



## Testimonials from the Supported Organizations

The Quad Cities Cultural Trust provides operating support to five core cultural institutions: Figge Art Museum; Putnam Museum & Science Center; Quad City Botanical Center; Quad City Symphony; and the River Music Experience. QCCT asked its five supported organizations this question:

*How has the Quad Cities Cultural Trust assisted your organization?*

### **QCCT provides stability.**

**Symphony** - The funding, especially granted early and coming in early, has given us a secure cash position that allows us to plan forward rather than catching up. The financial support of the QCCT has been instrumental in allowing us to invest intentionally in valuable new programs by giving us a secure stream of funding.

**Botanical Center** - In 2007 the Botanical Center was within weeks of closing to the public – the formation of the QCCT, and the distribution of the first gift turned the tide for our organization. Increased stability enabled Botanical Center to refinance its debt, with great savings.

**Putnam** - More stable operational funding improves the Putnam’s likelihood of receiving substantive grants helping the Putnam raise \$2.2 million to transform 1/3 of total exhibit and underutilized space into the region’s Science Center.

**RME** - The annual stability of the QCCT grant is key to our ability to successfully provide our mission and programming services to the community. Receiving the QCCT funding has helped us to reduce debt which has vastly helped day to day cash flow burdens.

### **QCCT builds legitimacy and strength, encouraging other investment of funds and time.**

**Putnam** - When potential sponsors and grantors know the Putnam has solid QCCT operational funding, it helps them approve Putnam requests for outstanding traveling exhibits which have brought \$1.1 million earned revenue to the Putnam’s bottom-line since 2012.

**Symphony** - We are allowed to get ahead in our planning and to leverage QCCT support to acquire additional funding.

**RME** - Each year we experience more exposure to the community. We have grown in strength with staff leadership and at the Board of Directors level. Our growth has also attracted new Board members as we continue to show we are a viable organization.

**Botanical Center** - Initial funding helped satisfy a great deal of outstanding debt and helped restore the faith and trust of many vendors; eventually we regained good standing and were able to operate on a net-30 basis, other than cash on delivery of service.

**Figge** - The Cultural Trust provides major unrestricted funding that frees us to target other funding sources for special exhibitions and projects. In addition, the Trust’s support gives us visibility and legitimacy, encouraging other donors to support us.

### **QCCT strengthens operations.**

**Botanical Center** - QCCT funding has paid utilities, payroll and other expenses that are necessary to our mission and has provided a steadier financial footing, better enabling us to put time and resources into mission based services.

**Putnam** - QCCT operational funding has aided the Putnam in keeping our admissions prices at a reasonable level for our community which keeps our admissions and earned revenue strong.

### **QCCT fosters collaboration and accountability.**

**Botanical Center** - QCCT leaders have insisted that we evaluate the impact of our work and showcase the relevance of our organization within the community. Analyzing our programs based on measurable numbers, and maintaining a history of comparable data, helps identify where we are growing, where we are flat, and where we are underperforming. It is a touchstone for performance and growth.

**Putnam** - We appreciate the QCCT's efforts to bring us together for potential added value and/or cost savings on things such as health insurance. So far, we've not collectively found big wins . . . but we certainly won't find them if we're not at the table together.

**Figge** - QCCT brings the leadership of the five supported organizations together to discuss our common goals and challenges, encouraging us to work together to strengthen the community wide belief in the relevance of cultural attractions. Also, the reporting requirements of QCCT make us more aware of our effectiveness as an organization, both viewed on our own and in relation to the other supported entities. We are working to develop better metrics to communicate the value of our organization.

**RME** - The grant application process has helped us learn more about other community organizations and develop synergies between us.

### **QCCT enhances programming.**

**Symphony** - We have been able to grow our education engagement programs in the schools, to fill out our artistic leadership positions with the youth ensembles, and to develop a new private lesson program that is quickly scaling up.

**Botanical Center** - Our youth education programs have been greatly impacted by the financial support of QCCT. Previously we were serving many fewer students, and not participating in any outreach to the schools. Additionally, QCCT funding has helped us improve our collections – which are our classrooms – and without a thriving garden we would be unable to meet our mission.

**Putnam** - In a real sense, every program enhancement is a result of QCCT's financial support. Without the undergirding operating funds, the Putnam would not have been able to build its programs to the extent it has.

**RME** - We have been able to grow our program outreach and services dramatically. We also collaborate with a number of organizations in the community which contributes to our growth.

***Mission Statement for the Quad Cities Cultural Trust: "The Quad Cities Cultural Trust will build the financial wellbeing of its supported organizations and champion the cultural vitality of the Region for the benefit of all of its citizens."***