

Voting for the Arts in November

Americans for the Arts Action Fund worked hard to make support for the arts a "voting issue" in 2006. Thanks to generous PAC contributions from our Arts Action Fund members, we have made our first-ever political contributions to support arts-friendly candidates. We contributed \$35,000 to arts-friendly candidates running for federal office in this election year. Our PAC efforts not only helped elect arts-friendly candidates, but also strengthened our relationships with these leaders as they help to advance future arts policy.

The Arts Action Fund also helped voters make arts-positive decisions in the voting booth through our *2006 Congressional Arts Report Card*, which rates legislators on the arts and other educational efforts. You can see how your representatives have voted by visiting our website at www.ArtsActionFund.org/sc/reportcard/. Please see page three for a list of candidates we supported this fall.

Look for a complete postelection impact on the arts analysis in the next issue.

California Enacts Most Significant Arts Education Budget in History

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposal for music and arts education programs in public schools has now been adopted in California with a one-time investment of \$500 million and ongoing annual funding of \$105 million. This translates to \$25 per pupil and includes a one-time investment in arts education materials and equipment. Our members, the California Arts Council, California Alliance for Arts Education, and California Arts Advocates were instrumental in rallying support for this historic legislation.



Paul Cothran (left), vice president and executive director of VH1's Save the Music Foundation, and Laurie Schell (right), executive director of the California Alliance for Arts Education (CAAE), greet Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger at the KIPP LA Prep school in Los Angeles, March 20, 2006. The governor highlighted his budget proposal, which will provide local school districts with \$605 million to enhance and expand arts education programs. Photo courtesy of the office of Governor Schwarzenegger.



Arts Action Fund Executive Director Nina Ozlu with Congressman Norm Dicks (D-WA) at a fundraiser for his re-election campaign. Congressman Dicks received an "A" voting grade in our 2006 Congressional Arts Report Card and has direct oversight of federal arts appropriations. Photo by Americans for the Arts.

Giving VOICE to the Arts

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 for each of these items, please visit www.AmericansForTheArts.org/LegislativeNews.

NEA and NEH Funding May Increase for 2007

In May, Americans for the Arts Action Fund members sent more than 7,500 messages to their members of Congress asking them to support the Congressional Arts Caucus Amendment to increase funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) by \$5 million each. The House rapidly passed the amendment by voice vote. Arts Action Fund members sent an additional 4,000 messages to thank their members of Congress after the vote. On the Senate side, Sen. Norm Coleman (R-MN) is circulating a "Dear Colleague" letter to fellow senators, urging the Senate to match the funding increase passed in the House bill. We've already secured 40 senators.



Americans for the Arts Publishes Federal Funding Resource Guides

Most people don't know that there is money available for the arts in various parts of the federal budget. To help state and local arts organizations access nontraditional sources

Americans for the Arts recently released six federal resource guides on how to access nontraditional sources of federal grant money for the arts.

of federal funding, Americans for the Arts has published a series of federal resource guides. Resource guides are available on Military Base Redevelopment and the Arts, Transportation Enhancements, the Community Development Block Grant Program, International Cultural Exchange, Earmarks, and Arts Education. Find out more at www.AmericansForTheArts.org/information_resources/funding_resources/default.asp#federalresourceguide.

Congressional Briefing on Arts in Education

To educate members of Congress and their staff about the importance of funding for arts education, Americans for the Arts teamed with the Congressional Arts Caucus to host a briefing on June 15, 2006. Representatives Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY), and Jim Leach (R-IA) served as hosts.

Staff members representing 48 congressional offices attended the event. Shortly after this event, an exciting Guggenheim Museum study—funded by an arts education grant from the U.S. Department of Education—reported that students who participated in its Learning in the Arts program performed better in various categories of literacy and critical thinking.



Americans for the Arts board member and acclaimed actor Giancarlo Esposito introduces members of the DC Youth Orchestra at the Congressional Arts in Education briefing on Capitol Hill. Photo by Americans for the Arts.



Message from the President

We've just wrapped up our coast-to-coast annual celebration of National Arts and Humanities Month in October. The White House helped kick off the month with a call to all Americans to support and attend cultural events and organizations in their communities. Americans for the Arts coordinated 55 creative conversations in 25 states, involving more than 1,000 participants in discussing how to better support the arts in their communities. We also brought national media attention to this monthlong celebration by presenting our National Arts Awards on October 16, ringing the NASDAQ closing bell with renowned artist Jeff Koons on October 17, and appearing on *The Early Show* on CBS with an arts education class from New York City on October 18.

