

# Arts Action News

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS ACTION FUND

Vol. IV 2010

## Federal Arts Advocacy in a Split Congress

The 2010 election results are in and the impact on the arts and arts education at the federal level could be far-reaching. With Democrats controlling the Senate and Republicans controlling the House, members of Congress will have to work harder than ever to move through gridlock and pass legislation through both chambers. Arts Action Fund will continue to build relationships to support arts legislation on both sides of the aisle. Several strong arts champions were re-elected, including Sens. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Reps. Todd Platts (R-PA) and Louise Slaughter (D-NY), and we'll be counting on their leadership to help us build support for the arts among their colleagues.

When Congress convenes in January, we will see changes in committee chairmanships in the House of Representatives. Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID) will likely replace Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA) as chair of the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, the appropriations subcommittee that sets initial funding levels for the National Endowment for the Arts and other cultural agencies. Americans for the Arts Action Fund has strong working relationships with both Rep. Simpson and Rep. Moran (who will remain the ranking Democrat on the committee), and we are counting on their continued support of the arts in the 112th Congress.

Right now, we're busy getting to know a large crop of freshman members of Congress. With 16 new members in the Senate and at least 94 in the House, we have a lot of work to do to engage and educate them on arts issues. We can't do it without you. So please reach out to your members of Congress via [www.ArtsActionFund.org](http://www.ArtsActionFund.org) to ensure they know the value of the arts.



(Left) Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID), a strong arts supporter, with Americans for the Arts congressional hearing witness and CEO of Ovation Television Charles Segars (right). Simpson will likely replace Moran as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies.

Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA) is a strong friend of the arts who was re-elected in November with support from the Arts Action Fund PAC.



## New Governors and Mayors Champion the Arts

Governors and mayors play a critical role in ensuring state and local funding for the arts and arts education. Arts Action Fund is pleased to report that we have strong existing relationships with several newly elected governors and mayors, thanks to our ongoing collaborations with the United States Conference of Mayors and the National Lieutenant Governors Association.

At the state government level, several arts champions have been elected as governor. They include Governors-Elect Jerry Brown of California, Dan Malloy of Connecticut, Tom Corbett of Pennsylvania, Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii, Lincoln Chaffee of Rhode Island, Mark Dayton of Minnesota, John Hickenlooper of Colorado, and Rick Snyder of Michigan.

Locally, there were 232 mayoral elections in cities with a population of more than 30,000. Among the many new promising arts champions are Providence, RI Mayor-Elect Angel Taveras and Louisville, KY Mayor-Elect Greg Fischer, who both identified the arts as a way to harness local talent and creative energy to power the economy.

## Message from the President

We started Arts Action Fund six years ago because we understood that without strong arts advocacy, we could not advance the arts in America. The 2010 election results remind us once again of how important it is to take action for the arts on Election Day and every day of the year.

This year, state leaders will have an even bigger impact on the political landscape, quite literally. The state legislators elected this year will determine how congressional districts are divided based on the results of the 2010 census. We are ahead of the game when it comes to working with many newly elected governors due to our partnerships on the state and local levels.

With more conservative Republicans replacing moderate members of Congress who have traditionally

supported the arts, it's going to take even stronger advocacy to prevent cuts in funding for the arts and arts education at the federal level as well.

The new Congress is likely to be focused largely on the economy. Armed with data from our economic impact studies, we will remind our leaders that the arts play a vital role in fueling economic growth. We'll be counting on you to help carry that message at Arts Advocacy Day, April 4-5, 2011, and throughout the coming year.

For those of you who participated in our 50 States 50 Days campaign this summer, thank you for helping to lay the groundwork with your elected officials. The tools we created to help organize local events with members of Congress are still available through Arts Action Fund's



*Arts Action Fund President and CEO Robert L. Lynch testified at the 2010 Arts Advocacy Day congressional hearing on the effectiveness of the arts on building prosperous communities. Join with us for Arts Advocacy Day 2011, April 4-5, in Washington, DC.*

Action Center at [www.ArtsActionFund.org/pages/action-center](http://www.ArtsActionFund.org/pages/action-center), and will be valuable resources for your continuing advocacy.

Thank you, as always, for supporting our work and for all that you do to promote the arts and arts education.

**REGISTER NOW!**

**Arts Advocacy Day 2011**  
Washington, DC  
April 4-5, 2011  
[www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AAD](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AAD)

**ARTS ADVOCACY DAY**  
THE 2011 NATIONAL ARTS ACTION SUMMIT

## Arts Advocates Play Big Role in California Governor's Race

The Americans for the Arts Action Fund supported The Arts in the California Governor's Race project (ACGR), which focused on making the arts a centerpiece issue during the California gubernatorial election. A coalition of state and local arts advocacy and service organizations came together and generated more than 1,200 e-mails to candidates, significant media coverage, and numerous endorsements from both for-profit and nonprofit

organizations. On election night, it was clear that the message was heard when Governor-Elect Jerry Brown delivered his acceptance speech at Oakland's Fox Theatre in front of students from the Oakland School for the Arts. The group has already moved into the next phase of their campaign, and will be setting up meetings on the arts with Governor-Elect Brown. Congratulations to all of the organizations that made ACGR a huge success!



