

# Arts Action News

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS ACTION FUND

Vol. IV 2008

## Making the Arts Count in the 2008 Elections and Beyond

Photo courtesy of David Katz/Obama for America.



President-Elect Barack Obama on election night at Grant Park in Chicago.

Your support of Americans for the Arts Action Fund made the arts a key issue in the 2008 elections through our **ArtsVote2008** efforts. Reports like our *2008 Congressional Arts Report Card*, *Candidate Survey on the Arts*, and our comparative analysis of the two presidential candidates' arts positions gave arts voters like you the information you needed to make a difference. Together, the nation expanded the base of support for the arts in Congress and elected a new president who has been outspoken in his support of the arts and arts education.

President-Elect Obama's cultural platform includes proposals for increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and arts in education, increased cultural diplomacy, and the creation of

a new ArtsCorps initiative to bring artists into low-income schools across the country.

Support for the arts also expanded on the congressional level. Democrats increased their majorities in both the House and the Senate with at least 14 new pro-arts freshman members. We look forward to working with these new and existing members to help move arts and arts education initiatives through the legislative process.

For more detailed election information, please visit: [www.ArtsActionFund.org/SpecialReports/ElectionImpact](http://www.ArtsActionFund.org/SpecialReports/ElectionImpact) to read our *2008 Election Impact on the Arts* analysis and view our post-election webinar on arts impact at the federal, state, and local levels.

## The Arts in the Spotlight at National Political Conventions

As part of our ongoing effort to raise the visibility of the arts and arts education during the 2008 election campaign, Americans for the Arts Action Fund partnered with NAMM—The International Music Products Association to host panel discussions on the arts at both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions this summer, bringing together elected officials, artists, and delegates.

Former U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley moderated the panel at the Museo de las Americas in Denver during the Democratic National Convention. Speakers included Miami Mayor Manuel Diaz, philanthropist Sheila C. Johnson, musician John Legend, and Congressional

Arts Caucus Co-Chair Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY).

Rep. Louise Slaughter emphasized: "With the little bit of money we put into the arts in Washington, we can see a yield of \$166 billion, six million jobs, and another \$12 billion that comes back in tax revenue to the federal treasury."

At the Republican National Convention, our panel at the Minnesota Children's Museum featured former presidential candidate Mike Huckabee; actress Debbie Allen; Gov. Matt Blunt (R-MO); Director of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Tom Cochran; country musician John Rich; and Rep. Todd Tiahrt (R-KS).

To learn more and watch video clips of the panel discussions, please visit [www.ArtsActionFund.org/ArtsVote/007.asp](http://www.ArtsActionFund.org/ArtsVote/007.asp).

Photo courtesy of McBoat Photography.



Musician John Legend, philanthropist Sheila Johnson, and Miami Mayor Manuel Diaz participated in a panel discussion about the arts at the Americans for the Arts Action Fund event at the Democratic National Convention.

# Message from the President

We did it! Together, you and Americans for the Arts Action Fund, made the arts and arts education important issues in the 2008 presidential campaign. The nation has elected a visionary arts leader in Barack Obama and significantly expanded the pro-arts base in Congress. As you can see in the timeline below, our

ArtsVote2008 strategy began in New Hampshire nearly two years ago and continued right up until Election Day this November. And our work will not end there, as we now focus on transitions in policies with a new administration and a new Congress.

in 2009 will be to safeguard arts and arts education funding during the 2009 appropriations process, which will be impacted greatly by the current economic climate.

We must be prepared for the 'arts fallout' from our nation's current economic crisis. Thirty states are officially in a recession with 19 more on the edge. As we've seen time and time again, when the economy is in turmoil, the arts are often the first to be cut—despite the fact that the arts spur economic activity. We are already seeing signs of tough times for arts budgets across the country. You can count on Americans for the Arts Action Fund to continue to speak to elected leaders across the country on behalf of you and your community.

We look forward to working with President-Elect Obama to enact many of the bold ideas he outlined in his Arts Policy platform during the campaign.

