

Direct and Indirect Subsidies Are Provided by New Yorkers in Exchange for Our Right to Free Admission

Evidence of New Yorkers' generosity and compliance with the economic understanding of the PPP is demonstrated in the granting to MMA of an approximate **\$402.6 MILLION** in direct and indirect subsidies for 2018 and **\$402.2 MILLION** in 2017. Additionally, **\$990.1 MILLION** has been invested in MMA's physical plant with **\$6.0 MILLION** and **\$4.2 MILLION** granted to the MMA according to the MMA's audited consolidated financial statements, **as opposed to the \$1.3 MILLION** reported to have been granted in 2018 in a transmittal letter from DCA to the MMA and produced in response to FA's Freedom of Information Law [FOIL] request.

Of import, in 2017 and 2018, the MMA received **\$27.7 MILLION** and **\$25.4 MILLION**, respectively, in New Yorker taxpayer operations support and **\$1.3 MILLION** and **\$6.1 MILLION**, respectively, for capital expenditures ["maintenance of the buildings, instruments and equipment"] [see "Direct and Indirect ..." chart below]. Yet, [New York City Administrative Code](#) Chapter 4 – EXPENSE BUDGET: Section 5-509, 2.d. **prohibits the payment to the MMA of any amount in excess of \$95,000**, as follows:

"Section 5-509 Items to be included in annual budget. There may annually be included in the budget:

"The amount necessary for the maintenance of the buildings, instruments and equipment of:

- The meteorological and astronomical observatory.
- The American museum of natural history.
- The metropolitan museum of art, *not exceed ninety-five thousand dollars.***
- The Brooklyn Institute of arts and sciences. [emphasis added]

Section 5-509.2 is undated. Chapter 476 of 1893 amended Chapter 419 of 1892 and each authorized the Department of Parks "to apply in each year for the keeping, preservation and exhibition of the collections in the buildings in Central Park ... occupied by The Metropolitan Museum of Art." If Chapter 476 was "merely" an "appropriation" act and those funds required application "each year," then copies of the annual appropriations acts should have been produced in response to FA's Freedom of Information [FOIL] requests served on New York City's Departments of Parks [DPR] and Cultural Affairs [DCA]. None were produced.

For decades, New York City Mayors and City Council Members have approved budgets **subsidizing the MMA in the TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ANNUALLY** and New York City's Office of **Corporation Counsel argues in favor of the MMA**: **As one of the 17 PPP/PEC institutions, the MMA exemplifies the need to peel away the layers of ambiguity sitting on top of laws left uncoded and calls out for a correction to the structure of the PPP/PEC experiment or the dismantling of it and starting anew.**

NEW YORKERS' DIRECT AND INDIRECT SUBSIDIES		
	2017	2018
Contributions and admissions from New Yorkers only*	12,507,600	15,185,920
Rental forgiveness:**	362,000,000	362,000,000

New York City operating subsidy:	27,667,000	25,446,000
Total New Yorker Subsidy WITH Rental Forgiveness:	402,174,600	402,631,920
Value of physical plant after depreciation and without beginning date**	969,204,000	990,099,000
NYC investment in Fifth avenue building from 1990-2018***	138,800,000	43,000,000
NYC investment in MMA physical plant****	6,000,000	4,200,000
NYC investment in MMA physical plant per DCA*****	6,077,501	1,291,432
Number of visitors annually: 7,000,000		

* Total Contributions and admissions were \$41,692,000 and \$47,456,000 for 2017 and 2018, respectively. However, the MMA breaks out geographic cohorts in reporting this income on its IRS Form 990. The five boroughs represented 32% and 30% in 2018 and 2017, respectively.

** Reported in MMA's 2017-2018 audited financial statements.

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***** Reported in letters from New York City's Department of Cultural Affairs [DCA] to the MMA reporting DCA's capital dollars granted to the MMA in 2017 and 2018. The letters were produced by DCA in response to FA's FOIL request.

Source: [2017-2018 Consolidated Financial Statements](#) and [2017-2018 IRS Form 990](#).

Visit FA's [FINANCIAL ANALYSIS](#) page for in depth analysis of graph.