

# Arts Action News

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS ACTION FUND

Vol. I 2013

## Nonprofit Charities Spared in First Fiscal Cliff...What Will Happen Next?

After months of contentious negotiations over the fate of the Bush-Obama tax cuts and massive across-the-board federal budgetary cuts popularly known as the "fiscal cliff," the U.S. Congress and President Obama struck an eleventh-hour deal that spared 98 percent of Americans a hefty tax hike with the passage of the American Taxpayer Act of 2012 on January 2, 2013.

Some lawmakers had proposed tax policy changes to the charitable deduction, an important source of funding for arts organizations of all sizes, in an attempt to raise revenue and offset tax cuts. Americans for the Arts and the wider spectrum of the charitable sector all came together to urge Congress to spare the charitable deduction, which has a unique place in the tax code to incentivize giving to social service programs. Thankfully, plans to limit the value of the charitable deduction were scrapped in the final deal, but the possibility of changes to the deduction continues. At a recent hearing of the House Ways and Means Committee, a large number of charitable organizations testified on the importance of maintaining the incentive for donors that support their work.

As Congress and the president turn toward the rest of the "mini cliffs," dealing with the remainder of federal spending and deficit reduction plans, Americans for the Arts remains committed to supporting policies that preserve tax incentives for charities. For more information, visit [www.ArtsActionFund.org/ProtectCharitableGiving](http://www.ArtsActionFund.org/ProtectCharitableGiving).



### Arts Education Navigator

Facts & Figures

## Arts Education Navigator E-Book Series

Americans for the Arts has designed a series of e-books to help educators, advocates, students, and organizations alike navigate the field of arts education as we work together to ensure that the arts are valued in our country as an important part of all students' lives.

Vans Custom Culture has provided critical resources to support the development and launch of this Arts Education Navigator e-book series, which will supply advocates with the tools and data they need to effectively support arts education in their communities.

This e-book series will cover multiple topics, such as the benefits of arts education, what quality arts education looks like, tips for evaluating arts education, and how to effectively make the case that the arts should be an integral part of a well-rounded education.

The first e-book in the series, *Facts & Figures*, is ready to download for free, and several more are scheduled to roll out throughout 2013. Check out the series at [www.AmericansForTheArts.org/Navigator](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org/Navigator).

## Message from the President

The day after the second inauguration of President Barack Obama, the Americans for the Arts Action Fund held a Post-Inaugural Arts Brunch in Washington, DC to recognize the efforts that our ArtsVote2012 campaign took throughout the election season to raise the profile of the arts and arts education with candidates for federal office.

We started our work last year in Salt Lake City, then Chicago, then the important "first" caucus state of Iowa, then Florida, Los Angeles, and the political party conventions in Tampa and Charlotte. At each of these stops we discussed the bipartisan nature of the arts, how elected officials at all levels should include the arts as a solution in their

public policy platforms, and that the arts are a significant engine for creating jobs and government revenue.

I focused my remarks at the Post-Inaugural Arts Brunch on how the arts were used throughout the inaugural ceremonies to unite the country in a highly patriotic manner. Read my remarks online at the Huffington Post at <http://huff.to/1205WPG>.

We ended the brunch with recognition that this year holds great promise. Another four years of the Obama administration could provide new opportunities. We have a great opportunity to educate a new



Robert L. Lynch, President and CEO of Americans for the Arts and Americans for the Arts Action Fund, speaking to guests at our Post-Inaugural Arts Brunch. The gathering of national arts leaders, elected officials, and arts supporters took place in Washington, DC the day after President Obama's inauguration. Bob reflected on the success of ArtsVote2012 during this election cycle.

Congress about how their constituents are looking to them for leadership in the arts and arts education. But we can't do that alone—we need you to continue your great work of being educators, standard-bearers, and advocates. We're looking forward to a great year working together!

## Honoring Public Arts Leaders Across the Country

For the past 15 years, Americans for the Arts has recognized elected officials and artists for the important roles they play in the advancement of the arts and arts education within their community. The award recipients have shown demonstrated leadership and proven results in advancing and supporting the arts across the country. The award winners listed below reflect awards presented during the second half of last year and the first quarter of 2013. To learn more about the accomplishments of the awardees and see a list of previous winners, visit [www.AmericansForTheArts.org/go/PublicLeadership](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org/go/PublicLeadership).

