

Arts Action News

THE NEWSLETTER OF
AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS ACTION FUND

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Thousands of Advocates Oppose 49 Percent Funding Cut for NEA

Funding for the arts in America has come under considerable attack again. This summer, GOP leaders in the House proposed slashing the National Endowment for the Arts' (NEA) budget by 49 percent, which would result in a \$71 million cut. In early September, the Arts Action Fund launched an online petition opposing these drastic funding cuts to the NEA. The government shutdown in October stalled negotiations of next year's budget (FY 2014), enabling the petition to continue to gain momentum and support across the country. Mobilizing citizens from all 50 states and 435 congressional districts, each signatory's voice was heard on Capitol Hill as petitions were directly presented to individual representatives in both chambers.

The FY 2014 budget remains unresolved and is operating under a continuing resolution until January 15, 2014. Since 1965, the NEA has been integral in broadening Americans' access to the arts, strengthening communities, and fuelling creativity. In addition to directly funding arts initiatives, on average NEA grants leverage 9 to 1 in additional financial support for the arts. Consequently, these cuts are particularly harmful when paired with the resulting loss of \$639 million in possible matching grants. This petition was not only the Arts Action Fund's most successful campaign to date, but resonated with citizens from coast to coast. Add your voice! Visit <https://www.votervoice.net/ARTSUSA/Petitions/263/Respond>.



The Arts Action Fund online petition to Congress has collected more than 40,000 signatures to help protect against drastic funding cuts to the arts.

Arts Advocates Take the Win in Mayoral Campaigns



New York City Mayor-Elect Bill de Blasio supports affordable housing for artists and integrating arts into every aspect of a child's education.

Mayors have enormous influence over a city's arts and culture environment—both positively and negatively. Since fewer than 10 percent of cities impose term limits on mayors, opportunities to engage future municipal leaders only come so often. When they do, it's crucial for arts advocates to band together and ensure that arts policy issues are in the minds and hearts of both candidates and voters.

When Boston Mayor Thomas Menino announced he would not seek a sixth term in office, the city prepared for its first wide-open mayoral election since 1993. Arts advocates quickly aligned to push

the candidates for mayor to create a vision for the arts in Boston. The resulting effort became known as Create the Vote Boston 2013. Create the Vote took a unique spin on election advocacy by engaging voters with a pledge, asking them to make arts, culture, and creativity a priority when they voted. In the end, former state Rep. Marty Walsh defeated City Councilor John Connolly to become Boston's 48th mayor. Because of the work of advocates, both candidates understood the importance of a robust cultural community, were very strong arts supporters, and both had arts policy statements. During the campaign, Walsh

Message from the President

For two years, I've been very pleased to serve on the U.S. Travel & Tourism Advisory Board of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The board's main goal is to advise the Commerce Secretary and the Obama administration on how to improve travel and tourism in order to strengthen our economy. The 32 members include executives from Marriott, JetBlue, Universal Studios, Las Vegas, Mall of America, US Airways, and Visa; representatives from travel agencies and small

businesses; and tourism officials from across the country. I am the only representative from the arts and culture sector. Our research in cultural tourism has consistently shown that tourists seek authentic experiences, and that including cultural venues among marketing efforts is one of the most effective strategies in reaching these customers. By infusing and recognizing the power of the arts into this national discussion, we are sharing the

transformative power of the arts across sectors. The board recently approved a set of recommendations to advance tourism policy, and I'm happy to announce that the arts and culture were widely recognized as the economic engines they are. Thank you for all you do to keep those engines running across the country.




President and CEO Robert L. Lynch (5th from the left) chairs the Advocacy Committee of the United States Travel & Tourism Advisory Board of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The full board met recently in Las Vegas in June 2013. As the President and CEO of Americans for the Arts, he is the only arts representative on the board.

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pledged to hire a cabinet-level arts commissioner who will be charged with integrating the arts into other areas such as education, public safety, housing, and transportation.

In New York City, residents elected a new mayor to replace three-term Michael Bloomberg. More than 40 New York City organizations came together for the New York City Arts in Education Candidate Project. Democrat Bill de Blasio won 73-24 over Republican Joe Lhota. De Blasio's platform included a very specific mention about arts education: "Bill de Blasio will establish a four-year goal of ensuring that every child in every school receives a well-rounded education, including the learning standards required by the State Education Department, taught by certified arts instructors." Learn more at www.mass-creative.org/createthevote and www.nycartsed.com.



New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd will present the Americans for the Arts 27th Annual Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy during Arts Advocacy Day.

ARTS ADVOCACY DAY

The 2013 Nation's Arts Action Summit

Join Arts Advocates from across the Country in Washington, DC for the 27th Annual Arts Advocacy Day!

Between tax reform, budget battles, and education reauthorization, we need your support! Come to Washington, DC for the 27th annual Arts Advocacy Day on March 24-25, 2014 and make your voice heard!

- Strategize with experienced advocates during an interactive role play session on how to make the case for the arts and arts education to your members of Congress.
- Network with your fellow arts advocates from across the country and go on congressional visits led by State Captains.
- Learn the latest research facts and figures on the arts to help make your case.

For more information and to reserve your two free Hanks Lecture tickets, please visit www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AAD.

Shaping Federal Arts Policy

The Arts Action Fund monitors arts policy at the federal level and helps bring citizens' voices to the table when important arts issues are debated. For detailed legislative updates, please visit www.AmericansForTheArts.org/LegislativeNews.

