

# Arts Action News

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS ACTION FUND

Vol. III 2012

## ArtsVote2012 Programs Featured at the Political Conventions



Arts Action Fund members created a groundswell when you cast your policy vote back in April—and we listened! We took the concerns of our members directly to the largest convening of elected officials in the country—the 2012 political conventions. The Americans for the Arts Action Fund; NAMM, National Association of Music Merchants; The Recording Academy (GRAMMYS); and The United States Conference of Mayors partnered together to sponsor programs at both the Republican National

Convention (RNC) in Tampa, FL and the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Charlotte, NC.

A confluence of ideas emerged at the first program, ARTSspeak, which was a policy forum on the future of the arts and arts education. In Tampa, our local partner, the Arts Council of Hillsborough County, hosted us at the Tampa Theatre. At the DNC in Charlotte, the Arts & Science Council hosted our panel at the Mint Museum. Then it was time to get loose at ARTSjam, an intimate concert performance celebrating the arts and arts education. The historic Tampa Theatre was our host venue for the RNC, and in Charlotte, the beautiful McGlohon Theatre was our venue for the DNC.

To learn more and watch video clips from the panel discussions, visit [www.ArtsActionFund.org/ArtsVote2012](http://www.ArtsActionFund.org/ArtsVote2012).

*Prominent arts supporters and elected officials gathered at our ARTSspeak@DNC event during the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte to discuss how the arts contribute to workplace innovation, the economy, and international diplomacy. (L-R) CEO of NAMM, the National Association of Music Merchants Joe Lamond; Chief Advocacy & Industry Relations Officer for The Recording Academy Daryl P. Friedman; DNC Committee Co-Chair and Chairman & CEO of Duke Energy Jim Rogers; former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright; Sacramento, CA Mayor Kevin Johnson; former U.S. Secretary of Education and former South Carolina governor Richard Riley; jazz musician and former New York Yankee Bernie Williams; North Carolina Secretary of Cultural Resources Linda Carlisle; President and CEO of Americans for the Arts Action Fund Robert L. Lynch; President of Charlotte's Arts and Science Council Scott Provancher; Senior VP of Wells Fargo and Mint Museum of Art Board of Trustees Chair Jay Everette; and CEO of The United States Conference of Mayors Tom Cochran.*

## Sport Your Action Fund Wares

The Arts Action Fund is working with leading artists, creative media, and retail partners to engage our members to sport pro-arts merchandise. Proceeds will benefit our political action committee (PAC), further enabling us to provide direct support to pro-arts federal House and Senate candidates. To check out our merchandise, visit [www.ArtsActionFund.org/Merch](http://www.ArtsActionFund.org/Merch).

*T-shirt designed with work by artist Julie Mehretu, a MacArthur Fellow. Mehretu's visually rich and energetic paintings are highly sought after among private collectors.*



## Message from the President

Elections are not just about the candidates you vote for, but the policies they support and the impact they will have on the arts in your community.

Four years ago, there was no plan for universal healthcare for every citizen, but through President Obama's leadership, as upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, universal health coverage is now a reality. This greatly benefits all Americans, especially independent, self-employed artists who have historically not had access to affordable healthcare options.

Four years ago, funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) was on an upward trajectory of funding increases. But since the midterm congressional elections in 2010 when Tea Party candidates were swept into office, funding has systematically been cut by 12.5 percent. This shift has undone the

previous Congress's work—and NEA funding levels are back to where they were four years ago.

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has attempted to veto 100 percent of the state art agency's funding for the past two years. This year, Gov. Haley actually succeeded in closing the state arts agency's doors for eight days before the decision was overturned by the legislature. This shows how one governor can cause great upheaval and demonstrates once again why it is so important to elect officials who understand the value of the arts and culture.

Elections can be a great opportunity to directly support arts initiatives. Residents of Portland, OR will be thinking not only about elected officials in November, but also about a ballot initiative that would implement a flat tax, benefiting art education programs.



