways and make them applicable to real life. Arts and creativity are crucial to the sciences, technology and computer science. The U.S. Department of Education reports that the number of STEM/STEAM jobs in the United States will grow by 14% from 2010 to 2020, growth that the Bureau of Labor Statistics terms as “much faster” than the national average of 5-8% across all job sectors.

We are fortunate to be one of many organizations benefiting from the involvement of DP&L employees and the company’s support. For more than 10 years, Muse has benefited from DP&L employees serving on our board as well as volunteering.

And, we are grateful that the company and the DP&L Foundation reinvest in all the communities it serves and enhance the overall quality of life in our region. With a history of helping the Miami Valley grow for more than 100 years, DP&L is a partner we have come to depend upon.

Sincerely, Mary Campbell Zopf



BE INSPIRED

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“Our world is a neighborhood....We are tied together in the single garment of destiny, caught in the inescapable network of mutuality. And whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.” *Martin Luther King, Jr.*
March 31, 1968

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Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

5/23/2018 4:09:56 PM

in

Case No(s). 15-1830-EL-AIR

Summary: Public Comment electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing.