

Arts Action News

THE NEWSLETTER OF
AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS ACTION FUND

Vol. I 2012

GOP Field Varies on Federal Arts Issues

While the countdown to Election Day 2012 continues and the GOP field narrows, **ArtsVote2012**, an initiative of the Arts Action Fund to engage candidates and voters on arts issues, continues to encourage candidates to publicly state their positions on the arts. Thus far, candidates have taken a variety of different stances on federal arts funding, most of which concern the future of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney included the NEA on a list of non-essential programs to be targeted for elimination or reductions, prompting the Arts Action Fund to seek a clarification from the campaign on his specific intentions for the NEA. In fact, Romney does not plan to eliminate the NEA, but intends to cut its funding, along with that of the National Endowment for the Humanities and two other agencies, by half.

Former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum expressed support for the NEA in 2007, citing its role in fostering



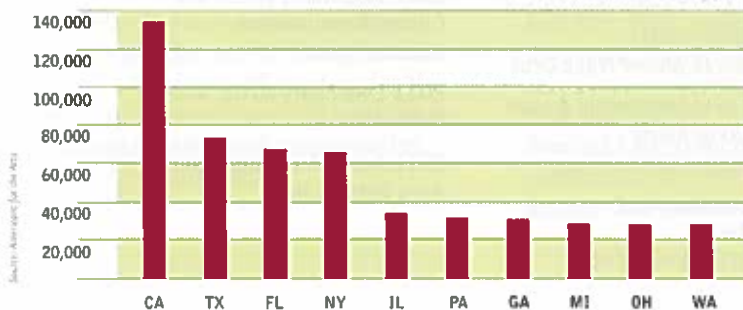
(Top) Florida's **ArtsVote2012** initiative featured (L-R) Broward Cultural Division Director Mary A. Becht, Florida Cultural Alliance President Sherron Long, Americans for the Arts Board Chair Ken Ferguson, and Americans for the Arts Executive Director Nina Ozlu Tunceli.

(Bottom) Days leading up to the Florida Republican primary, Arts Action Fund Executive Director Nina Ozlu Tunceli briefed South Florida arts advocates about the issues at stake in the 2012 election.

community, but has not yet updated his position in 2012. Visit www.ArtsActionFund.org/pages/arts-vote-2012 to stay up-to-date on this important election season for the arts nationwide!

How Big Are the Creative Industries in Your Community?

Top 10 States with Greatest Number of Arts-Related Businesses



As of January 2012, data from Dun & Bradstreet indicates that there are 904,581 businesses involved in the creation or distribution of the arts. They employ 3.34 million people, representing 4.25 percent of all U.S. businesses and 2.15 percent of all U.S. employees.

Americans for the Arts defines "creative industries" as arts-centric businesses, from nonprofit museums and theaters to for-profit architecture and advertising companies. *Creative Industries: Business & Employment in the Arts* reports provide a research-based advocacy tool for understanding the scope and impact of the arts on the economy. Using geo-economic analysis, you can detail and map the creative industries in your community—such as a city, county, state, or congressional district—creating a helpful tool to bring to your local policymakers. Download yours for free at www.AmericansForTheArts.org/CreativeIndustries.


Message from the President

I am pleased to share that the Americans for the Arts Action Fund has exceeded our 2011 year-end fundraising appeal goal of \$15,000. We raised a total \$27,100 from 581 Arts Action Fund members.

This generous outpouring of support has enabled us to hit the ground running this year with our **ArtsVote2012** message to both candidates and voters, especially in early primary states. **ArtsVote2012** is a national initiative geared toward securing bold new policy proposals in support of the arts and arts education in America during the

2012 campaign cycle and rallying the arts vote around the very best candidates for the arts. Building a strong base of arts supporters is paramount to developing the political clout to ensure arts-friendly public policies are adopted throughout the United States.

I was personally on the ground in Florida in the days leading up to the state's primary to conduct two training sessions for arts advocates with our statewide partner, the Florida Cultural Alliance, and to meet with campaign representatives. We also held our first Arts Action



Arts Action Fund President and CEO Robert L. Lynch (right) discusses ArtsVote2012 goals with Bank Atlantic CEO Jarrett Levan before his presentation to a group of 100 business leaders in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Levan also serves as president of the Cultural Foundation of Broward.

Fund PAC fundraiser for 2012 in Miami. To date, events have been held in West Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Miami, Salt Lake City, Chicago, Iowa City, and Des Moines. It has been an honor to visit these communities and a privilege to speak with such enthusiastic supporters.



Honorees for Public Leadership in the Arts Awards

Throughout 2011 and early 2012, Americans for the Arts has honored elected leaders and artists for their advancement of policies and funding that benefit the arts and arts education. These honorees have shown vision and leadership by bringing heightened awareness to the intrinsic and economic value of the arts throughout the country. To learn more about the leadership and accomplishments of these award winners, please visit www.AmericansForTheArts.org/go/PublicLeadership.



Mayor Frank Ortis receives the 2012 Mayor Arts Leadership Award for his dedication to implementing a cultural transformation of Pembroke Pines, FL. He is flanked on the left by United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) President and CEO Tom Cochran, Arts Action Fund Executive Director Nina Ozlu Tunceli, and on the right by New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, who chairs the USCM Tourism, Arts, Parks, Entertainment and Sports Committee.

