

**From:** [Madison, Sabrina](#)  
**To:** [Ouk, Saran](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Mad Lit  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 7:45:45 AM

---

Hi Saran —

I am going to forward you a few emails, including the one below this morning that I would like to ensure are attached in Legistar for the MadLit item (87768), some of them I am only seeing this morning as they were in quarantine.

Thanks for your help,  
Sabrina

---

**From:** Eli Blakely <rappaboi2323@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 7:41 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Mad Lit

You don't often get email from rappaboi2323@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello, I go by the name Eli B I grew here on the Northside of Madison & I wanted to write this message to first show my love & appreciation. You guys for believing in us in the first place, backing us up & seeing the vision. But we can't stop here, with all the unbelievable things that are being brought to Madison there are some things that have to stay for the people. Mad Lit is a special concert and performance that the Madison people THRIVE for. The love to see the local talent & to support! I've seen it & the love is so real. With Madison expanding & growing, this is one of those things that would only enhance the city to stay! We already lost freak fest, we barely do Dane county fair anymore. What do the people in the community have to look forward to for hip hop & other talents? Quite frankly there isn't many places & that's why we appreciate events like these that keep all us people together. Mad lit has been nothing but a success & I believe if you keep the full funding, and maybe even put more funding this could turn into Madison annual treasures! I've seen the love, I've heard the way people talk about it, people love this mad lit event! & for artist like me that love to perform & be apart of this, we just want to put on a great show for the people & show what Madison artist have to bring! We are a great city but we have to continue to do things for the community & for the people that's gonna keep the people thankful & happy to be here. Madison has to build up its own culture & I believe it's happening. We got this! Believe how you always believed in us. We thank you, please keep the funding please. You will not regret it in

fact you'll be proud to say you did! Thank you

- Elijah Blakely (Eli B)

**From:** [Madison, Sabrina](#)  
**To:** [Ouk, Saran](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Protect MadLit!  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 7:54:28 AM

---

please attach to Legistar item 87768.

---

**From:** Joshua and Michelle's Wedding <[wrightrobinsonwedding@gmail.com](mailto:wrightrobinsonwedding@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 7:41 AM  
**To:** Madison, Sabrina <[district17@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district17@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** Protect MadLit!

You don't often get email from [wrightrobinsonwedding@gmail.com](mailto:wrightrobinsonwedding@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Alder Madison -

I write this letter on behalf of my husband, Joshua Wright, and myself. We are disheartened to hear that an event as impactful as MadLit is facing the threat of being defunded.

We missed out on the joy of MadLit in 2023 as we were still in our pandemic bubble and avoiding crowds, but we got to finally experience it in 2024. What a gift to our community. At a time where people feel increasingly isolated, disconnected from community and are in need of sources of joy, defunding MadLit is essentially ending one effective strategy to address those things. There is nothing like the beauty of a diverse crowd of people, brown and Black centered but coming from all backgrounds, singing and dancing; having joy and building community together through music and the arts.

As the summer progressed, we began organizing meet ups with friends, going to dinner somewhere on state or the square, and visiting other local vendors to get water, drinks and desserts. And we were looking forward to doing that this year. We also make cash donations at the event.

Please know that while State Street is a well known area of our city, this is an area of our city that many people - especially Black folks - have a lot of fear and discomfort towards. Many people who look like me feel this is not a safe place for them. It is an environment where they feel they will be made to feel that they do not belong. What UCAN had been doing with MadLit is building counter narrative through creating counter infrastructure centering cultural arts that derive out of communities that are often at the margins. MadLit centers and normalize Black-originated genres of music and creates a vibe that feels familiar and welcoming, not only for those of us who share that cultural identity, but to all who come across it. Whether its hip hop or cumbia music playing it allows for visibility and centering of arts and artists at one of the most prominent cities in our city.

MadLit represents a natural extension of efforts that Madison does well to create spaces to bring people together and foster community such as Concerts on the Square, Dane Dances and

Concerts on the Rooftop. But this is the ONLY one that centers music and art, and culture originating from Black and brown communities.

We have to stop pulling the rug out from under initiatives before they even have a chance to fully take strong root. At a time where we need to be doubling down in investing in community and civic infrastructure, this represents a painful and in the long run, dangerous retrenchment from a value we all need to be unified on. We are stronger together and it is only through the creation and sustenance of spaces such as this that we truly learn that, and begin to develop the skills that allows us to better be in, and foster community with others.

We urge the City of Madison to protect and preserve the funding for MadLit. It is the right thing to do and we need this space even more today than we did a year ago.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Michelle Robinson  
Joshua Wright

**From:** [Madison, Sabrina](#)  
**To:** [Ouk, Saran](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Monday Support Mad Lit Agenda 3  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 7:58:22 AM

---

Please ensure this one is attached.

---

**From:** angelina.u614 <angelina.u614@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2025 12:41:18 PM  
**To:** Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Monday Support Mad Lit Agenda 3

You don't often get email from angelina.u614@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for continued funding of Mad Lit. As a proud Madison resident who cares deeply about the vitality of our downtown and the future of our city, I believe Mad Lit plays a critical role in not only supporting our local creative economy but also in helping position Madison as a destination for cultural tourism.

In the few short years since it began, Mad Lit has drawn thousands of people into the heart of downtown during the summer months. In 2024 alone, Mad Lit doubled its audience from 3,000 to nearly 7,000 attendees. These aren't just local residents—many attendees come from surrounding communities and even from out of state to experience a music and arts festival that is truly unique in its commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion.

As Madison competes with other cities for tourism dollars, events like Mad Lit offer an authentic and welcoming reason for visitors to come, stay, and spend money. Mad Lit enhances the downtown experience with free outdoor concerts, vibrant art displays, and opportunities to shop local. When people attend Mad Lit, they are also dining at our restaurants, booking hotel rooms, shopping in local stores, and experiencing everything else Madison has to offer.

With continued investment, Mad Lit plans to grow to 15,000+ attendees and bring national performing artists alongside our incredible local talent. This will further establish Madison as a forward-thinking city where arts, culture, and tourism intersect in powerful ways.

I urge you to continue supporting Mad Lit. It is not only a local treasure—it is an economic and cultural asset that strengthens Madison's future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Angelina Uk

Madison Resident