The Arts Action Fund and our political action committee also played a critical role in 2008 congressional races. We helped re-elect some of our nation's most influential arts leaders, including Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY) and Sen. Norm Dicks (D-WA), and also helped propel new pro-arts candidates into office, including Reps. Betsy Markey (D-CO), Suzanne Kosmas (D-FL), and Chellie Pingree (D-ME).

Now that the election is over, we turn our attention to legislative matters. Our first order of business

Photo courtesy of David Sherman Photography



Arts Action Fund President and CEO Robert L. Lynch delivering the opening remarks at "The Future of the Arts and Arts Education" panel at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul. Panelists seated behind him are (L-R) Gov. Mike Huckabee (R-AR), Director of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Tom Cochran, actress Debbie Allen, country musician John Rich, and Gov. Matt Blunt (R-MO).

## ArtsVote: A Voice for the Arts in the 2008



ArtsVoteNH Coordinator Suzanne Delle Harrison met with Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) at a rally in Nashua, NH, in July 2007. ArtsVoteNH is a partnership between Americans for the Arts and New Hampshire Citizens for the Arts that seeks to impact New Hampshire's presidential primary.



Americans for the Arts Action Fund President and CEO Robert L. Lynch with Peggo Hodes, who spoke on behalf of Sen. Barack Obama at the November 2007 forum.



Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations Norm Dicks (D-WA) and Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA) addressing witnesses at the congressional hearing on arts funding organized by Americans for the Arts.

### 2007

May 23

Americans for the Arts Action Fund launches ArtsVote, a new national campaign to help the arts impact the presidential election.

Aug. 7

ArtsVote requests arts policy statements from all presidential candidates.

Sept. 19

ArtsVote releases 10-point Pro-Arts Issue Brief to campaigns.

Nov. 29

ArtsVoteNH holds first-ever Arts Policy Forum attended by representatives from the Clinton, Huckabee, Kucinich, Obama, and Richardson campaigns.

### 2008

Feb. 18

Sen. Clinton publishes detailed plan for federal support for the arts.

Feb. 23

Sen. Obama publishes detailed plan for federal support for the arts.

Mar. 4

Los Angeles Times publishes article on increased presence of the arts in the 2008 campaign due to Arts Action Fund's ArtsVote initiative.

Apr. 1

Arts Action Fund staff meet with policy directors for Obama, Clinton, and McCain campaigns on Arts Advocacy Day. Americans for the Arts organizes a congressional hearing on arts funding for the House Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations.

# Supporting Arts Advocacy in States and Cities

## Minnesota Passes First State Constitutional Amendment in Support of the Arts

Minnesotans made history this Election Day when they passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, making Minnesota the only state to have a constitutional amendment guaranteeing funding for the arts and culture. The amendment will dedicate three-eighths of one percent of the state sales tax to arts programs and environmental initiatives, infusing \$30 million to Minnesota's cultural organizations and nearly tripling the current budget of the State Arts Board.

Executive Director of Minnesota Citizens for the Arts Sheila Smith spearheaded this collaboration between the arts and the environment. "This is what you would call a game changer," said Smith. "Other states will be looking at what Minnesota has accomplished and seeking to replicate it."

## State and Local Elections Yield Pro-Arts Impact

Election results at the state and local levels reinforced the vital importance of the arts in society. Three states elected new governors who have pledged their support for the arts: Governor-Elect Jack Markell (D) in Delaware, Governor-Elect Jay Nixon (D) in Missouri, and Governor-Elect Beverly Perdue (D) in North Carolina.

On the local level, three mayors who have been important supporters of the arts won re-election bids: Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann (HI), Santa Ana Mayor Miguel Pulido (CA), and Baton Rouge Mayor Melvin "Kip" Holden (LA).

This election cycle, the Arts Action Fund identified 15 local ballot initiatives that had an impact on the arts, and voters approved 13 of 15 of these pro-arts measures. The success of these state and local initiatives continues the long-standing trend that voters are willing to invest in public funding for the arts.