Our attention now turns to the impact of Election Day, November 7. All Arts Action Fund members should have received your *2006 Congressional Arts Report Card*, which served as your guide to voting for those members of Congress who have been most supportive of the arts. The guide contains a detailed record, including numerical and letter grade, for each member of the House based on numerous arts and arts education issues. You can also download the report card at www.ArtsActionFund.org/sc/reportcard. Look for our special postelection impact analysis on the arts in the next issue of the newsletter.

Thank you for your support of the Arts Action Fund's advocacy efforts. Advocacy does make a difference, and we couldn't do it without you. Thank you for your support.

Robert L. Lynch
President and CEO, Americans for the Arts Action Fund



National Arts
and Humanities
Month



Americans for the Arts board members and staff join artist Jeff Koons in ringing the closing bell of NASDAQ on October 17, 2006. Copyright 2006, The NASDAQ Stock Market, Inc. / Rebs Traenenbaum.

SUPPORTING ARTS ADVOCACY IN THE STATES

Americans for the Arts and its Arts Action Fund partner with and service a network of statewide arts advocacy organizations to promote and defend arts programs and funding in state legislatures.

Illinois Appropriates \$4 Million for Arts Education Grant Program

Our state advocacy captain organization, Illinois Arts Alliance, has worked hard to raise awareness and build support for the arts as a core learning area in Illinois public schools. Its efforts paid off when the legislature approved an FY 2007 budget that includes a 100 percent increase for the Illinois State Board of Education's Arts and Foreign Language grant program.

Florida Passes Statewide Arts Credit Requirement

Thanks to a strong statewide advocacy effort in the sunshine state—led by our state advocacy captain organization, Florida Cultural Alliance—the Florida Legislature recently voted to add a one-credit graduation requirement in the arts for all public high school students. In addition, the arts budget in Florida increased by \$10 million this year.

South Carolina Legislature Stands Up for the Arts

When South Carolina's governor vetoed the entire state budget, including funding for the arts, advocates in the state took strong action. Our state advocacy captain organization, South Carolina Arts Alliance, helped launch the Art Works in South Carolina campaign, including a successful Arts Advocacy Day in February. The state House and Senate eventually overrode the governor's veto, passing the budget with \$585,000 for the South Carolina Arts Commission's grants program and \$1.2 million for arts facility needs—a big success for the South Carolina Arts Alliance and all arts organizations in the state.

LOCAL ACTION FOR THE ARTS

Americans for the Arts and its Arts Action Fund partner with and service a network of 5,000 local arts councils and community-based cultural institutions.

Los Angeles County to Double Arts Grants

Los Angeles's cultural scene got some good news in June when the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted to more than double arts grants for next fiscal year—from \$2.2 million to \$4.5 million. Cultural institutions will also receive \$20 million of the county's \$400-million surplus from the 2005–2006 budget year. "During tough budget years, arts programs are oftentimes the first to endure cuts. Given that we are in the midst of much rosier fiscal circumstances, it is entirely appropriate that we augment our arts program," said County Supervisor Gloria Molina.

New Arts Committee Chair at The United States Conference of Mayors

The United States Conference of Mayors' President, Mayor Michael Guido, has appointed Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann to serve as the new chair of the Arts Committee. Mayor Hannemann replaces Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, who will now serve on the advisory board of the conference. Mayor Hannemann is a strong arts supporter who is also an avid singer.

Lackawanna Pennsylvania Receives County Arts Award

The winner of our 2006 County Leadership in the Arts Award is the Lackawanna County Board of Commissioners (PA). Lackawanna County achieved a first-ever line item in the county budget, dedicating more than \$750,000 to the arts countywide. The Board of Commissioners received our award in Chicago on August 7, at the National Association of Counties' (NACo) annual convention.



(L-R) Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Philip Horn; Executive Director of the Council on Education and Culture in Scranton (PA) Regina Peters; Lackawanna County Commissioner Robert C. Cordaro; Wake County Commissioner (NC) Betty Lou Ward, chair of NACo's Arts and Culture Commission; and Lackawanna County Commissioner A.J. Munchak. Photo courtesy of Lackawanna County Commission.

