

Arts Action News

THE NEWSLETTER OF AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS ACTION FUND

Vol. IV 2006

Art. Ask For More. New Ads Debut

Americans for the Arts is proud to preview the debut of our new series of arts education PSA ads in the highly successful *Art. Ask For More.* campaign. Featuring respected artists, musicians, writers, and performers—from Virginia Woolf to Duke Ellington—the ads use a tongue-in-cheek approach to highlight what happens when kids don't get enough art. They also provide information for parents about ways to bring more art into their children's lives, from taking them to a play to reading to them aloud. Parents are also encouraged to visit www.AmericansForTheArts.org for "Ten Simple Ways" to bring more art into their kids' lives.

Watch for the print ads to appear in major publications nationwide starting in early 2007, with television, radio, and billboard versions to follow.



One of the print ads from Americans for the Arts and The Advertising Council's 2007 Public Service Campaign, Art. Ask For More.



Americans for the Arts organized a special panel on arts education to testify before the No Child Left Behind Commission. Panelists included (L-R) Ayanna Hudson-Higgins, director for arts education for the Los Angeles County Arts Commission; Debra Hansen, education associate for Visual and Performing Arts and Gifted and Talented Programs at the Delaware Department of Education; Nancy Ray, teacher at the Poplar Elementary School in Meridian, MS; Nina Ozlu, executive director of Americans for the Arts Action Fund; and Terry Peterson, director of the Afterschool and Community Learning National Resource Network.

Arts Education Matters

Americans for the Arts Action Fund is committed to working to ensure a place for the arts in every child's education. That's why we are playing a critical leadership role as the Commission on No Child Left Behind (NCLB) considers reauthorization of this legislation.

We know that the arts education community must have a say on NCLB. In the wake of this legislation, many schools were forced to cut arts programs to make room for other educational basics. This is why the Arts

Action Fund issued an alert to our e-activist network, asking for specific comments on NCLB and its influence on art in local schools. We received more than 1,500 responses and submitted them to the NCLB Commission.

Your responses got their attention, and Americans for the Arts Action Fund was invited to participate in a roundtable discussion before the NCLB Commission to discuss the importance of arts education. Arts Action Fund Executive Director Nina Ozlu testified at the roundtable, along with four arts

education leaders we brought together from across the country. We specifically submitted recommendations on strengthening arts education in the legislation.

This represents the only direct communication the arts education community had with commissioners prior to their review and final report, which will be delivered to Congress in early 2007. We want to thank all of you who sent in your comments. We will let you know how the arts fare in the NCLB reauthorization process as events unfold.

Message from the President



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

I'm so very proud of the staff here at Americans for the Arts and the Arts Action Fund—as well as the extended arts community, who worked very hard to raise the profile of the arts in this November's elections.

Our special Arts Vote 2006 insert will provide you with important details on how the arts fared across the country. But for now, I want to thank you for your support of our election efforts and review the many ways we used your contributions to have an impact on these elections.

We sent survey questionnaires to every candidate for federal office in order to establish their positions on

the arts. Not only did their answers help inform voters, but the information we provided candidates helped them focus on our issues as they formulated their policies.

We compiled our 2006 Congressional Arts report card, ranking members of Congress on their votes related to the arts. The report card was distributed to our entire membership and to additional voters across the country in October.

Our Arts Action Fund PAC used the report card to determine which candidates deserved our campaign contributions. And for the first time ever, we were able to show our

support for candidates who made the arts a priority—with more than \$35,000 in direct contributions to candidates. We've included a complete list of the candidates who received our contributions and won their elections in this newsletter.

Together, Americans for the Arts Action Fund and you made a difference in the 2006 elections. Thank you for your support and for your ongoing commitment to our work to advance the arts and arts education in America.

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.

Impact of New Tax Legislation on Nonprofits and Arts Organizations

Congress approved major tax legislation in August that has far-reaching consequences. On the positive side, a new provision will encourage charitable donations to arts and other nonprofit organizations from older donors who want to transfer funds from their IRA accounts. This provision will expire at the end of 2007, so we will be working hard to persuade Congress to renew it.