# 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](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org/LegislativeNews).

## Congress Maintains National Endowment for the Arts at Level Funding

Congress was unable to finalize the 2011 federal appropriations bill prior to adjourning for the election recess in November, instead carrying over level funding for all federal agencies including \$167.5 million for the National Endowment for the Arts. The next step in the appropriations process will be determined during the "lame duck" session of Congress in December or will perhaps be carried over to the new Congress in January.

## Call for a Nationwide Arts Education Census

We believe there should be a consistent and reliable way to evaluate the state of arts education in our schools nationwide. That's why we have repeatedly asked legislators to require the U.S. Department of Education to provide a comprehensive and transparent report on the status of arts education in America's public schools. A recent survey in Arizona underscores the importance of gathering this data. In Arizona's first Arts Education Census conducted this year, half of the schools

surveyed reported that they have no budget for arts education, and nearly eight out of 10 schools spent less than one cent a day per student on arts education.

You can do your part to improve arts education in all of our schools by visiting our Arts Action Center at [www.AmericansForTheArts.org/get\\_involved/advocate.asp](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org/get_involved/advocate.asp). Contact your members of Congress to encourage them to support funding for the arts in education and timely reports on the state of the arts in our schools.

# Supporting Arts Advocacy in States and Cities

## Encouraging Cultural Districts

All across the country, cities of all sizes are creating cultural districts to attract new business and tourists and to boost the quality of life for their residents. Cultural districts, filled with galleries, theaters, studios, museums, and performing arts centers, are a powerful tool in revitalizing local economies.

The Massachusetts Senate recently passed legislation to enhance the creative sector, forming a commission to measure student achievement in creativity in elementary and secondary schools and to create a state-sponsored cultural districts program to spur cultural development in cities and towns. Massachusetts Senate President Pro Tempore Stan Rosenberg (D-MA) was the principal sponsor and force behind these efforts. Americans for the Arts honored Sen. Rosenberg with the 2010 Public Leadership in the Arts Award for a State Legislator.

In Auburn, NY, arts supporters are hoping to convert a community into an art and culture hotspot. Englewood, MO, passed an ordinance this summer that paves the way for the creation of a cultural arts district to "create a focus for revitalization and promotion of the cultural and artistic environment." Town council members in Leesburg, VA

are reviewing a proposal for the establishment of a cultural district to encourage new businesses and attract more visitors to downtown Leesburg.

Thanks to our work, local leaders are getting the message that the arts can be a vital tool to stimulate economic development, especially in these times of budgetary uncertainty.

## Arts Organizations Step Up for State Employees in Maryland

For the third year in a row, the 67,000 employees of the state of Maryland were forced to go on furlough for a few days this year. In an effort to engage these workers, Maryland arts organizations have stepped up to offer them free and/or discounted tickets and admission to exhibits and events. Maryland Citizens for the Arts (MCA), a member of Americans for the Arts State Arts Action Network, created and coordinates the program.



Leesburg, VA residents could soon see a drastic transformation of their downtown area if the town council approves the cultural district proposal.

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PAC Update

## PAC Update



## Your PAC Dollars Got Results in November

As the only bipartisan political action committee (PAC) representing the nonprofit arts community, Arts Action Fund PAC played a critical role in electing pro-arts leaders this fall. We contributed \$65,250 to candidates for the House of Representatives, including 57 Democrats and 33 Republicans. We also proudly supported arts leaders in the Senate like Sens. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) in their successful re-election campaigns. We also donated to the campaign of pro-arts Rep. Jerry Moran (R-KS), who won his bid to become the newest senator from Kansas. Your efforts and your dollars made a difference! Thank you for helping to elect pro-arts members of Congress!

Newly elected Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI) is a bright star among the crop of new House members. Elected with support from the Arts Action Fund PAC, this former mayor of Providence, RI has been a great friend to the arts.



## Congress Honors the Arts and Arts Education

House Resolution 1582 was unanimously passed in the House of Representatives on September 23, 2010, honoring and saluting Americans for the Arts on its 50th anniversary. Reps. Louise Slaughter (D-NY) and Todd Platts (R-PA) sponsored the legislation, along with 27 other representatives.

The House of Representatives also recognized the importance of arts education by establishing National Arts in Education Week, which took place September 12–18, 2010. Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA) sponsored the resolution, with the encouragement of Broadway legend and arts advocate Carol Channing.

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 Özlü Tunceli. [www.ArtsActionFund.org](http://www.ArtsActionFund.org).

