

Arts Action News

THE NEWSLETTER OF AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS ACTION FUND

Vol. I 2011

House GOP Leaders Target the Arts for Elimination

The 112th Congress was sworn into office on January 5, 2011, after an historic election sweep that saw the Republican Party swing the pendulum and take back control of the United States House of Representatives. Capturing 63 seats to bring their advantage in the House to a 241 to 192 margin, Republicans now have a commanding governing majority in the House, while Democrats retain a slim majority in the Senate.

Reps. Todd Platts (R-PA) and Louise Slaughter (D-NY) return to lead the highly visible Congressional Arts Caucus; however, the membership has unfortunately dropped by 24 percent as a result of the election. It will be very important to rebuild the membership of this caucus with new members of Congress in order to successfully respond to attacks to diminish or eliminate all funding for the arts, arts education, and public broadcasting.

Arts and culture leaders from both sides of the aisle will face challenges to their arts support in what promises to be a charged atmosphere over the role of federal spending. Some congressional proposals such as the one released and endorsed by 175 members of the Republican Study Committee have already called for immediate elimination of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

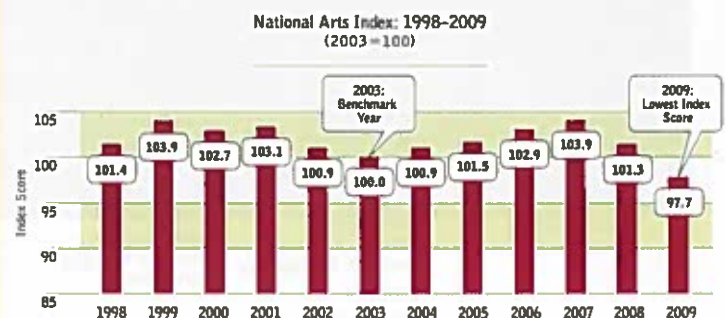
We urge all members of the Americans for the Arts Action Fund and their networks to contact their representatives in the House to support the arts and arts education and to join the Congressional Arts Caucus. For a list of current caucus members and how to contact your representatives, please see page 2.



Freshman members of the 112th Congress are sworn in on January 5, 2011.

National Arts Index Hits 12-Year Low

The health and vitality of the arts in America hit an all-time low in 2009, according to the Americans for the Arts 2010 National Arts Index. This annual study examines 82 national indicators to document the strength of nonprofit and for-profit creative industries throughout the United States. Since 2007, the Index has plummeted 6.2 points. In fact, the losses sustained during this period were nearly double the gains made from 2003–2007. Such areas as charitable giving to the arts, ticket sales for performances, and government grants have all dropped. The full report can be viewed at www.AmericansForTheArts.org/go/ArtsIndex.



Message from the President



President and CEO Robert L. Lynch gives remarks at the 79th Winter Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors. The mayors have been great partners in the advancement of effective arts policies throughout the country.

In 2011, debates about federal spending will create major challenges for arts advocacy in America. Members of the new majority in power in the House of Representatives are proposing drastic cuts to federal funding for the arts and arts education. Most seriously, 175 members of the influential Republican Study Committee have backed a proposal to eliminate the National Endowment for the Arts, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and arts education programs, dismantling the support structure for arts organizations across America, media organizations such as NPR and PBS, and arts programs funded by the Department of Education.

In this tense political climate, community leaders across America who recognize the value of arts

programs will be key sources of support for arts advocacy. At the annual meeting of The U.S. Conference of Mayors in January 2011, I had the privilege of giving opening remarks to a group of 300 mayors about the need to advocate for federal arts programs and presenting awards to leaders who have championed arts initiatives in their communities. As proposals against arts funding in Congress gain traction, we know that we can count on mayors to serve on the front lines with us against these attacks. Mayors know all too well the incredible impact the arts provide to the social and economic fabric of their communities.

With your support during National Arts Advocacy Day, April 4-5, 2011, and throughout the year, you can

continue to help us counteract the dangerous movement toward marginalizing arts programs emerging in Congress today.

As always, thank you for your membership in the Arts Action Fund and your continued support of the arts and arts education in America.

The Congressional Arts Caucus: Is Your Representative a Member?

