

Arts Action News

THE NEWSLETTER OF
AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS ACTION FUND

Vol. II 2009

Largest Arts Advocacy Day Ever

Americans for the Arts was thrilled to welcome more than 500 grassroots arts advocates to Washington, DC, on March 31 for Arts Advocacy Day 2009.

On the heels of our victory securing funding for arts organizations in the economic recovery package, advocates continued to carry the message that "The Arts = Jobs" to members of Congress. During the Congressional Arts Breakfast, Americans for the Arts Action Fund President and CEO Robert L. Lynch outlined the Arts Action Fund's 2009 legislative agenda. Previously approved by Arts Action Fund members, the legislative priorities include securing a \$200 million budget for the National Endowment for the Arts and improving access to arts education for all students.

A highlight of the day's activities was the Third Annual Congressional Hearing on the Arts, convened by Rep. Norm Dicks (D-WA) and organized by Americans for the Arts. A distinguished panel—including artist advocates Wynton Marsalis, Josh Groban, and Linda Ronstadt; Reinvestment Fund CEO Jeremy Nowak; and Robert L. Lynch—called for increased funding for the arts.

It was the largest and most successful Arts Advocacy Day ever, with more than 275 visits to congressional offices. Thanks to each and every one of you who attended, sent an e-mail, or made a phone call to your congressperson in support of Arts Advocacy Day. Lawmakers clearly heard our message about the

essential role of the arts in our economy and society. To read more about Arts Advocacy Day and view testimony from the hearing, visit www.AmericansForTheArts.org/go/AAD recap.



Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center Wynton Marsalis, singer Linda Ronstadt, Americans for the Arts Action Fund President and CEO Robert L. Lynch, and singer/songwriter Josh Groban were featured witnesses at the Third Annual Congressional Hearing on the Arts.

Wynton Marsalis Presents "The Ballad of American Arts"

On the eve of Arts Advocacy Day, a near-capacity crowd of approximately 1,400 people experienced the Americans for the Arts 22nd Annual Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy, presented this year by world-renowned trumpeter, composer, and Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center Wynton Marsalis.

Marsalis, along with members of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, alternated between spoken word and music throughout the production. Marsalis described the arts as a ballad that

tells the true history of our country. "The arts demand and deserve that we recognize the life we have lived on this land together," said Marsalis. "In this time we need to be educated in who we are, and with the arts, education extends far outside the classroom."

In the days immediately after the event, more than 8,000 visitors watched the lecture on the Internet, where you can still listen to Marsalis's inspiring message at www.AmericansForTheArts.org/Hanks.



Wynton Marsalis delivers the Americans for the Arts 22nd Annual Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy.

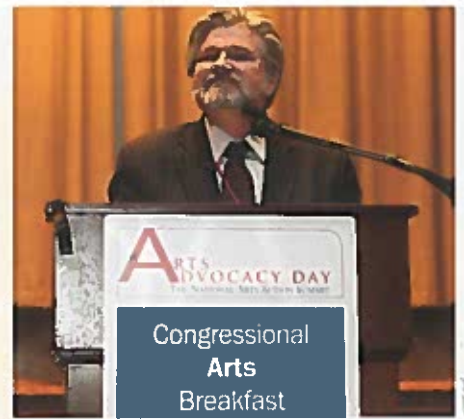
Message from the President

We all know these are challenging times for our nation. But as Arts Advocacy Day 2009 proved, arts advocates are energized and determined to keep up the fight for arts funding. While the recession is cutting into arts budgets across the country, we're also witnessing amazing resilience and creativity as arts organizations come together to strengthen each other and continue to serve their communities.

The arts are experiencing strong support among mayors who, thanks to the economic data provided by the Americans for the Arts national study *Arts & Economic Prosperity III*, truly understand the value of the arts in their local economies. But as budgets tighten across the country, many governors and state legislators are still threatening huge cuts in

arts funding. That's why I'm so grateful to have your support of our work, so we can keep the pressure on. If you're not already involved with your state arts advocacy organization, now is the time to get involved with these groups. Visit the Americans for the Arts State Arts Action Network roster to find organizations in your area at www.AmericansForTheArts.org/go/saanroster.

Because we have stood together, the Arts Action Fund has become a mighty force for the arts and arts education in recent years. But we must continue to grow and make our voices heard. We're happy to welcome many new Arts Action Fund members from the International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians.



Americans for the Arts Action Fund President and CEO Robert L. Lynch addresses the crowd at the Congressional Arts Breakfast on Arts Advocacy Day 2009.

We've set an ambitious goal to grow our movement to one million members by 2012, in order to increase our ability to influence legislation at all levels. You can help by referring your friends to this website to join in the cause: www.ArtsActionFund.org/go/Join. It's free and easy to join.

Thank you for your continued activism and strong support.

White House Nominates Arts Leaders

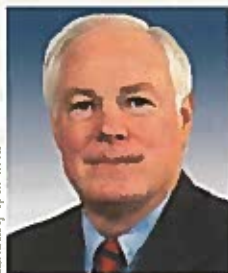
Kalpen Modi

President Obama created a new position within the White House Office of Public Engagement to oversee arts policy issues and appointed activist and actor Kalpen Modi. His first day in the new position was July 6, 2009.