Back from the ArtsVote programs at the Republican National Convention and Democratic National Convention, Bob reflects on how important it is to vote smART and think about how those votes impact the arts.

Arts advocates in Detroit know all too well the benefits of putting forth a successful ballot initiative. On August 7, voters in three counties in Michigan approved a property tax that will support the Detroit Institute of Arts.

We hope you will use the Arts Action Fund and our updated Congressional Arts Report Card to vote smART on Election Day. And thank you for your ongoing support.

## Research from Americans for the Arts

### *The Arts Education Field Guide*

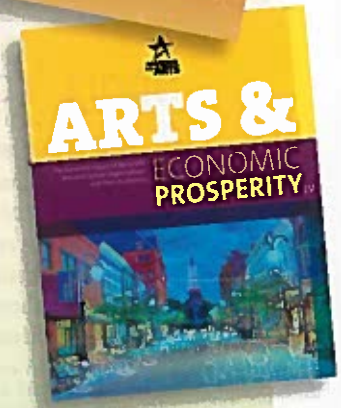
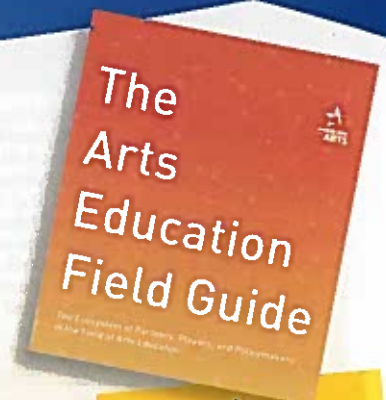
It takes a village to provide a well-rounded education to every child. Use *The Arts Education Field Guide* to find the connections and partnerships that will strengthen arts education in your community. This reference guide provides information about the ecosystem of partners, players, and policymakers in the field of arts education.

Visit [www.AmericansForTheArts.org/go/FieldGuide](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org/go/FieldGuide) to download a PDF version or purchase a print copy.

### *Arts & Economic Prosperity IV*

The Americans for the Arts *Arts & Economic Prosperity IV* study shows that the nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$135.2 billion dollars of economic activity—supporting 4.1 million jobs and \$23.3 billion in revenue to local, state, and federal governments—a yield well beyond their collective \$4 billion in arts appropriations.

For more information about how the nonprofit arts industry has contributed to your local economy, as well as tips and resources for using the data to support your arts advocacy efforts, visit [www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AEP](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AEP).





# 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).

## Federal Appropriations Update

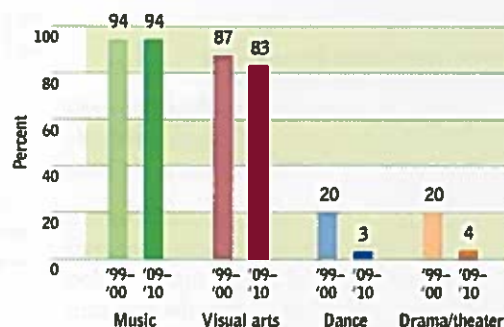
The House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee passed a \$132 million FY 2013 budget for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) which was later approved by the larger House Appropriations Committee. The House proposal represents a 10 percent decrease from FY 2012 and, if signed into law, would bring NEA funding to its lowest funding level since 2006. Advocates are pressuring the Senate to increase this funding level. Due to the election-year pressures, Congress has postponed further consideration by passing a Continuing Resolution to level fund the NEA and all other federal programs through March 2013 when a new Congress will take up the legislation after the election.

## Government Releases Two New Reports on Arts Education

This spring the government released two new reports in arts education, and when compared side-by-side, they present a sobering equity gap. *Arts Education in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools 1999–2000 and 2009–2010*, released by the U.S. Department of Education, found that the majority of public elementary and secondary schools offer music and visual arts instruction; and since 2000, arts instruction has declined in every instance except secondary music, which stayed the same. *The Arts and Achievement in At-Risk Youth: Findings from Four Longitudinal Studies*, released by the National Endowment for the Arts, confirms that a correlation exists between arts involvement and better academic and social outcomes,

particularly for at-risk youth. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has said, "This is absolutely an equity issue and a civil rights issue." For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/ArtsEdReports>.

