



To: Arts Action Fund Members
From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund
Date: 10 February 2016
Re: Chris Christie and the Arts*

*Note: Chris Christie suspended his Presidential campaign on 2/10/2016.



Name: Chris Christie
Party: Republican
Born: 6 September 1962; Newark, New Jersey
Previous Public Offices Held: Governor of New Jersey 2010-present; U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey 2002-2008; Member of the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders 1995-1998
Other Jobs Held: Lawyer
Educational Background: B.A., University of Delaware; J.D. Seton Hall University

CHRISTIE2016
TELLING IT LIKE IT IS

2016 Presidential Campaign Information:

Declaration Location: Livingston High School, Livingston, New Jersey; June 30, 2015
Campaign Website: <https://www.chrischristie.com/>
Campaign Email: Unlisted
Headquarters Address: Chris Christie for President, Inc.
P.O. Box 9119
Morristown, NJ 07963
Headquarters Phone: (973) 936-9318
Campaign Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/govchristie>
Campaign Twitter: [@ChrisChristie](https://twitter.com/ChrisChristie) 98,300 Followers

Positions on the Arts

Personal Arts Background

- Governor Christie is an avid Bruce Springsteen fan and has been to over 130 of his concerts. (Source: [NPR](#))

Notable Quotes

- *“Chris Christie believes in the important contribution that the arts make to the uniqueness of our state. He believes in the value of the arts to connect, engage and inspire our citizens.”* (Source: [2009 candidate Christie’s position paper on the arts](#))

Policy Views on the Arts and Education

- *“Beyond the cultural benefit, providing the proper support and infrastructure for a thriving cultural community just makes good business sense.”* (Source: [2009 candidate Christie’s position paper on the arts](#))
- *“We are educating our children today for industries and businesses that have yet to be invented. In this new environment, creativity and innovation will be as important as the ability to read, write and multiply. Arts education is one of the key ways to unleash the creative capacities in our young people”* (Source: [2009 candidate Christie’s position paper on the arts](#))
- While Christie previously supported Common Core standards, he has more recently retracted his support and is quoted as saying such standards are “not working”. (Source: [EducationDive](#))
- New Jersey’s 2009 Visual and Performing Arts standards, which center around the creative process, arts and cultural history, performing, and critique methodologies, have remained intact under Gov. Christie. (Source: [New Jersey Department of Education](#))

Examples of Actions Taken on the Arts

- Christie defended tax funding for the arts in 2009, saying *“We need to comply with the law that the Legislature passed in 2003. And if you’ve dedicated a portion, as we did, of the hotel motel tax to funding the arts, the arts deserve to be funded in that way. And I will tell you this: you’re right about the arts being an economic engine in this state. They absolutely are.”* (Source: [2009 candidate Christie’s position paper on the arts](#))
- Christie preserved arts funding by removing language from a bill that would have caused it to be cut for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. *“New Jersey Governor Chris Christie recommended slashing taxes and government spending in his budget proposal for the coming fiscal year on Tuesday. But he did not propose touching the \$16 million budget that the New Jersey State Council on the Arts received in the last fiscal year.”* (Source: [WNYC](#))

Arts and the Economy in New Jersey

- The following information comes from The Economic Impact of New Jersey’s Nonprofit Arts and Associated Audience Spending on the State’s Economy published by ArtPride New Jersey in 2009:
- “The nonprofit arts in New Jersey spent \$247.6 million on operations and \$51.4 million capital improvements in 2007, generating the following impacts on the state: \$717.7 million in total

impact, \$265.5 million in earnings, 6,645 jobs (full-time equivalent), \$17.8 million in state income and sales taxes.”

- “Visitor spending during trips to New Jersey arts events is estimated at \$283.8 million, generating an economic impact of: \$501.9 million in total impact, \$131.4 million in earnings, 4408 jobs (full-time equivalent), \$23.1 million in state income and sales taxes.”

(Source: [ArtPride New Jersey](#))

Americans for the Arts Facts & Figures for New Jersey:

- Creative Industries: There are 75,454 people employed by 20,120 Arts-Related businesses. This represents 4.0% of all businesses and 1.7% of all employees in New Jersey (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- Economic Impact: In the City of Newark alone non profit arts organizations and their audiences spent \$127 million in Fiscal Year 2010 and contributed over \$11 million of revenue to state and local governments (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- In Fiscal Year 2016 the New Jersey State Council on the Arts received \$16,396,000 in legislative appropriations (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))

Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts

- In New Jersey alone, approximately 75,000 people are employed in arts-related industries and at the national level the arts generate 4.3 percent of GDP, yielding a fairly large trade surplus. What kinds of economic policies would you recommend as president to further tap the economic potential of the arts in America?
- You have supported state investment in the arts and have successfully opposed cuts in funding to the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. How important do you believe it is to publicly fund nonprofit arts organizations and would you continue to support arts funding at the federal level if elected President?
- As a big Bruce Springsteen fan, how do you think music has inspired your life and career?

Actions on the Arts during the 2016 Presidential campaign

- In September 2015, Chris Christie expressed his support for public funding for the arts and arts education during a small convening of New Hampshire activists at the Copper Door Restaurant in Bedford, New Hampshire. (Source: [Arts Action Fund](#))