Rocco Landesman

President Obama nominated Broadway producer Rocco Landesman as Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. He is expected to be confirmed by the Senate before the August recess.



Jim Leach

Most recently, President Obama named former congressman Jim Leach (R-IA) as his nominee to chair the National Endowment for the Humanities. Leach is the recipient of the 2006 Americans for the Arts Public Leadership in the Arts Award for Congressional Arts Leadership. He is expected to be confirmed by the Senate before the August recess.

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.

Congressional Arts Breakfast Kicks Off Arts Advocacy Day

Before advocates headed into the halls of Congress in support of pro-arts policies and increased federal arts funding, Americans for the Arts began Arts Advocacy Day with the Congressional Arts Breakfast. Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter Josh Groban encouraged advocates in their efforts, and congressional leaders like Sens. Tom Udall (D-NM) and Chuck Schumer (D-NY) made moving remarks. Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) was honored with the 2009 Americans for the Arts Public Leadership in the Arts Award for Congressional Arts Leadership.

Advocates Testify on the Economic Impact of the Arts

On March 26, 2009, Rep. George Miller (D-CA) held the House Committee on Education and Labor's first convening on the economic impact of the arts. Americans for the Arts Action Fund Board Member Michael Spring and President and CEO Robert L. Lynch provided specific examples of how the recession has impacted nonprofit arts organizations across the country. They also submitted data to the Congressional Record on the potential for the arts to impact state and municipal economic recovery. To view their testimony, visit <http://edlabor.house.gov/hearings/2009/03/the-economic-and-employment-im.shtml>.



(Top) Bipartisan Co-Chairs of the Congressional Arts Caucus Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY) and Rep. Todd Platts (R-PA) spoke at the Congressional Arts Breakfast before delivering testimony at the Third Annual Congressional Hearing on the Arts.

(Bottom) Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY) rallied advocates on their way to meet with their representatives.

Supporting Arts Advocacy in States and Cities

Victory for Arts Funding in South Dakota

When South Dakota Gov. Mike Rounds eliminated state funds for the South Dakota Arts Council in January 2009, the arts community jumped to action. According to South Dakotans for the Arts Executive Director Pat Boyd, "The arts rescue mission began before he could finish his speech." Efforts included weekly activist e-mails, use of social networking tools such as Facebook, and personal visits with every state legislator. "By reminding legislators that the arts are an important economic engine in the state, we convinced leaders to fully restore arts funding in the final state budget," said Boyd.

Raleigh, NC, Arts Advocates Rally to Restore City Arts Funding

In June, the city council of Raleigh, NC, voted to keep funding for the arts at \$4.50 per capita in the FY 2010 city budget. City Manager Russell Allen had originally proposed cutting arts funding to \$4.00 per resident, which would have resulted in a savings of \$190,000. Council members rejected the proposal and acknowledged they cannot afford to cut the arts because "[they] are a huge economic driver." It appears that the work of local arts advocates is paying off in the city, even during this difficult financial time, as the council also recently decided to fund a new city public art program, as well as create a new full-time public art coordinator position.

1000 VERMONT AVENUE, NW
SIXTH FLOOR
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
WWW.ARTSACTIONFUND.ORG

Your Quarterly Arts Action Fund Newsletter

In this Issue:

Page 1

Largest Arts Advocacy Day Ever
Wynton Marsalis Presents "The Ballad of
American Arts"

Page 2

White House Nominates Arts Leaders

Page 3

**Advocates Testify on the Economic Impact
of the Arts**
Victory for Arts Funding in South Dakota
and Raleigh, NC

Page 4

**Josh Groban Raises Dollars for Arts Action
Fund PAC**
Heard on the House Floor

PAC Update



Singer/songwriter Josh Groban joined us on Arts Advocacy Day and took extra time to help us raise money for the Arts Action Fund PAC. Groban is a great artist who proved to be a great arts advocate as well. He's pictured here with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-NY), and House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) at the Democratic Arts Leadership Luncheon.

Heard on the House Floor: Economic Stimulus Funding

Point

"I just think putting people to work is more important than putting more art on the wall of some New York City gallery frequented by the elite art community. Call me a sucker for the working man."

— Rep. Jack Kingston (R-GA)

Counterpoint

"In addition to retaining jobs, these [economic stimulus art] funds will support programs which provide entertainment and richness in the lives of our communities at a time when they are badly needed. In the context of this large economic stimulus legislation, I believe this is a prudent investment, and that it will contribute measurably to restoring the fiscal health of our nation."

— Rep. David Obey (D-WI)

Americans for the Arts Action Fund provided Congressman Obey with the economic data on the arts he needed to respond to the erroneous statement by fellow member of Congress Jack Kingston. Thanks to your support, the Arts Action Fund is ready to stand up for the arts whenever and wherever they are under attack.

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 and in the private sector. Arts Action News is delivered four times a year to supporters of the Arts Action Fund. Executive Director, Nina Ozlu Tunceli. www.ArtsActionFund.org.



Mixed Sources
Product group from well-managed
forests, controlled sources and
recycled content of fiber
www.fsc.org Cert no. SCS-COC-00030
© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council



Paper is 50 percent recycled, 25 percent postconsumer waste, and FSC certified. Printed with soy ink.