2013 Governor Arts Leadership Award  
Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley

2013 Mayor Arts Leadership Award  
(population greater than 100,000)  
New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu

2013 Mayor Arts Leadership Award  
(population fewer than 100,000)  
Sante Fe Mayor David Coss

2013 Citizen Artist Award  
The Roots

2013 Citizen Artist Award  
John Legend

2012 Congressional Arts  
Leadership Award  
Pennsylvania Rep. Todd Platts

2012 Lt. Governor Arts  
Leadership Award  
Louisiana Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne

2012 State Legislator Arts  
Leadership Award  
Florida State Senator Gwen Margolis

2012 County Arts Leadership Award  
Montgomery County, Ohio



The Roots received the 2013 Citizen Artist Award in recognition of their advocacy work for arts education and support of the Save the Music Foundation. Band members Black Thought (Tariq Trotter), Owen Biddle, James "Kamal" Gray, Frank "Knuckles" Walker, Kirk "Captain Kirk" Douglas, Damen "Tuba Gooding Jr." Bryson, and James Poyser (not pictured: Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson) attend the 2013 Mayors Arts Breakfast, sponsored by Americans for the Arts and The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM). Pictured with The Roots are USCM President Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter and New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu.

# 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).

## Elections Reshape Committees in Both the U.S House and Senate

The 2012 elections bring new members to both chambers in the U.S. Congress and changes to the committees that provide key support for federal arts programs and institutions.

**The House Appropriations Interior Subcommittee** has oversight of the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and federal cultural institutions like the Smithsonian.

- Chairman Mike Simpson (R-ID) returned to his previous position, as did Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA) as the Subcommittee's highest-ranking Democrat.
- The Subcommittee also added Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME) who received an "A+" on the 2012 Arts Action Fund Report Card.

Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME) brings her stellar pro-arts records to the Appropriations Interior Subcommittee, which oversees the National Endowment for the Arts.



- On the Republican side, Reps. Tom Graves (R-GA) and Jaime Herrera-Beutler (R-WA), who both received "F"s on their arts report cards, also joined the committee.
- Freshmen Reps. Tom Valadao (R-CA) and David Joyce (R-OH) fill out the committee panel.

**The House Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee** has jurisdiction of arts education programs and museum funding through the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

- Rep. Jack Kingston (R-GA) became the new chair of this subcommittee.

**The Senate Cultural Caucus** provides key leadership and clout for senators when voting on arts-related issues.

- Cultural Caucus Co-Chair Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) will chair the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- Caucus member Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) takes over as senior GOP member on the Senate Education Committee and is joined on that committee by Caucus member and freshman Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT).



Rep. Jack Kingston (R-GA) ascends to House Labor-HHS-Education Chairman after Rep. Denny Rehberg (R-MT) lost his bid for the U.S. Senate.

## Supporting Arts Advocacy in States and Cities

### New voterVOICE Online Action Centers Connect Arts Advocates

In January 2013, Americans for the Arts and the Arts Action Fund launched a new tool to help you easily connect to your federal, state, and local elected officials—all in one place and all at one time. Using the latest in ZIP code technology, advocates using voterVOICE can quickly and easily identify their city council member, state delegate, and member of Congress to send timely and customizable e-mails to their respective officials. Currently, 26 states have signed on to participate as one of our voterVOICE affiliates and provide their advocates with the opportunity to take action online and support the arts. If your state isn't listed or if you'd like more information, contact Senior Director of State and Local Affairs Jay Dick at [jay@artsusa.org](mailto:jay@artsusa.org).

voterVOICE 

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|------------|---------------|----------------|
| Alabama    | Massachusetts | Pennsylvania   |
| Arizona    | Michigan      | South Carolina |
| California | Minnesota     | South Dakota   |
| Florida    | Nebraska      | Texas          |
| Georgia    | Nevada        | Utah           |
| Illinois   | New Jersey    | Vermont        |
| Indiana    | New York      | Washington     |
| Louisiana  | Ohio          | Wisconsin      |
| Maryland   | Oregon        |                |

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## Your Quarterly Arts Action Fund Newsletter

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## Year-End Giving Update

The Arts Action Fund completed its annual year-end campaign for 2012. Utilizing both direct mail and e-mail for the appeals, the funds raised during the campaign directly support the Arts Action Fund. Building on the success of the 2011 campaign, we set a goal at the beginning of the campaign to raise \$20,000. We exceeded that goal by raising \$21,925 from loyal Arts Action Fund members like you. Even though the campaign has officially wrapped, we continue to receive contributions well into the New Year from our members. We extend our most sincere thanks to everyone who supported the 2012 year-end campaign.



2012 Year-End Giving Campaign



### Unable to Join Us for Arts Advocacy Day in Washington, DC, April 8-9? You Can Still Support the Arts and Arts Education:

- Visit [www.votervoice.net/artsvsa/](http://www.votervoice.net/artsvsa/) campaigns to send a message to your legislators letting them know you support the arts and arts education.
- Watch the 26th Annual Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy featuring acclaimed musician and arts educator Yo-Yo Ma at [www.AmericansForTheArts.org/Hanks](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org/Hanks).
- Download the Arts Advocacy Day Handbook at [www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AAD/Handbook](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AAD/Handbook) to get the most up-to-date issue briefs on pressing policy issues.

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).