Arts Education Advancement

Our nation's education policy is in need of reform, and both the House and Senate are working toward that goal. The House has passed its revision of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which expired in 2007 but gets renewed annually. The Senate's Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee has presented its revision, which includes feedback from Americans for the Arts

and contains numerous provisions helpful to arts education. Since the Senate and House proposals are very different, the road to compromise will be a long and hard one. We are also co-coordinating discussions on incorporating further policy provisions to strengthen equitable access to a complete arts education. Make sure your senator knows where you stand. Visit <https://www.votervoice.net/ARTSUSA/Campaigns/29841/Respond> to add your voice to the conversation!

Caucus Membership Drive

In the House, Arts Caucus Co-Chair Rep. Leonard Lance (R-NJ) will be joining long-time Co-Chair Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY) to showcase the impact of the arts on our economy, communities, and classrooms. Urge your member of Congress to join if they are not yet a member. Having a robust and united force will help ensure efforts to advance the arts. Visit www.bit.ly/JoinTheArtsCaucus to see if your representative is a member.

Supporting Arts Advocacy in States and Cities

When states finalized their budgets for FY 2014, it became clear that state arts agencies would have a better year than FY 2013. A total of 19 states saw significant funding increases of more than 10 percent, and another 15 states are increasing state arts

agency funding to a lesser degree. Still, arts advocates can't rest yet. Twelve states decreased arts agency funding, with eight of those seeing significant decreases and four flat funded. Check out this chart to see how the arts fared in your state.


State	Enacted FY13	Final FY14	Change	% Change	State	Enacted FY13	Final FY14	Change	% Change
AK	798,100	801,200	3,100	0%	MT	444,893	576,186	131,293	30%
AL	3,384,496	3,784,496	400,000	12%	NC	7,338,695	7,068,423	270,272	-4%
AR	2,057,021	2,041,165	15,856	-1%	ND	681,000	752,051	71,051	10%
AZ	0	1,000,000	1,000,000	N/A	NE	1,376,336	1,467,201	90,865	7%
CA	1,043,000	3,043,000	2,000,000	192%	NH	341,377	381,824	40,447	12%
CO	1,082,162	1,183,953	101,791	9%	NJ	16,500,000	16,000,000	500,000	-3%
CT	2,000,000	1,797,830	202,170	-10%	NM	1,368,700	1,200,000	168,700	-12%
DC	11,190,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	NV	977,870	1,280,245	302,375	31%
DE	1,690,700	3,303,200	1,612,500	95%	NY	35,600,000	35,972,000	372,000	1%
FL	5,000,000	5,000,000	0	0%	OH	9,605,704	11,349,204	1,743,500	18%
GA	578,689	586,466	7,777	1%	OK	4,010,087	4,010,087	0	0%
HI	5,111,747	5,161,292	49,545	1%	OR	1,726,262	1,836,186	109,924	6%
IA	1,133,764	1,233,764	100,000	9%	PA	9,065,000	9,931,000	866,000	10%
ID	686,800	690,500	3,700	1%	RI	2,409,313	1,968,166	441,147	-18%
IL	8,151,916	10,100,000	1,948,084	24%	SC	2,429,296	2,500,000	70,704	3%
IN	2,727,013	2,965,353	238,340	9%	SD	668,000	728,000	60,000	9%
KS	700,000	200,000	500,000	-71%	TN	6,385,600	6,407,600	22,000	0%
KY	2,771,900	2,797,700	25,800	1%	TX	3,770,772	5,572,228	1,801,456	48%
LA	1,959,466	1,767,443	192,023	-10%	UT	2,665,400	4,527,000	1,861,600	70%
MA	9,527,624	11,000,000	1,472,376	15%	VA	3,362,374	3,884,572	522,198	16%
MD	13,200,000	15,200,000	2,000,000	15%	VT	507,607	641,607	134,000	26%
ME	669,978	779,409	109,431	16%	WA	1,056,000	1,125,000	69,000	7%
MI	5,000,000	8,150,000	3,150,000	63%	WI	839,800	770,000	69,800	-8%
MN	30,246,500	34,189,000	3,942,500	13%	WV	1,214,824	1,026,662	188,162	-15%
MO	5,154,692	4,800,000	354,692	-7%	WY	1,307,950	1,169,450	138,500	-11%
MS	1,661,976	1,786,629	124,653	8%					





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SIXTH FLOOR
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
WWW.ARTSACTIONFUND.ORG


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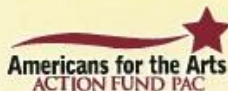
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PAC Update



The Arts Action Fund's Fundraising in the Field

Want to do more than write your representative and senator? Sign up today to host a local fundraiser benefiting the Arts Action Fund PAC. These fundraisers in the field will play a crucial role in ensuring we have the means necessary to elect a pro-arts Congress in 2014. Recently, Arts Action Fund Coordinator Samantha Steelman joined President and CEO Robert L. Lynch at the Americans for the Arts National Arts Marketing Project (NAMP) Conference in Portland, OR. There, she was able to raise visibility for the Arts Action Fund by hosting events around the city that would raise funds as well as engage new Arts Action Fund members. If you are interested in hosting a fundraiser in your area, please contact Samantha at ssteelman@artsusa.org.



Americans for the Arts President and CEO Robert L. Lynch presenting at the #BeTheARTbeat session at the National Arts Marketing Project (NAMP) Conference in Portland, OR.