For more information on the arts in state and local elections, visit: [www.ArtsActionFund.org/SpecialReports/ElectionImpact](http://www.ArtsActionFund.org/SpecialReports/ElectionImpact).

## ARTS ADVOCACY DAY

THE 2009 NATIONAL ARTS ACTION SUMMIT

Don't miss Arts Advocacy Day: The 2009 National Arts Action Summit in Washington, DC, on March 31 featuring Wynton Marsalis as the 22nd Annual Nancy Hanks Lecturer on Arts and Public Policy.

**Register Now!**

[www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AAD](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AAD)

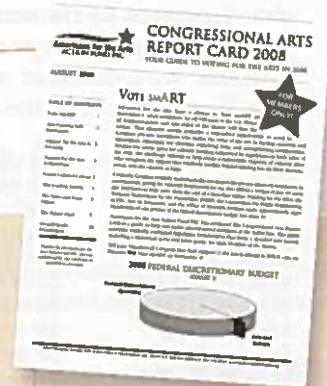
## Election Campaign



Gov. Richard Riley (D-SC), Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, Sheila Johnson, John Legend, and Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY) on the arts panel hosted by Americans for the Arts and NAMM at the Democratic National Convention.



Gov. Mike Huckabee (R-AR) and Rep. Richard Tiahrt (R-KS) were featured speakers on the arts panel hosted by Americans for the Arts and NAMM at the Republican National Convention.



Apr. 2      June 19      Aug. 9      Aug. 26      Sept. 2      Sept. 16      Oct. 3      Oct. 28      Nov. 4

Following Arts Advocacy Day, Sen. Obama makes first public remarks in support of arts and arts education at a campaign stop in Pennsylvania.

Sen. Obama sends a letter of support to the 1,400 attendees at the Americans for the Arts 2008 Annual Convention.

Upon Americans for the Arts Action Fund's urging, the Democratic Party Platform includes the most comprehensive arts policy statement to date.

ArtsVote hosts panel discussion on the arts at the Democratic National Convention in Denver, CO.

ArtsVote hosts panel discussion on the arts at the Republican National Convention in Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN.

Americans for the Arts Action Fund officially releases the 2008 Congressional Arts Report Card to inform constituents of the arts voting records of their members of Congress running for re-election.

ArtsVote publishes comparison of Obama and McCain positions on the arts. McCain campaign issues short statement on arts education.

Arts Action Fund PAC announces Races to Watch and financial support of candidates in all 50 states.

The nation elects a pro-arts president and a pro-arts Congress.



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## Your Quarterly Arts Action Fund Newsletter

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**Arts Action Fund PAC Contributes \$75,000 to Candidates in 50 States**

# PAC Update



Your Americans for the Arts Action Fund PAC contributions allowed us to play a major role in the 2008 congressional elections. We contributed more than \$75,000 to carefully chosen pro-arts candidates, impacting races in all 50 states.

Our efforts made a difference, as 92 percent of the candidates we supported won their races. Americans for the Arts Action Fund PAC would like to congratulate the following elected pro-arts candidates who we supported in the 2008 elections:

Parker Griffith (AL-5)\*  
Mike Ross (AR-4)  
Raul Grijalva (AZ-7)  
Ann Kirkpatrick (AZ-1)\*  
Ed Pastor (AZ-4)  
Howard Berman (CA-28)  
Michael Honda (CA-15)  
Barbara Lee (CA-9)  
Zoe Lofgren (CA-16)  
Jerry McNerney (CA-11)  
George Miller (CA-7)  
Nancy Pelosi (CA-8)  
Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-34)  
Linda Sanchez (CA-39)  
Henry Waxman (CA-30)  
Lynn Woolsey (CA-6)  
Betsy Markey (CO-4)\*  
Mark Udall (CO-Sen.)\*  
Rosa DeLauro (CT-3)