We were disappointed, however, that the new law did not include a provision allowing artists to claim a fair-market value tax deduction for donations of their own work, and that it included a provision that restricts the practice of donating a single work of art over multiple years, which will probably cause donations of major gifts to drop. We will work on both of these issues with the new congressional leadership. You can find

out more and send a letter to your members of Congress at our E-Advocacy Center, <http://capwiz.com/artsusa>.

Arts Funding Decisions Postponed to 2007

The Senate and House of Representatives failed to make FY 2007 funding decisions for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the U.S. Department of Education, and other arts programs prior to their fall adjournment. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved NEA funding at \$5 million below what was approved by the House in May. Senator Norm Coleman (R-MN) circulated a letter to fellow senators, asking for an increase in funding for both the NEA and NEH, and thanks to input from advocates across the country, 43 senators have signed on in support. The final outcome will be left to the 110th Congress, which will convene in January.

Supporting Arts Advocacy in the States

New Partnership with Lieutenant Governors Strengthens State Advocacy

We're happy to announce a new partnership with the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA). Like our relationship with The United States Conference of Mayors and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), our association with the lieutenant governors will be an additional way to strengthen our arts voice at the state level. Among our first combined actions, the NLGA formed an arts committee chaired by Wisconsin Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton, which helped us co-present one of our Public Leadership in the Arts Awards to a lieutenant governor for the first time. We are proud to announce that Lieutenant Governor Mitch Landrieu of Louisiana received this award

at the NLGA winter meeting on November 30, 2006.

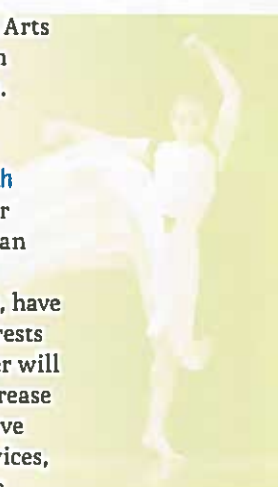
State Arts Advocacy Presentation at Grantmakers in the Arts Conference

Americans for the Arts Action Fund Executive Director Nina Ozlu moderated a panel of state arts advocates at the annual Grantmakers in the Arts conference in Boston, November 2006. The topic of the panel discussion was new opportunities in grassroots advocacy and public policy. It was an important chance to show private foundations how arts advocacy organizations at the state level are influencing arts policy. Participants included Judith Kaufman Weiner from the Alliance of New York State Arts Organizations; Dan Hunter from Massachusetts Advocates for the Arts, Sciences and Humanities; Betty

Plumb from the South Carolina Arts Alliance; and Sheila Smith from Minnesota Citizens for the Arts.

Two Michigan Statewide Arts Organizations Merge for Strength

Two longstanding Americans for the Arts state members, Michigan Association of Community Arts Agencies and ArtServe Michigan, have merged to better serve the interests of Michigan citizens. The merger will allow both organizations to increase their statewide efforts to improve arts and culture programs, services, and advocacy efforts, while also reducing administrative costs and eliminating duplication of services. The joined organizations will now be known as ArtServe Michigan.



Arts Report Card Captures Media Attention



Major congressional newspaper, Roll Call, highlights Americans for the Arts Action Fund PAC's 2006 Congressional Arts Report Card.

Taking Action at the Local Level

New Arts Advocacy Organization in Los Angeles

Americans for the Arts and several of its local arts council member organizations came together to form a new arts advocacy organization in the Los Angeles region—Arts for LA. The 501(c)(3) nonprofit service organization grew out of an informal roundtable of senior arts leaders that have been meeting since 1994. It is the only organization in Los Angeles that serves the entire arts community and places arts advocacy among its top priorities. Arts for LA will also serve as a regional office of Americans for the Arts. Artist, arts administrator, and educator Danielle Brazell has been named the organization's first executive director. For more information, please visit the Arts for LA website at www.artsforla.org.

Partnership with National League of Cities

We're happy to announce that the National League of Cities has joined as a partner for our upcoming research study, *Arts & Economic Prosperity: The Economic Impact of Nonprofit Arts Organizations and Their Audiences*, to be released by Americans for the Arts in summer 2007. As part of this important partnership, Americans for the Arts will be participating in some of the annual conferences held by the National League of Cities, where thousands of local elected officials will be able to learn about how the arts impact their communities. The U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National Association of Counties are also longtime partners in this effort.



