

# Arts Action News

THE NEWSLETTER OF AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS ACTION FUND

Vol. III 2007

## New Study Demonstrates That the Arts Mean Business

Americans for the Arts' most extensive study to date of the economic impact of nonprofit arts and culture, *Arts & Economic Prosperity III*, revealed a 24 percent growth rate in just five years.

Among the significant national findings:

- The nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$166.2 billion in economic activity annually.
- The arts generate \$29.6 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenues.
- Arts organizations generate 5.7 million full-time equivalent jobs.

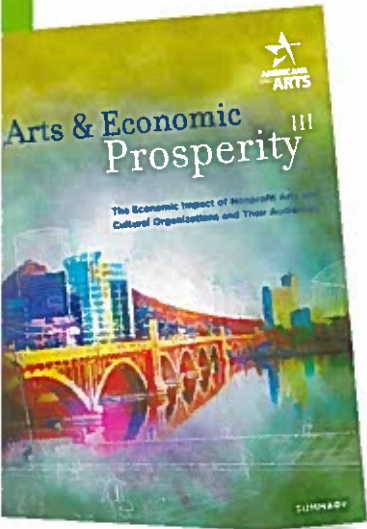
Americans for the Arts Action Fund presented the results at a special congressional briefing on Capitol Hill on May 22. Several members of the

U.S. House of Representatives spoke at the briefing, explaining how the arts have helped revitalize their local economies.

The strength of this economic impact report and the subsequent lobbying we did to educate members of Congress led to the largest ever proposed funding increase to the National Endowment for the Arts' budget. To read more about the study and how we're getting the news out to others, visit our website at [www.AmericansForTheArts.org/EconomicImpact](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org/EconomicImpact).



Representative Paul Hodes (D-NH) speaks at the Congressional Arts Caucus briefing on the Arts & Economic Prosperity III report.



## ArtsVote2008: Arts Advocates Vote Too!

**ArtsVote2008** is Americans for the Arts Action Fund's national initiative to bring the arts to the forefront of the 2008 presidential election. Our objective is to identify, educate, train, and mobilize likely arts voters and influence candidates to take strong positions for the arts.

In partnership with New Hampshire Citizens for the Arts, **ArtsVote** has hit the ground running in the nation's first primary state with office headquarters, staff, volunteers, and programs that are already making a difference.

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# Message from the President



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

Advocacy brings results. That's why we launched Americans for the Arts Action Fund three years ago. As the timeline below demonstrates, it was the right thing to do. Increased arts advocacy by members like you is leading to an upsurge in funding for the arts.

But we're not done yet. We still have a long way to go to ensure that arts-friendly public policies are adopted at all levels of government. That's why it's so important that we engage even more citizens in advocating for the arts through the Arts Action Fund.

To that end, we've made the decision to make membership in the Arts

Action Fund a permanent benefit for all professional members of our sister organization, Americans for the Arts. In addition, Theatre Communications Group and Arts Northwest are also making Arts Action Fund membership a standard benefit for their members.

The Arts Action Fund now has more than 22,000 members, but to continue making a positive impact on arts issues we need even more. I urge you to tell everyone you know about the Arts Action Fund. Direct them to our website at [www.ArtsActionFund.org](http://www.ArtsActionFund.org). Show them this issue of Arts Action News. And if you know someone who should be

with us, consider giving him or her the gift of an Arts Action Fund membership. I've enclosed a special envelope for gift memberships with this newsletter.

Together, we are building a powerful advocacy movement that will truly transform the arts in America. Your membership in Americans for the Arts Action Fund makes it all possible. Thank you for standing with us in this effort.

## Shaping Federal Arts Policy

### House Approves Largest Increase in History for the NEA

The Arts Action Fund scored a victory for arts organizations across the country when the U.S. House of Representatives approved a \$35 million increase to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in June. Three attempts to attach amendments that would have cut funding for the NEA were voted down on the House floor. In the month preceding the vote, Americans for the Arts Action Fund members and other arts advocates sent more than 37,000 messages to their members of Congress calling for support of the increase. Attention now shifts back to the U.S. Senate, whose Interior Appropriations bill offers less support for the NEA,

and to President Bush, who has already threatened to veto this spending bill.

### Filing Time Extended for Foreign Artist Visas

Arts organizations across the country won a victory when U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) agreed to change the visa processing rules for foreign guest artists. The change allows employers and agents more time (extending the earliest filing date from 6 to 12 months) to file visa requests for foreign guest artists. This issue has been a part of the legislative portfolio that advocates take to the Hill each year on Arts Advocacy Day.

## Highlights of the Arts Action Fund's Legislative Achievements in 2007

February 5

President Bush releases proposed fiscal year 2008 budget.

March 13

Americans for the Arts organizes Arts Advocacy Day, when 450 arts advocates visit more than 300 congressional offices.

March 13

The U.S. House Interior Appropriations subcommittee asks Americans for the Arts to organize witnesses for the first congressional hearing on federal arts funding in 12 years.

March 28

As the only arts group asked to testify at the House Education subcommittee hearing, Americans for the Arts brings attention to the needs of arts education.

April 16

Americans for the Arts provides Senate testimony in support of the NEA and Arts Education program.

From February to June, Americans for the Arts Action Fund advocates sent more than 37,000 messages to members of Congress asking for their support of the arts.



# Supporting Arts Advocacy in States and Cities

## Recognizing Public Leadership in the Arts

For the past 10 years, Americans for the Arts, in partnership with The United States Conference of Mayors, has presented the National Public Leadership in the Arts Awards to recognize those who take a leading role in advancing the arts and arts education.

The 2007 awards were presented at The United States Conference of Mayors' Summer Meeting in Los Angeles in June.