2012 Governor Arts Leadership Award
Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn

2011 Governor Arts Leadership Award
New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson

2012 Mayor Arts Leadership Award
(pop. fewer than 100,000)
Burnsville, MN Mayor Elizabeth Kautz

2011 Mayor Arts Leadership Award
(pop. fewer than 100,000)
Carmel, IN Mayor James Brainard

2012 Mayor Arts Leadership Award
(pop. 100,000 or more)
Pembroke Pines, FL Mayor Frank Ortis

2011 Mayor Arts Leadership Award
(pop. 100,000 or more)
Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter

2011 Congressional Arts Leadership Award
Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)

2011 Lt. Governor Arts Leadership Award
Arkansas Lt. Gov. Mead Treadwell

2011 State Legislator Arts Leadership Award
Kansas State Sen. Roger Reitz

2011 County Commissioner Arts Leadership Award
Erie County, PA County Commissioner Joe Giles

2012 Legendary Artist and Citizen Artist Award
Holland Taylor

2011 Legendary Artist Award
Herbie Hancock

2011 Artist Advocate Award
Anna Deavere Smith

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.

FY 2012 Federal Arts Wrap-Up

In the face of year-end deadlines, Congress made an eleventh hour deal to wrap up the FY 2012 budget process to prevent a government shutdown. Within this "catch-all" legislation, Congress passed a nearly \$10 million funding cut for the National Endowment for the Arts, bringing it to a \$146 million appropriation.

Within the U.S. Department of Education, funding for its Arts in Education program was set at \$25 million—a success story after the House had called for the funds to be eliminated altogether. Funding for most other federal cultural institutions remained relatively level.

Congress Considers Education Legislation

In late 2011, the Senate committee responsible for federal education policy approved a bipartisan bill to reauthorize the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (currently known as the No Child Left Behind Act). The legislation seeks to remove the testing mandates that contributed to a narrowing of the curriculum and reducing access to arts education. The chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives education committee has introduced a limited version of this legislation, although it doesn't have bipartisan support, which is expected to severely hinder its consideration in the Senate and House.

Obama's Proposed NEA Budget for FY 2013

The Obama administration released its federal budget blueprint for FY 2013 with an \$8 million increase in funds for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The president's proposed budget highlights the president's taxing and spending priorities for the fiscal year ahead and is not a legislative document. However, it does serve as the official start of the appropriations process in Congress. This proposal would bring the NEA's funding to \$154 million compared to FY 2012's appropriation of \$146 million. While most grant categories would see additional funding, the president's proposal doubles Our Town initiative funding from \$5 million to \$10 million. The proposal includes relatively flat-funding for other culturally specific agencies and programs.

Supporting Arts Advocacy in States and Cities

As Legislatures Convene, FY 2013 Funding Landscape Starts to Form

One of the top stories of last year was the defunding of the Kansas Arts Commission by Gov. Sam Brownback. Thanks to a persistent campaign from arts advocates, the governor recently admitted that a private-only funding model did not work, and he proposed reinstating \$200,000 in public funds for the commission! However, the proposal would merge the arts commission and film commission into a Kansas Commission on Creative Industries. The state is also on track to enact tax check-off funding for the arts, but advocates are still working for a strong general fund appropriation from the legislature.

Elsewhere, New Hampshire advocates were successful in altering House legislation that would have eliminated the Department of Cultural Resources. Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder proposed a nearly quadruple increase to the budget of the state arts agency, and the Florida legislature added several million dollars for the state's cultural and museum grants. Several states are on track to receive flat funding this year, including Maryland, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and New York. Finally, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley once again called for zero funding for the state arts commission. She and her predecessor Mark Sanford have tried to eliminate the commission for several years, but each attempt has been defeated.

Visit www.AmericansForTheArts.org/statearts to keep up-to-date on all of the legislative changes affecting state arts organizations throughout the year.



Kansas State Sen. Roger Reitz (R-Manhattan) (left) meets with Kansas Citizens for the Arts advocates at a legislative breakfast held in January. Reitz won a 2011 Americans for the Arts Public Leadership in the Arts Award in part for his efforts to override Gov. Brownback's line-item veto of arts agency funding.

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Your Quarterly Arts Action Fund Newsletter

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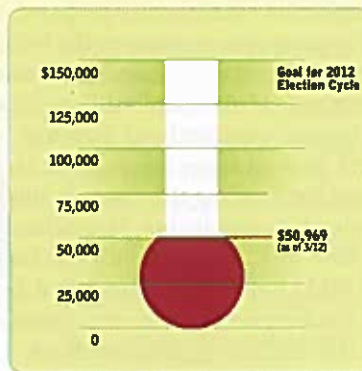
PAC Update

PAC Update



How can you ensure the arts are kept in communities nationwide? For a monthly contribution of \$20.12, you can join your fellow supporters in the Arts PAC Club. Individuals can make automatic donations to the Americans for the Arts Action Fund PAC, the only bipartisan political action committee dedicated to advancing support for arts education and nonprofit arts organizations. Support pro-arts candidates and ArtsVote initiatives that educate and enable citizens across the country to make the arts count at the ballot box this November. Enrolling online is easy. Simply choose the amount of your monthly gift and when to have it charged to your credit or bank card.

To join the Arts PAC Club today, visit www.ArtsActionFund.org/monthly-giving.



ArtsVote2012 Campaign Fundraising

ARTS ADVOCACY DAY

The 2012 NATIONAL ARTS ACTION SUMMIT

Unable to join us for Arts Advocacy Day in Washington, DC, April 16–17? Visit www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AAD to support the arts and arts education:

- The Congressional Arts Caucus provides critical arts leadership on Capitol Hill. Ask your representative to join today or send a thank you for already being a member.
- Watch the 25th Annual Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy featuring actor and arts advocate Alec Baldwin at www.AmericansForTheArts.org/Hanks following Arts Advocacy Day.

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.



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