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Your Quarterly Arts Action Fund Newsletter

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Arts PAC Winners List

Special Election Report Insert
Arts Vote 2006

Americans for the Arts Action Fund and its connected PAC add a new dimension to arts advocacy in the United States by providing a vehicle through which any citizen can help ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to appreciate, value, and participate in the arts. Additional information about the Americans for the Arts Action Fund, including information on how to join, is available at www.ArtsActionFund.org. Arts Action News is delivered four times a year exclusively to supporters of the Arts Action Fund.

Italics indicate incumbents

Here's the latest information on where your PAC dollars worked to help elect arts-friendly candidates in the 2006 election season. In our first year, Americans for the Arts Action Fund PAC contributed a total of \$35,000 to 55 candidates. Nearly 90 percent of candidates who received contributions from the Arts Action Fund PAC won their elections!

Arts Action Fund PAC — Our Winners List



- U.S. House of Representatives Winning Candidates:**
- Brad Ellsworth (D-IN)
 - Richard Neal (D-MA)
 - John Oliver (D-MA)
 - Steny Hoyer (D-MD)
 - Betty McCollum (D-MN)
 - Jim Ramstad (R-MN)
 - Tim Walz (D-MN)
 - David Price (D-NC)
 - Rush Holt (D-NJ)
 - Tom Udall (D-NM)
 - Maurice Hinchey (D-NY)
 - Jerrold Nadler (D-NY)
 - Charles Rangel (D-NY)
 - Louise Slaughter (D-NY)
 - Shelley Berkley (D-NV)
- U.S. Senate Winning Candidates:**
- Robert Aderholt (R-AL)
 - Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ)
 - Brian Bilbray (R-CA)
 - Barbara Lee (D-CA)
 - Buck McKeon (R-CA)
 - Henry Waxman (D-CA)
 - Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)
 - Ed Perlmutter (D-CO)
 - Rosa Delauro (D-CT)
 - Christopher Shays (R-CT)
 - Michael Castle (R-DE)
 - Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)
 - Mike Simpson (R-ID)
 - Judy Biggert (R-IL)
 - Danny Davis (D-IL)
 - Ben Cardin (D-MD)
 - Edward Kennedy (D-MA)
 - Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)
 - Jon Tester (D-MT)
 - Robert Menendez (D-NJ)
 - Hillary Clinton (D-NY)

- Zack Space (D-OH)
- Patrick Tiberi (R-OH)
- Dan Boren (D-OK)
- Charles Dent (R-PA)
- Jim Gerlach (R-PA)
- John Peterson (R-PA)
- Nick Lampson (D-TX)
- James Moran (D-VA)
- Peter Welch (D-VT)
- Norman Dicks (D-WA)
- Steve Kagen (D-WI)
- David Obey (D-WI)
- Alan Mollahan (D-WV)

Arts Vote 2006

A More Arts-Friendly Congress

The most significant change for arts policy as a result of the November elections will be the rise to House leadership of arts-friendly legislators. Incoming Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) are both strong arts supporters who received "A" grades on our 2006 Congressional Arts Report Card. Representatives James Clyburn (D-SC) and Rahm Emanuel (D-IL), both with strong arts voting records, have been elected Majority Whip and Democratic Caucus Chair, respectively.

Several incoming new House and Senate members have also shown they will be good friends of the arts, including Steven Cohen (D-TN), Hank Johnson (D-GA), Tim Walz (D-MN), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and former House member Baron Hill (D-IN), as well as both new members from New Hampshire, Paul Hodes and Carol Shea-Porter.

Americans for the Arts Action Fund has a long history of working with newly elected Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA). She's seen here addressing other House democratic leaders and arts advocates at Arts Advocacy Day 2005.



Balance of Power Changes (as of 12/14/06)

Senate

33 at stake, 0 undecided

Party	Total	Gain/Loss
GOP	49	-6
DEM	49	4
IND*	2	2

*will caucus with Democrats

House

435 at stake, 1 undecided*

Party	Total	Gain/Loss
GOP	201	-30
DEM	233	31
IND	0	-1

*Florida's 13th Congressional District

Governor

36 at stake, 0 undecided

Party	Total	Gain/Loss
GOP	22	-6
DEM	28	6
IND	0	0

Party Control of Both Chambers of State Legislatures

46 states at stake, 0 undecided
(No elections in LA, MS, NJ, VA)

Party	Total	Gain/Loss
GOP	15	-3
DEM	23	4
Split	11	1
Nonpartisan*	1	0

*Nebraska has a unicameral legislature

House Majority Leader-Elect Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Americans for the Arts activist and actor Alec Baldwin at Arts Advocacy Day 2006. Congressman Hoyer earned an "A" voting grade from the Arts Action Fund PAC.

