

Arts Action News

THE NEWSLETTER OF
AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS ACTION FUND

Vol. IV 2015

Advocates Gather at Iowa Arts Advocacy Caucus

Every four years, extraordinary national media and political attention is placed on the first two presidential early primary/caucus states in the country: New Hampshire and Iowa. Presidential candidates spend substantial time in these states in an effort to court voters and learn more about the policy issues that the residents in these states care about most. As a result, an opportunity is created for arts advocates living in these two influential states to have meaningful discussions about the state of the arts today, the needs for the future, and the economic opportunities for growth.

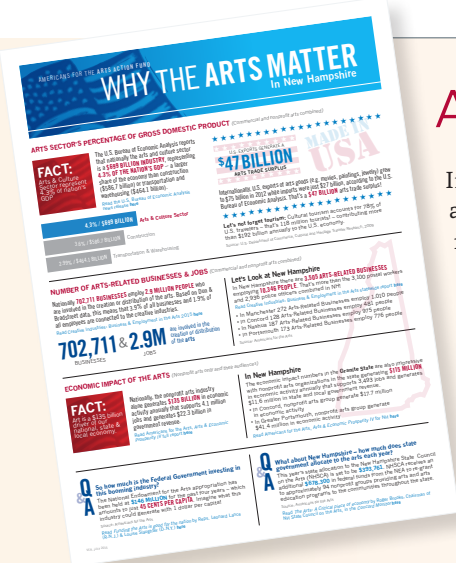
On August 14, 2015, the Arts Action Fund created a successful national, state, and local partnership of the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education, the Iowa Arts Council, Bravo Greater Des Moines, National Association of Music Merchants, and The U.S. Conference of Mayors to produce a first-ever, day-long Iowa Arts Advocacy Caucus training in Des Moines, coinciding with the opening weekend of the Iowa State Fair. We chose that date so we could engage the many presidential candidates stopping through that weekend to speak at the famous Soapbox at the Fair. More than 200 arts advocates

Americans for the Arts President and CEO Robert L. Lynch speaks at the Iowa Arts Advocacy Caucus in Des Moines.



attended the conference, which was aimed at empowering and training Iowans to be more effective and active grassroots advocates for the arts whether they're at a town hall meeting, a presidential caucus, or a Board of Education hearing. Several presidential candidates weighed in with their positions on the arts, including Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, Governors Martin O'Malley and Mike Huckabee, Senator Rick Santorum, and Dr. Ben Carson.

To stay updated on what candidates are saying on the campaign trail, visit www.ArtsActionFund.org/pages/ArtsVote2016



ArtsVote New Hampshire

In New Hampshire, the Arts Action Fund hired two political strategists and partnered with the New Hampshire Citizens for the Arts to train more than 50 grassroots arts advocates to be highly effective in engaging presidential candidates with the goal of ensuring that the next President of the United States understands the value of investing in the arts, these arts advocates are serving as all the nation's eyes, ears, and voices on the ground in New Hampshire, the First-in-the-Nation primary state to vote on the presidential primaries. At the training, we released our first fact sheet on *Why the Arts Matter in New Hampshire* for advocates to use when speaking with all presidential candidates, which includes valuable research on the impact of arts and arts education.



Arts Action Fund member Sarah Stewart meets Carly Fiorina at a New Hampshire campaign event.

To download the fact sheet and other resources, visit www.ArtsActionFund.org/pages/ArtsVote2016

Message from President & CEO Robert Lynch

From September 13–19, 2015, arts education supporters across the country celebrated National Arts in Education Week. With more than 250 local events throughout the country, parents, students, educators, and other members of the arts and education communities decided to celebrate, advocate, and participate. The hashtag #ArtsEdWeek went viral with tens of thousands of impressions. Many local, state, and national groups passed formal recognitions of the week, including the National Lt. Governors Association and states like Delaware, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. For a full wrap up and more information on National Arts in Education Week 2016, check out www.AmericansFortheArts.org/ArtsEdWeek

On September 29, National Endowment for the Arts celebrated its 50th anniversary and began posting stories from individuals across the country who shared what the arts have meant to them. I was also honored to attend a commemorating event at the White House on October 14th with President Obama and the First Lady, which celebrated 50 years of arts excellence.