**Mayor Manuel A. Diaz** of Miami was awarded the 2007 National Award for Local Arts Leadership for promoting a comprehensive, inclusive, and proactive cultural agenda for the city of Miami.

**Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano** received the National Award for State Arts Leadership for her strong leadership in helping to save public funding for the arts in Arizona early in her administration, as well as for her lifelong support of the arts.

Other awards were given to **The Actors Fund**, Grammy Award-winning producer and *American Idol* judge **Randy Jackson**, and Emmy and Golden Globe-winning actor and producer **Jimmy Smits**. Each recipient has played a critical role in advocating on behalf of the arts and arts education.

## More States and Cities News

- Former councilman of the 4th Council District of Philadelphia, **Michael Nutter**, won the democratic primary for Philadelphia mayor in May. Nutter has promised to support arts and culture and weave them into as many areas of civic life as possible. He is running against republican candidate **Al Taubenberger**.

- Arts4Nevada launched its first advocacy effort as a state affiliate of Americans for the Arts. Using our E-Advocacy Center, Arts4Nevada succeeded in securing an increase of \$425,000 for the arts in Nevada.
- Governor of Michigan **Jennifer Granholm** has lifted a spending moratorium that had frozen grants to the arts and culture sector. State budget cuts, however, reduced the overall amount of arts funding available in the state by \$3.6 million.
- The **Alene Valkanas State Arts Advocacy Award** was created in 2006 to honor the commitment of outstanding activists for the arts at the state level. The award was given in its inaugural year to its namesake, **Alene Valkanas**, the longtime executive director of the Illinois Arts Alliance and an undisputed expert on arts advocacy. The 2007 award was recently given to another advocacy wizard, **Betty Plumb**, who has led the South Carolina Arts Alliance for more than a decade.



(L-R) President and CEO of Americans for the Arts Action Fund **Bob Lynch**; Executive Director of The U.S. Conference of Mayors **Tom Cochran**; Gov. **Janet Napolitano (AZ)**; Mayor **Manuel Diaz (Miami)**; Mayor **Hannemann (Honolulu)**; artists **Randy Jackson** and **Jimmy Smits**; and **Dale C. Olson** on behalf of The Actors Fund.



2007 Alene Valkanas State Arts Advocacy Award winner **Betty Plumb** was honored for her arts advocacy efforts in South Carolina.

## ArtsVote2008, continued from p.1

"Governor Richardson is a small example of what we are trying to do. While in Portsmouth, he was asked about the arts at his first stop by New Hampshire Citizens for the Arts board members and was caught off guard; but by his third stop, the arts issue was part of his speech."

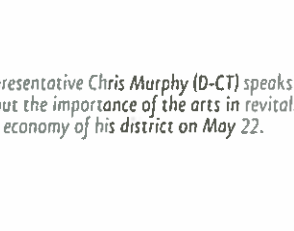
For information about **ArtsVote** events, candidate arts policy positions, and the **ArtsVote** Action Center, visit [www.ArtsVote.org](http://www.ArtsVote.org).



Representative **Chris Murphy (D-CT)** speaks about the importance of the arts in revitalizing the economy of his district on May 22.

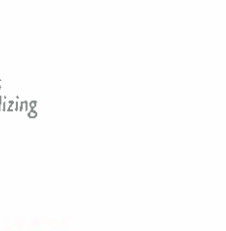
May 22

Americans for the Arts holds a congressional briefing on our study about the economic impact of the arts.



May 23

House subcommittee approves \$35 million increase to the NEA budget, bringing total appropriations to \$160 million.



June 7

House subcommittee approves funding increase for the Arts in Education program.



Interior Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman **Norm Dicks (D-WA)** speaks on the House floor on June 27.

June 19

Senate subcommittee approves \$9 million increase for the NEA.



June 27

U.S. House of Representatives approves \$35 million increase for the NEA—the largest in the history of the agency.



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## Your Quarterly Arts Action Fund Newsletter

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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. Executive Director, Nina Ozlu, [www.ArtsActionFund.org](http://www.ArtsActionFund.org).

Nearly 100 members of the Arts Action Fund attended a special reception and PAC fundraiser at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas on June 2, 2007. The reception highlighted the launch of ArtsVote2008, the new initiative to impact the 2008 presidential elections.

Since its launch in October 2004, the Arts Action Fund PAC has raised more than \$120,000. Only Action Fund members are eligible to support the PAC, so it's critical that we continue to grow. Board member Michael Verruto recently did his part by making the maximum annual contribution to the PAC and by purchasing Arts Action Fund memberships for all of Americans for the Arts' network of 1,000 Emerging Arts Leaders (a group of people early in their arts administration careers). You can do more too. Consider giving a gift membership in the Action Fund to a fellow supporter of the arts by using the enclosed envelope.

Americans for the Arts Action Fund Executive Director Nina Ozlu thanks board member Michael Verruto for his generosity in purchasing 1,000 memberships for Emerging Arts Leaders.



Stephen Kellner

**Sunday, November 4, 2007**  
5:15 p.m.-6:15 p.m.  
Reception  
Hyatt Regency Miami  
Miami, FL  
(coincides with the National Arts Marketing Project Conference)  
For more information, please visit our website:  
[www.ArtsActionFund.org/PAC](http://www.ArtsActionFund.org/PAC).

**Monday, October 15, 2007**  
Breakfast Reception (Time TBD)  
1 East 53rd Street  
New York, NY  
(coincides with the National Arts Awards Gala)

Mark your calendars and come out to support the Arts Action Fund PAC at these upcoming Arts Action Fund Members' Receptions and PAC Fundraisers:

### Upcoming Events

Americans for the Arts  
ACTION FUND INC

PAC Update