Arts Vote 2006

Major Changes in Appropriations Committees = Good News for the Arts and Arts Education
Committee chairmen play a powerful role in Congress, and the election spells good news for the arts in that regard. The current chairmen of the House and Senate Interior Appropriations subcommittees, Rep. Charles Taylor (R-NC) and Sen. Conrad Burns (R-MT), neither of whom have ever proposed increases for the NEA or NEH, both lost their races this November. The new chairs are both great art advocates—Rep. Norm Dicks (D-WA) and Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-ND).

The outlook for funding for arts education also improved. For the past several years, the House zeroed out funding for arts education; the Senate would fund it; and the House would eventually relent. But incoming House Appropriations Chairman David Obey (D-WI) and other potential subcommittee chairs are strong supporters of arts education, so House support for federal arts education funding should grow.

House and Senate and Culture Caucus Members Successful in Elections

Both co-chairs of the Congressional Arts Caucus, Reps. Louise Slaughter (D-NY) and Chris Shays (R-CT), won re-election. In fact, members of the Arts Caucus who stood for re-election were generally successful. Of the 193 members, 10 retired or sought a different office, 173 were re-elected, and only 10 were defeated. On the Senate side, of 31 members only two will not be returning. To balance that moderate loss, two incoming senators were members of the Arts Caucus in the House, Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Bernie Sanders (I-VT).

You Helped Make the Difference in Narrow Victories for the Arts

Narrow margins in important races went to candidates who support the arts—thanks to your arts-friendly votes and contributions from members to the Arts Action Fund PAC. In this inaugural year of our Political Action Committee (PAC), it is gratifying to see that we made a difference. Ten of the candidates we supported won with 55 percent or less of the vote.

Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ)
Brian Bilbray (R-CA)
Ed Perlmutter (D-CO)
Chris Shays (R-CT)
Tim Walz (D-MN)

Charlie Dent (R-PA)
Jim Gerlach (R-PA)
Nick Lampson (D-TX)
Peter Welch (D-VT)
Steve Kagen (D-WI)

Congressional Arts Supporters We'll Miss

Some moderate republicans who often provided critical support for arts measures and funding either retired or lost their election bids this fall. Of these, we will particularly miss Reps. Nancy Johnson (CT), Sherwood Boehlert (NY), Sue Kelly (NY), and Jim Leach (IA).

New Governors Will Improve Arts Climate at the State Level

What we know about incoming new governors across the country tells us that the outlook for the arts in the states is likely to improve. In Massachusetts, Governor-Elect Deval Patrick (D-MA) is the first gubernatorial candidate in the commonwealth's history to make arts, culture, and the creative economy part of his campaign agenda. Maryland Governor-Elect Martin O'Malley (D-MD) was a strong supporter of the arts as mayor of Baltimore and received Americans for the Arts and The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Public Leadership in the Arts Award in 2004. Governor-Elect Ted Strickland (D-OH) has stated, "Art is essential to the human experience...as governor I will continue to stand by my commitment to support Ohio's arts institutions and individual artists." And New York Governor-Elect Eliot Spitzer is known for establishing the New York State Music Fund while he was state attorney general.

100 Percent of Local and State Arts Ballot Measures Passed

Thousands of voters nationwide turned out to support crucial ballot measures that had an impact on the arts. All 11 of the local ballot measures tracked and supported by Americans for the Arts Action Fund passed overwhelmingly, as did a state ballot measure on the arts in Louisiana.

Many of the approved ballot measures will target funding to programs for the arts in schools. Highlights include funding for a future home for the School of the Arts in San Francisco; \$20 million in grants for artists and arts and cultural organizations in Cuyahoga County, OH; \$31.5 million in funding for community and cultural facilities in Austin, TX; and \$60 million to support a new performance hall, museums, theaters, and other cultural facilities in Dallas, TX. For details on each arts ballot measure, please visit www.ArtsActionFund.org/pdf/arts_ballot_measures_2006.pdf.