As we close out 2015, I want to urge all Arts Action Fund members to contribute to our Year-End Appeal to raise \$30,000 by December 31. We will use these funds to continue our grassroots efforts to impact the presidential elections and produce programs at the Democratic and Republican National Conventions.



Americans for the Arts President and CEO Robert L. Lynch with Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts Jane Chu. The NEA celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

We'll be mobilizing our grassroots constituents to weigh in on the most important legislative agendas impacting the arts and arts education in our nation's capital and in state and local legislatures across the country. We need your support to build the political clout to reach a million Arts Action Fund members and to raise \$250,000 this election cycle to support as many pro-arts congressional candidates as possible. Please return the enclosed envelope to make your year-end gift.

New #ArtsVote2016 Campaign Site Features Candidate Arts Memos

The 2016 presidential election is a chance for advocates like you to advance the arts at the highest level of American politics. The Arts Action Fund has created a new online advocacy toolkit as part of our comprehensive #ArtsVote2016 campaign. Just go to www.ArtsActionFund.org/pages/ArtsVote2016 to find all the latest news, facts and figures, and social media buzz to effectively speak up for the arts this campaign season. With 18 major presidential candidates, it's hard to keep track of who did what and when. That is why on the #ArtsVote2016 homepage we have published a Candidate Arts Memo for each candidate that details his or her history, viewpoint, and policy record with respect to the arts and arts education. At the end of each Memo is a sampling of customized questions that advocates are encouraged to pose to candidates, either at a campaign event or on social media. Remember to use the hashtag #ArtsVote2016 to join the conversation on Twitter.



Join us for Arts Advocacy Day and the 29th Annual Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts & Public Policy.

March 7–8, 2016

Arts Advocacy Day brings together a broad cross section of America's cultural and civic organizations along with more than 500 arts advocates from across the country to experience one day of intensive advocacy training followed by an inspirational Nancy Hanks Lecture and one day of meetings on Capitol Hill with members of Congress. Register beginning November 18 at www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AAD.

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.

Appropriations Extended; Historic Opportunity for Arts Education

On September 30, 2015, Congress passed legislation to keep government agencies funded until December 11, including "level" funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. This short-term extension provides more time for Congress to reach a

budget agreement. While funding disagreements continue, Congress is also working to advance an historic K-12 federal education overhaul. A select congressional conference committee has begun work to negotiate final legislation. If successful, it will be the first time in 14 years that new education policy has advanced, impacting a whole generation of students. Combined,

the competing House and Senate bills contain 13 arts-friendly provisions, including retaining the arts as a core academic subject. Help make sure pro-arts provisions are included in a final bill by signing this petition and encourage five of your friends and colleagues to do the same: <https://www.voterveice.net/ARTSUSA/Petitions/684/Respond>.

Supporting Arts Advocacy in States and Cities

State Appropriations Highlights

The Maryland General Assembly restored an \$800,000 mid-year cut to the state arts appropriation, bringing it up to the mandated level of \$16.8 million for FY 2016. The Massachusetts

House and Senate overrode Gov. Baker's veto and approved \$14.16 million—an increase of 16.7 percent—for the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

