



CITY OF CENTRAL FALLS  
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Hon. Louis DiPalma  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

***RE: Support for S2664 (Britto) and S2814 (Gu)***

Dear Chair DiPalma and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I write to express my support for S2664 and S2814, legislation that would establish a dedicated fund for public art and reallocate a portion of the state's hotel tax to better support tourism development across Rhode Island.

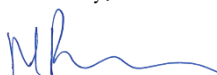
As Mayor of Central Falls, I see every day how targeted investments in arts, culture, and local experiences can have an outsized impact in communities like ours. While Central Falls is the smallest city in the state, we are rich in culture, diversity, and history. With the right support, we have tremendous potential to contribute more fully to Rhode Island's growing tourism economy – especially through the great work of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council – a tremendous city partner.

Tourism continues to be a major economic driver for our state, but not every community has had equal access to the resources needed to participate in and benefit from that growth. This legislation takes an important step toward addressing that imbalance. By reallocating a portion of the existing hotel tax revenue, the state can better align its investments with a broader, more inclusive vision for tourism.

In Central Falls, in partnership with the BVTC, we are actively working to create spaces and experiences that bring people together through cultural events, local arts initiatives, and community programming that reflects who we are. Strategic investments in tourism and arts programming also have ripple effects beyond visitor spending. They support small businesses, activate public spaces, and create opportunities for local artists and entrepreneurs.

For communities that have historically been overlooked in statewide tourism strategies, this kind of investment can be transformative. This proposal is not about taking away from successful destinations, but about building a stronger, more balanced statewide approach—one where every community has the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from Rhode Island's tourism economy. *I respectfully urge the Committee to support S2664 and S2814 and to continue advancing policies that invest in all of Rhode Island's communities.*

Sincerely,

  
Maria Rivera  
Mayor