ARIZONA

Gabrielle Giffords
Raul M. Grijalva
Ed Pastor

ARKANSAS

Mike Ross

CALIFORNIA

Howard Berman
Lois Capps
Susan Davis
Anna Eshoo
Sam Farr
Bob Filner
Michael M. Honda
Duncan Hunter
Barbara Lee
Zoe Lofgren
Doris Matsui
Tom McClintock
Grace Napolitano
Laura Richardson
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Linda T. Sanchez
Loretta Sanchez
Adam B. Schiff
Brad Sherman
Pete Stark
Mike Thompson
Henry Waxman
Lynn Woolsey

COLORADO
Mike Coffman
Diana DeGette
Jared Polis

CONNECTICUT

Joe Courtney
Rosa DeLauro
Jim Himes
John Larson
Christopher Murphy

FLORIDA

Carrine Brown
Vern Buchanan
Kathy Castor
Alcee Hastings
Bill Posey
Tom Rooney
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Debbie Wasserman
Schultz

GEORGIA

Hank Johnson
John Lewis

HAWAII

Mazie Hirono

IDAHO

Mike Simpson

ILLINOIS

Aaron Schock
Judy Biggert
Jerry Costello
Danny K. Davis
Luis Gutierrez
Jesse Jackson, Jr.
Daniel Lipinski
Mike Quigley
Bobby L. Rush
Janice D. Schakowsky

INDIANA

Andre Carson
Peter J. Visclosky

IOWA

Leonard Boswell
David Loebsack

KANSAS

Lynn Jenkins

KENTUCKY

Ben Chandler
Brett Guthrie
John Yarmuth

LOUISIANA

Rodney Alexander
Bill Cassidy
John Fleming, Jr.

MAINE

Michael Michaud
Chellie Pingree

MARYLAND

Elijah E. Cummings
Donna Edwards
Chris Van Hollen

MASSACHUSETTS

Mike Capuano
Edward Markey
Jim McGovern
Richard Neal
John W. Olver
Niki Tsongas

MICHIGAN

John Conyers
John Dingell
Dale E. Kildee
Sander Levin
Thaddeus McCotter
Gary Peters

MINNESOTA

Keith Ellison
Betty McCollum
Erik Paulsen
Collin Peterson
Tim Walz

MISSISSIPPI

Gregg Harper

MISSOURI

Russ Carnahan
William Lacy Clay
Jo Ann Emerson

NEBRASKA

Lee Terry

NEVADA

Shelley Berkley

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Charles F. Bass

NEW JERSEY

Robert E. Andrews
Rush Holt
Leonard Lance
Frank LoBiondo
Frank Pallone
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Donald Payne
Steven R. Rothman

NEW MEXICO

Ben Lujan

NEW YORK

Gary Ackerman
Tim Bishop
Yvette Clarke
Elliot Engel
Maurice Hinchey
Chris Lee
Nita Lowey
Carolyn Maloney
Jerrold Nadler
Charles B. Rangel
Jose Serrano
Louise M. Slaughter
Paul Tonko
Edolphus Towns
Anthony Weiner

NORTH CAROLINA

Larry Kissell
Mike McIntyre
Brad Miller
David E. Price

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Gregorio Camacho
Sablan

OHIO

Steve Austria
Marcia Fudge
Marcy Kaptur
Dennis Kucinich
Tim Ryan
Steve Stivers
Betty Sutton

OKLAHOMA

Dan Boren

OREGON

Earl Blumenauer
Peter Defazio
Kurt Schrader
David Wu

PENNSYLVANIA

Jason Altmire
Robert Brady
Mark Critz
Charles Dent
Robert Dold
Mike Doyle
Jim Gerlach
Tim Holden
Tim Murphy
Todd Platts
Glenn Thompson

PUERTO RICO

Pedro Pierluisi

RHODE ISLAND

Jim Langevin

SOUTH CAROLINA

James Clyburn
Joe Wilson

TENNESSEE

Stephen Cohen
Jim Cooper
Phil Roe

TEXAS

Lloyd Doggett
Charles A. Gonzalez
Kay Granger
Al Green
Gene Green
Sheila Jackson Lee
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Pete Olson

Silvestre Reyes

UTAH

Jason Chaffetz
Jim Matheson

VERMONT

Peter Welch

VIRGINIA

Gerry Connolly
Jim Moran
Robert C. Scott

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Donna M. Christensen

WASHINGTON

Norman D. Dicks
Jay Inslee
Rick Larsen
Jim McDermott
Adam Smith

WEST VIRGINIA

Shelley Moore Capito
Nick J. Rahall, II

WISCONSIN

Tammy Baldwin
Ron Kind

WYOMING

Cynthia Lummis

If you don't see your representative listed, visit www.ArtsActionFund.org/pages/action-center to urge him or her to join today!