John Larson (CT-1)  
Chris Murphy (CT-5)  
Mike Castle (DE-At Large)  
Suzanne Kosmas (FL-24)\*  
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL-18)  
Debbie Schultz (FL-20)  
Robert Wexler (FL-19)  
John Lewis (GA-5)  
Jim Marshall (GA-8)  
Mazie Hirono (HI-2)  
Dave Loebsack (IA-2)  
Michael Simpson (ID-2)  
Judy Biggett (IL-13)  
Rahm Emanuel (IL-5)  
Jesse Jackson, Jr. (IL-2)  
Timothy Johnson (IL-15)  
Mark Kirk (IL-10)  
Janice Schakowsky (IL-9)  
John Shimkus (IL-19)

Andre Carson (IN-7)  
Brad Ellsworth (IN-8)  
Dennis Moore (KS-3)  
Jerry Moran (KS-1)  
Todd Tiahrt (KS-4)  
Ben Chandler (KY-6)  
John Yarmuth (KY-3)  
Mary Landreiu (LA-Sen.)  
Richard Neal (MA-2)  
John Olver (MA-1)  
Donna Edwards (MD-4)  
Steny Hoyer (MD-5)  
Chris Van Hollen, Jr (MD-8)  
Chellie Pingree (ME-1)\*  
Dale Kildee (MI-5)  
Thad McCotter (MI-11)  
Norm Coleman (MN-Sen.)\*  
Betty McCollum (MN-4)  
Collin Peterson (MN-7)

Russ Carnahan (MO-3)  
Jo Emerson (MO-8)  
Travis Childers (MS-1)  
Thad Cochran (MS-Sen.)  
Max Baucus (MT-Sen.)  
Larry Kissell (NC-8)\*  
David Price (NC-4)  
Heath Shuler (NC-11)  
Earl Pomeroy (ND- At Large)  
Paul Hodes (NH-2)  
Rodney Frelinghuysen (NJ-11)  
Rush Holt (NJ-12)  
Frank LoBiondo (NJ-2)  
Tom Udall (NM-Sen.)\*  
Shelly Berkley (NV-1)  
Joseph Crowley (NY-7)  
John Hall (NY-19)  
Maurice Hinchey (NY-22)  
Nita Lowey (NY-18)

Dan Maffei (NY-25)\*  
Carolyn McCarthy (NY-4)  
Jerold Nadler (NY-8)  
Charlie Rangel (NY-15)  
Louise Slaughter (NY-28)  
Carolyn Maloney (NY-14)  
John Boccieri (OH-16)\*  
Steven LaTourrette (OH-14)  
Timothy Ryan (OH-17)  
Patrick Tiberi (OH-12)  
Michael Turner (OH-3)  
Dan Boren (OK-2)  
Frank Lucas (OK-3)  
Earl Blumenauer (OR-3)  
Charles Dent (PA-15)  
Jim Gerlach (PA-6)  
John Murtha (PA-12)  
Todd Platts (PA-19)  
Patrick Kennedy (RI-1)

Jack Reed (RI-Sen.)  
James Clyburn (SC-6)  
Timothy Johnson (SD-Sen.)  
Stephanie Sandlin (SD-1)  
Stephen Cohen (TN-9)  
Jim Cooper (TN-5)  
John Doggett (TX-25)  
Ruben Hinojosa (TX-15)  
Jim Matheson (UT-2)  
Gerald Connolly (VA-11)\*  
James Moran (VA-8)  
Mark Warner (VA-Sen.)\*  
Peter Welch (VT-At Large)  
Norman Dicks (WA-6)  
Dave Obey (WI-7)  
Alan Mollohan (WV-1)  
Michael Enzi (WY-Sen.)

\*Incoming Freshman  
\*\* Pending re-count

Americans for the Arts Action Fund is the advocacy arm of Americans for the Arts. We engage 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. Arts Action News is delivered four times a year to supporters of the Arts Action Fund. Executive Director, Nina Ozlu Tunceli. [www.ArtsActionFund.org](http://www.ArtsActionFund.org).