

Arts Action News

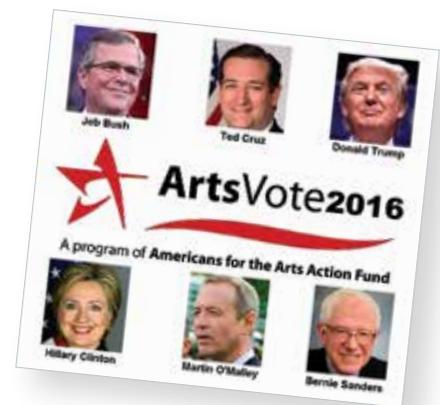
THE NEWSLETTER OF
AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS ACTION FUND

Vol. I 2016

ArtsVote2016 Candidate Interactions

Presidential candidate crisscross the country during Primary Election season when voters will choose who they want to be the Republican or Democratic nominee in 2016. Each state has its own rules about who can vote and how, but in all cases Presidential candidates are looking to connect with primary and caucus voters over issues they care about. That is why our grassroots arts advocates are so important. From boisterous campaign rallies to intimate coffee klatches, Arts Action Fund members are showing up prepared to ask smart questions about the arts to Presidential candidates. In Iowa, Kate Huffman stood up at a large gathering for Hillary Clinton and asked about her position on the arts. As a result, we now have the Democratic frontrunner on record as saying she's an arts supporter. At a small gathering of activists in New Hampshire, Toni Pappas discussed public policy with Chris Christie, who said he believes public investment in the arts benefits communities. Sarah Stuart spoke with Carly Fiorina and Jeb Bush, and Dominique Boutaud engaged Martin O'Malley and George Pataki. What do these citizen advocates have in common?

They all used the tools provided by the ArtsVote2016 web page to ask smart, specific questions tailored to that candidate's unique history. The most exciting thing about arts advocacy is seeing for yourself the advancement of the arts at the federal, state, and local levels. There is no better way to experience this than to do it yourself. Check out our calendar of state primaries and caucus in this issue (page 2), and don't forget to visit the www.ArtsActionFund.org/ArtsVote2016 to read up on the statements, actions, and policies that all Presidential candidates have taken on the arts.



Arts Funding Wins in a Landslide Vote in Cleveland

Almost a decade ago, voters in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, which includes Cleveland, passed one of the strongest local arts funding mechanisms in the country, the Arts and Culture Levy. It utilized a penny-and-a-half per cigarette tax to fund local non-profit arts and culture organizations, to the tune of \$15 million a year. But the Arts and Culture Levy was set to expire next year unless it was renewed by voters in a ballot initiative called Issue 8.

On Tuesday, November 3, 2015 voters overwhelmingly passed Ballot Issue 8 to renew arts funding by an impressive 3-to-1 margin, which now success fully guarantees the \$15 million per year funding stream for another ten years.

As a local extension of our ArtsVote2016 campaign, the Arts Action Fund worked closely to help our local arts advocacy partner, the Arts & Culture Action Committee, to mobilize our 1,000+ resident members in Cuyahoga County to Get-Out-The-Vote. During an off-year election that is historically marked by very low voter turnout and where referenda like marijuana legalization were roundly rejected, Issue 8 stands as a prime example of how the arts are truly a bipartisan issue with voters. Americans understand that public investment in the arts is a critical step to fostering healthy, vibrant, and equitable communities.



Tom Schorgl, President and CEO of the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture, wears his support for Issue 8 as he awaits results of the voting on Issue 8 which would renew the 10-year, 30-cents a pack tax on cigarettes to support arts and culture. The levy passed overwhelmingly 3-to-1.