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.

Federal Museum Agency Reauthorized

On December 22, President Obama signed S. 3984, the Museum and Library Services Act of 2010, one of the last pieces of legislation to be approved in the 111th Congress. The act reauthorizes the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for the next five years and includes several provisions proposed by the museum field such as enhanced support for conservation and preservation, emergency preparedness and response, and maximizing museum services on a statewide basis.

House Cuts Arts Funding

The new majority in the House of Representatives took their first opportunity to leave their imprint on the federal budget process by drastically reducing existing funds for the National Endowment for the Arts by 25 percent for FY 2011. The House approved a continuing resolution (CR) measure that proposes to cut \$43 million from the current appropriation of \$167.5 million for the remainder of the fiscal year. All eyes now turn to the Senate, which will try to reflect its own funding priorities by changing the House-passed CR or offer their own bill as a possible compromise.

New Grant Programs from the National Endowment for the Arts

Last year during Arts Advocacy Day, Arts Action Fund President and CEO Robert L. Lynch testified in support of Our Town, a new grant program being proposed by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). In January 2011, this program became a reality among several new grant programs announced by the NEA. Through Our Town, organizations may apply for creative placemaking projects that contribute to the livability of communities and place the arts at their core. Local governments and their arts partners may request a grant amount from \$25,000–\$250,000.

Supporting Arts Advocacy in States and Cities

City of Carmel Serves As Creative Economy Model

Advocates looking for examples of the powerful ability of arts and culture initiatives to spur economic development and revitalization should pay close attention to Carmel, IN—just north of Indianapolis. Under the leadership of James Brainard, a four-term Republican mayor, the city of 70,000 has ushered in unprecedented levels of creative development and engagement.

The city's arts and design district has attracted more than 100 local businesses and offers a multitude of performing and visual arts venues as well as unique architecture, public art offerings, and a host of festivals. Thanks to a generous city ordinance, 80 percent of businesses within the district must be arts-related, thus preserving the creative integrity of the area. Mayor Brainard was also responsible for launching a Support for the Arts Fund in which one percent of the city's general fund must be allocated to local arts organizations.

The city's most recent achievement was the grand opening of the state-of-the-art Palladium Performing Arts Center on January 29, 2011, which was constructed on previously dilapidated property. Renowned singer Michael Feinstein will serve as the artistic director and the center will house his Foundation of the American Songbook.

Americans for the Arts and The U.S. Conference of Mayors presented James Brainard with the 2011 Public Leadership in the Arts Award for Local Arts Leadership for his steadfast efforts in promoting the creative economy in Carmel.



The high-tech Palladium Performing Arts Center is the latest proof that the City of Carmel is dedicated to economic expansion through arts-based infrastructure.

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Your Quarterly Arts Action Fund Newsletter

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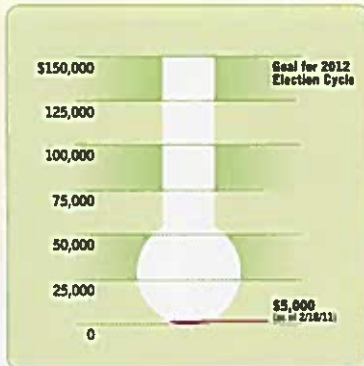
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PAC Update



Looking Ahead to 2012

While it may seem as if the 2010 elections were only yesterday, it's time to kick off **ArtsVote2012**. Potential presidential candidates are already quietly campaigning in key primary states—getting to know the voters and the issues that matter to them. Congressional candidates are already being recruited for House and Senate seats. Help us ensure the arts are part of the political and policy discussions during early presidential primaries in New Hampshire, Iowa, California, as well as during congressional primaries throughout the country. The goal of the Arts Action Fund PAC is to raise \$150,000 during the 2012 cycle to educate and support candidates for federal office across the country who value the arts and arts education.



ArtsVote2012 Campaign Fundraising Goal



Connecticut Gov. Dan Malloy speaks at a New Hampshire ArtsVote event in 2008 to bring the arts to the forefront of the presidential race. Join us as we gear up for ArtsVote2012.

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.