New Orleans Recovery Plans Receive Boost with Proposed Jazz Park

The Hyatt Hotel chain, along with the mayor and city council of New Orleans, has released plans to build a 20-acre National Jazz Center and Jazz Park. The proposed park will include a new Hyatt Hotel; a city hall complex; several theaters; and a jazz club, in recognition of the important role of jazz in New Orleans. The project will provide a cultural anchor for the city devastated by Hurricane Katrina and will take three to five years to develop at an estimated cost of \$723 million.

PAC UPDATE

The Arts Action Fund PAC made its debut in 2006, and thanks to member contributions, here are a few highlights of arts-friendly candidates we supported for the 2006 election cycle:

Rep. Mike Castle (R-DE)
Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY)
Rep. Norm Dicks (D-WA)
Rep. Dave Obey (D-WI)
Rep. Chris Shays (R-CT)
Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY)

Each of these candidates has an excellent arts voting record and displays arts leadership in Congress. The Arts Action Fund PAC has made a total of 56 contributions throughout the month of October to pro-arts candidates.

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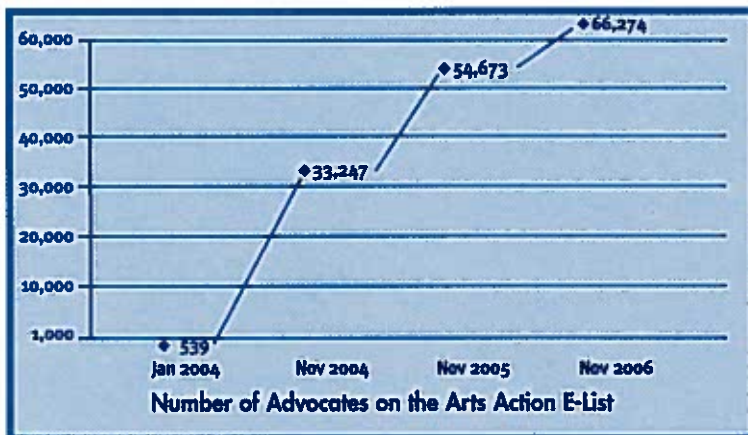
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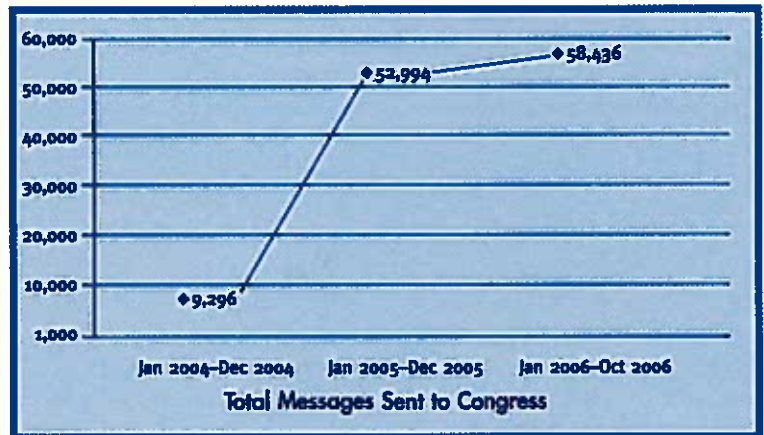
Arts Action Fund Impact Is Growing

Arts Action E-List Growing



Our efforts to advocate for the arts are making a difference, thanks to the many supporters who have signed on to our Arts Action E-list over the past one and a half years. If you haven't already signed on, please go to <http://copwiz.com/artsusa/mlm/signup/>.

Reaching out to Policymakers through the E-Advocacy Center



More and more legislators are hearing from arts advocates like you through Americans for the Arts Action Fund's E-Advocacy Center. Together, we are making a difference!

About Us

Americans for the Arts Action Fund is the advocacy arm of Americans for the Arts, engaging citizens in ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to appreciate, value, and participate in the arts. Arts Action Fund members are citizen activists who are committed to helping make certain that arts-friendly public policies are adopted at every level of government and in the private sector. *Arts Action News* is delivered four times a year exclusively to supporters of the Arts Action Fund.