Message from President & CEO Robert Lynch

Thank you to the thousands of Arts Action Fund members across the country who helped get new education reform over the finishing line. The advance of the “STEM to STEAM” movement these past few weeks has been truly exciting. In November, I joined The Ovation Foundation and the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities in honoring eight schools for their model STEAM programs. Each school received a \$10,000 grant from The Ovation Foundation. Parents, teachers,

students and principals traveled to Washington, DC for a day of briefings both at the White House and in Congress. The day ended with a reception with the Congressional STEAM Caucus co-Chairs. A few weeks later as Congress worked in earnest on reauthorization the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), STEAM Caucus co-Chair Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) offered an amendment to encourage the integration of the arts in STEM



Americans for the Arts President and CEO Bob Lynch congratulates 8th grader Antonio Martin on his remarks about the importance of both science and arts education. Antonio was chosen to introduce President Barack Obama at the official White House signing ceremony into law of the new Every Student Succeeds Act on December 10, 2015.

programs, which was accepted by a unanimous vote. That provision is now law, providing even more opportunities to advance STEAM in the field in the coming years.

2016 Primaries and Caucuses

(States that have caucus/primaries dates through April 2016)

State Primary/Caucus	Democratic Primary/Caucus Date	Republican Primary/Caucus Date	State Primary/Caucus	Democratic Primary/Caucus Date	Republican Primary/Caucus Date
Alabama	March 1, 2016	March 1, 2016	Mississippi	March 8, 2016	March 8, 2016
Alaska	March 26, 2016	Republicans have not set a caucus date.	Missouri	March 15, 2016	March 15, 2016
Arizona	March 22, 2016	March 22, 2016	Nebraska	March 5, 2016	May 10, 2016
Arkansas	March 1, 2016	March 1, 2016	Nevada	February 20, 2016	February 23, 2016
Colorado	March 1, 2016	Republic Party will not vote at its caucus.	New Hampshire	February 9, 2016	February 9, 2016
Connecticut	April 26, 2016	April 26, 2016	New York	April 19, 2016	April 19, 2016
Delaware	April 26, 2016	April 26, 2016	North Carolina	March 15, 2016	March 15, 2016
Florida	March 15, 2016	March 15, 2016	North Dakota	June 7, 2016	March 1, 2016
Georgia	March 1, 2016	March 1, 2016	Ohio	March 15, 2016	March 15, 2016
Hawaii	March 26, 2016	March 8, 2016	Oklahoma	March 1, 2016	March 1, 2016
Idaho	March 22, 2016	March 8, 2016	Pennsylvania	April 26, 2016	April 26, 2016
Illinois	March 15, 2016	March 15, 2016	Rhode Island	April 26, 2016	April 26, 2016
Iowa	February 1, 2016	February 1, 2016	South Carolina	February 27, 2016	February 20, 2016
Kansas	March 5, 2016	March 5, 2016	Tennessee	March 1, 2016	March 1, 2016
Kentucky	May 17, 2016	March 5, 2016	Texas	March 1, 2016	March 1, 2016
Louisiana	March 5, 2016	March 5, 2016	Utah	March 22, 2016	March 22, 2016
Maine	March 6, 2016	March 5, 2016	Vermont	March 1, 2016	March 1, 2016
Maryland	April 26, 2016	April 26, 2016	Virginia	March 1, 2016	March 1, 2016
Massachusetts	March 1, 2016	March 1, 2016	Washington	March 26, 2016	February 20, 2016
Michigan	March 8, 2016	March 8, 2016	Wisconsin	April 5, 2016	April 5, 2016
Minnesota	March 1, 2016	March 1, 2016	Wyoming	April 9, 2016	March 1, 2016

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/news-room/legislative-news.

Big Year End Victories in 2015

Wow, it was a December to remember! Congress typically wraps a lot into the final month of the year, but this December brought many gifts. First, Congress reauthorized ESEA, bringing new federal K-12 law that has been long overdue, now called Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Check out our blog at www.bit.ly/rQif6LB for details on arts education provisions, including new eligibility for STEAM, thanks to a unanimous amendment that Congressional STEAM Caucus co-Chair Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) secured. On tax provisions, the IRA Charitable Rollover, an

important funding source for arts organizations and a key tax incentive for charitable giving, is now permanent! And, annual funding for the cultural agencies finally passed as part of consolidated appropriations signed into law on Dec. 18th. For the first time in four years, the NEA will see just shy of a \$2 million increase in funding, bringing the FY16 budget level to approximately \$148 million. All of this work was done under a new Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Rep. Paul D. Ryan (R-WI), following former Speaker John A. Boehner's resignation at the end of October.



Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), co-chair of the Congressional STEAM Caucus, visited the Americans for the Arts Action Fund headquarters in Washington, DC on December 10, 2015, to celebrate the success of her efforts on Capitol Hill to better integrate the arts in federal education reform. Visit www.ArtsActionFund.org/Bonamici to hear a video excerpt of our conversation.

Supporting Arts Advocacy in States and Cities

Local and State Elections Update

Election Update: 2015 was a relatively light year for mayoral elections, but the Arts Action Fund (AAF) is saying goodbye to several outstanding "Arts Mayors." Mayor Joseph Riley, Jr. of Charleston, SC—after 40 years as the city's chief executive—chose not to run for re-election. Mayor Riley has been a strong and consistent voice for the arts at the local and national levels. The AAF welcomes his replacement, Mayor-elect John Tecklenburg, an accomplished pianist. In Philadelphia, PA, Michael A. Nutter, another strong arts mayor, retired due to term limits. Mayor Nutter has made the arts and culture a priority by becoming one of the first mayors to appoint a cabinet level advisor on the arts and culture. He is succeeded by Mayor-elect Jim Kenney. In Indianapolis, incumbent Mayor Greg Ballard chose not to run for a third term in office, and the AAF welcomes Mayor-elect Joe Hogsett. Finally,

last year's Public Leadership in the Arts Awardee Mayor Annise Parker of Houston, TX could not seek reelection due to term limits. The AAF welcomes Houston's new mayor, Sylvester Turner.

Turning to governors, there were three races in 2015: Louisiana, Mississippi and Kentucky. In Louisiana, the Arts Action Fund welcomes Governor-elect John Bel Edwards who defeated current United States Senator David Vitter and succeeds current Governor Bobby Jindal—both of whom have not been supportive of the arts and culture. In Kentucky, new Governor Matt Bevin was sworn in on December 8, 2015 and incumbent Governor Phil Bryant of Mississippi earned a second term.

Innovative Programming

A new programming trend is rising at the local level—city government departments are turning to artists to help resolve civic issues. **In Minneapolis, the city**

government is participating in a new program called "Creative CityMaking"—which places 9 local artists within 5 city departments to work on city planning. In its pilot program, artist team E.G. Bailey and Sha Cage surveyed more than 1,900 residents in the Cedar-Riverside area to identify the community's assets; they transformed a conventional survey into a hand-drawn magazine that included an interactive map of the world. **In Los Angeles, Mayor Eric Garcetti announced the city's new "Creative Catalyst Artist in Residence Program," facilitated by the Department of Cultural Affairs.** The Department of Transportation (DOT) will be the first city department to receive an artist residency. DOT's Creative Catalyst artist will design an accessible, targeted campaign to engage L.A. communities with Vision Zero, which is a citywide strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities within 10 years.



YOUR POLICY VOTE BALLOT IS ENCLOSED

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PAC Update



Year-End Giving Update

The Arts Action Fund completed its annual year-end campaign for 2015. Utilizing both direct mail and e-mail for the appeals, the funds raised during the campaign directly support the Arts Action Fund and the Arts Action Fund Political Action Committee. We're pleased to announce that we've raised more than \$35,000 from loyal Arts Action Fund members like you.

We also urged our members to send in a wish, for our national Wishing Tree, in response to the following question: If you could tell the next President of the United States your one wish for the arts in America, what would it be? We were inspired by all of the responses we received both online and in the mail. Shown at right are few of the wishes.

Even though the campaign has officially concluded, we continue to receive contributions well into the New Year from our members. You can view all of the Wishing Tree wishes at www.ArtsActionFund.org/WishingTree. We extend our most sincere thanks to everyone who supported the 2015 year-end campaign.



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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