Percent of public elementary schools reporting whether various arts subjects were taught at the school: School years 1999–2000 and 2009–2010



Source: USDE

# Supporting Arts Advocacy in States and Cities

The fall brings closure to the yearly appropriation battles across the states. FY 2012–2013 was a turning point overall for state arts appropriations. Viewed together, state arts agencies saw an 8 percent increase to \$282,926,677. In general, state tax revenues are on the rise, allowing state legislatures to begin replacing lost funding from the last four years.

Advocates in Michigan were able to secure a \$3.5 million increase, almost quadrupling the state arts agency's budget, with the strong evidence of a report titled *Creative State Michigan* which highlighted the economic, educational, and community impacts that the arts have on the state. Additionally, advocates in Florida saw a \$3 million increase and advocates in South Carolina, after defeating a gubernatorial

veto, saw an additional \$500,000 or 26 percent increase, for their state arts agency.

While the last four years have been rough, arts agencies emerged intact, albeit a little leaner, but in much better shape overall compared to the last recession that occurred in the early 2000s. In San Diego, the arts appropriation increased 5 percent, by nearly half a million dollars. In Washington, DC, the arts appropriation nearly doubled with a \$7.8 million increase. Both of these cities were *Arts & Economic Prosperity IV* partners and had local data available to make a convincing argument for increased appropriation. To learn more about the economic impact of the nonprofit arts industry, visit [www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AEP](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AEP).



Artists and arts advocates demonstrated at the state capital the day before legislators restored funding to the South Carolina Arts Commission by overriding Gov. Haley's veto.

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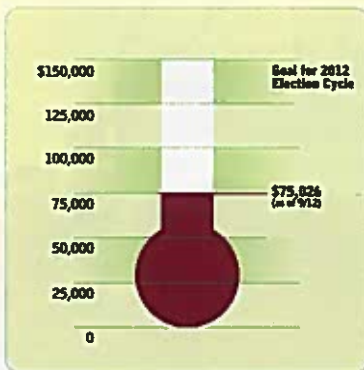
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**New Government Reports Show Equity Gap in Arts Education**

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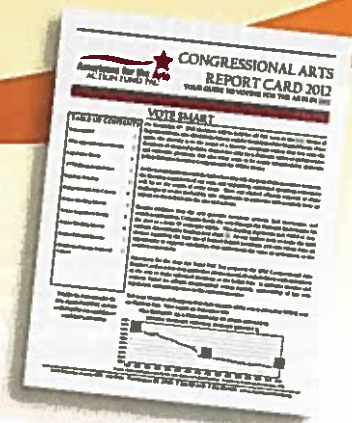
**Support Pro-Arts Candidates**

## PAC Update



ArtsVote2012 Campaign Fundraising

With Election Day around the corner, we've provided two invaluable assets for you to educate yourself and your community about candidates' arts support. Visit [www.ArtsActionFund.org/pages/congressional-report-card](http://www.ArtsActionFund.org/pages/congressional-report-card) to download the Congressional Arts Report Card, which grades current members of Congress based on their voting records. Visit [www.ArtsActionFund.org/pages/ask-your-candidate](http://www.ArtsActionFund.org/pages/ask-your-candidate) for the Candidate Survey, which asks six questions of non-incumbent candidates for Congress. Both provide important information for electing pro-arts candidates to Congress.



We are halfway to meeting the fundraising goal of the Action Fund PAC. We've put together a wish list of pro-arts candidates that we would like to financially support for the upcoming November 6 elections if fundraising goals are met. Visit [www.ArtsActionFund.org/PACPotentials](http://www.ArtsActionFund.org/PACPotentials) to view a complete list of candidates.

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](http://www.ArtsActionFund.org).



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