State	Final FY 2015 Legislative Approp	Final FY 2016 Legislative Approp	% Change FY15 to FY16
AK	803,100	729,600	-9.20%
AL	3,984,496	3,984,446	0.00%
AR	1,693,756	1,660,391	-2.00%
AZ	1,000,000	0	-100.00%
CA	9,276,000	10,759,000	16.00%
CO	2,100,000	2,100,000	0.00%
CT	6,761,872	6,013,336	-11.10%
DC	15,803,000	14,696,000	-7.00%
DE	3,352,700	3,428,300	2.30%
FL	47,060,421	39,458,772	-16.20%
GA	596,713	903,360	51.40%
HI	5,747,158	5,300,149	-7.80%
IA	1,233,764	1,233,764	0.00%
ID	702,000	759,400	8.20%
IL	10,109,300	8,087,400	-20.00%
IN	2,831,912	3,390,865	19.70%
KS	200,000	191,200	-4.40%
KY	2,767,300	2,767,300	0.00%
LA	2,141,028	2,240,935	4.70%
MA	\$12,000,000	14,160,000	16.70%
MD	16,208,984	16,673,432	2.90%
ME	742,663	974,629	31.20%
MI	9,000,000	9,000,000	0.00%
MN	34,189,000	34,341,000	0.40%
MO	6,492,500	6,832,000	5.20%

State	Final FY 2015 Legislative Approp	Final FY 2016 Legislative Approp	% Change FY15 to FY16
MS	1,379,629	1,579,629	14.50%
MT	556,683	547,672	0.00%
NC	7,266,266	7,266,266	0.00%
ND	776,773	877,362	12.90%
NE	1,540,070	1,561,484	1.40%
NH	393,761	291,489	-26.00%
NJ	16,397,000	16,397,000	0.00%
NM	1,490,000	1,557,700	4.50%
NV	1,268,763	1,313,435	3.50%
NY	39,974,000	46,174,000	15.50%
OH	11,349,204	14,222,050	25.30%
OK	3,784,911	3,510,505	-7.20%
OR	2,309,101	2,055,878	-11.00%
PA	9,488,000	N/A	N/A
RI	2,115,611	3,261,345	54.20%
SC	3,032,148	4,189,648	38.20%
SD	771,971	810,021	4.90%
TN	6,999,700	6,999,700	0.00%
TX	5,386,288	10,605,714	96.90%
UT	2,575,700	2,547,900	-1.10%
VA	3,599,374	3,462,374	0.00%
VT	645,307	645,307	0.00%
WA	1,093,000	1,118,000	2.30%
WI	780,000	795,700	2.00%
WV	911,036	872,163	-4.30%
WY	1,222,652	1,240,920	1.50%



PLEASE GIVE TO OUR YEAR END CAMPAIGN (Envelope Enclosed)

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PAC Update



#ArtsVote2016

Members like you are making a huge impact on the 2016 presidential campaign by participating in our ArtsVote2016 campaign. Candidates as diverse as Bernie Sanders, Chris Christie, Ben Carson, and Hillary Clinton are coming out in support of the arts. Why are these national politicians making time out of their campaigns to speak about the arts? Because members like you are asking them! We are showing up at campaign events, sharing our stories on the web, and using the hashtag #ArtsVote2016 on social media—presidential candidates are taking notice. Here are just a few of the responses your advocacy has triggered:



Hillary Clinton talks arts in Iowa: "I am a strong supporter of the arts." Arts Action Fund member Kate Huffman asked the former Secretary of State where she stood on arts issues, and shared the candidate's response (videotaped live!) on the Arts Action Fund website.



"I will be an Arts President" says Bernie Sanders. In response to inquiries from attendees of the Iowa Arts Advocacy Caucus, Sanders himself speaks about his longstanding support for the arts in the video he sent to the Arts Action Fund.



Chris Christie speaks to NH Advocate about the arts and arts education. During a small convening of Granite State activists, Arts Action Fund member Toni Pappas spoke with Governor Chris Christie about the arts.

Members like you are pushing presidential candidates from both parties to make pro-arts statements. But our work doesn't stop here. We'll be convening more advocacy trainings, publishing more news and information on our webpage, and continuing to advocate for pro-arts planks in both parties' National Platform Statements. If you'd like to connect with any of the presidential candidates on social media, you can find all of their Twitter and Facebook handles on our website at www.ArtsActionFund.org. Remember to include #ArtsVote2016 when you tweet.

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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