



**To:** Arts Action Fund Members  
**From:** Americans for the Arts Action Fund  
**Date:** 29 December 2015  
**Re:** George Pataki and the Arts\*

\*Note: George Pataki suspended his campaign for the Republican nomination on 12/29/2015.

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**Name:** George Pataki  
**Party:** Republican  
**Born:** 24 June 1945, Peekskill, New York  
**Previous Public Offices Held:** Governor of New York, 1995-2007; New York State Senate, 37th District, 1993-1994; New York State Assembly, 91st District, 1985-1992; Mayor of Peekskill, 1985-1992  
**Other Jobs Held:** Lawyer  
**Educational Background:** B.A., Yale University; J.D., Columbia University

#### 2016 Presidential Campaign Information:

**Declaration Location:** Exeter, New Hampshire; May 28, 2015  
**Campaign Website:** <http://www.georgepataki.com/>  
**Campaign Email:** Unlisted  
**Headquarters Address:** Pataki for President  
132 East 43rd Street #614  
New York, NY 10017  
**Headquarters Phone:** (914) 348-1764  
**Campaign Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/GovGeorgePataki>  
**Campaign Twitter:** [@GovernorPataki](https://twitter.com/GovernorPataki) 82,800 Followers



## Positions on the Arts

### **Personal Arts Background**

- In 2003 Pataki was awarded the Government Leadership in the Arts Award for Outstanding States Art Leadership by Americans for the Arts and The United States Conference of Mayors for his achievements in the arts as Governor. *"It is truly an honor to receive this prestigious award,"* said Governor Pataki. *"The arts affect each of us in wonderful ways, and give added meaning and enrichment to all our lives. The brilliant and diverse artistic offerings that come from every corner of the Empire State not only celebrate the human spirit, but challenge the mind, capture the heart and inspire the soul."* (Source: [Arts & Cultural Council of Greater Rochester](#))

### **Notable Quotes**

- *"The arts effect each of us in different ways, yet give added meaning and enrichment to all our lives. The brilliant and diverse artistic offerings here in New York not only celebrate the human spirit, but challenge the mind, capture the heart, and inspire the soul."* Governor George Pataki (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))

### **Policy Views on the Arts and Education**

- Pataki supports higher educational standards, but is not a fan of common core. *"I'm against it. I'm for high standards but I don't [believe] we should have Washington or some global community dictating to every state and every school how they're going to educate our children... Education has always been the prerogative of the states and should continue to be that."* (Source: [NH1](#))
- Pataki also believes in setting ambitious goals when it comes to investing in education, especially science and math. *"Let's set a goal today—let's not only renew our commitment to improving educational opportunities for all students in New York State, let's make New York the nation's leader in preparing our students for careers in math, science and engineering... let's invest in our future by providing free SUNY or CUNY (university) tuition to students who pursue math and science degrees and commit to teaching right here in New York State."* (Source: [Forbes](#))

## Examples of Actions Taken on the Arts

- When Pataki took over as Governor in 1995, the arts budget had been cut by 56 percent under the previous administration. Pataki went on to increase arts spending by 52 percent. Under his leadership, the New York Council on the Arts appropriation increased to \$50.1 million dollars. During his time in office, 21,600 grants were made, totaling \$349,572,325 million. (Source: [Arts & Cultural Council of Greater Rochester](#))
- In 1997, with collaboration from Pataki, the Empire State Partnership (ESP) was formed by the New York Council on the Arts and the New York State Education Department.

The partnerships paired schools with arts organizations who would lead students in structured arts programming with the mission of, “*giv[ing] students the tools to master important thinking and communication skills while improving their competence in the arts and other subjects.*” (Source: [Arts & Cultural Council of Greater Rochester](#))

- In 1999, Pataki again teamed up with the New York Council on the Arts, along with the Arts and Business Council, to launch a new grant initiative to encourage cultural tourism in the state. The initiative was designed to increase tourism, employment, and revenue. (Source: [Arts & Cultural Council of Greater Rochester](#))
- In 2001, the Empire State Partnership (ESP) granted \$226,000 to 26 organizations in New York that contributed to art education. The grant values for each of these organizations ranged from \$7,245 to \$10,000. (Source: [Backstage](#))
- In the 2002/2003 state budget, Pataki put aside \$5 million dollars aside for the Empire State Partnership (ESP). (Source: [Arts & Cultural Council of Greater Rochester](#))
- In 2003, New York was ranked 3rd in the country for arts spending per capita. (Source: [Arts & Cultural Council of Greater Rochester](#))

### **Arts and the Economy in New York**

- The following information is from a 1997 (second year of Pataki’s term as Governor) report from the Alliance for the Arts to Mayor Giuliani and Governor Pataki on the, “The Economic Impact of the Arts on New York City and New York State.” based on the 1995 fiscal year. (Source: [The Alliance of the Arts](#))
- “The total economic impact on New York State was \$13.4 billion.”
- “Employment generated by the arts, both directly and indirectly, in New York State totaled 174,000.”
- “Taxes returned to the State as a result of this activity equaled \$480 million.”
- “Nonprofit organizations generated a total impact of \$4.1 billion.”
- “Commercial theater generated a total impact of \$1.1 billion.”
- “Commercial art galleries and auction houses generated a total impact of \$900 million.”
- “Motion picture and television production generated a total impact of \$4.4 billion.”
- “Visitor spending generated a total impact of \$2.8 billion.”
- “Capital spending by nonprofit institutions, commercial art galleries and auction houses, and commercial theater generated a total impact of \$208 million.”
- The following information is from a 2007 (near the end of Pataki’s final term as Governor) report from the Alliance on the, “The Economic Impact of the Arts on New York City and New York State.” based on the 2005 fiscal year. (Source: [Alliance of the Arts](#))
- “The total economic impact on New York State was \$25.7 billion.”
- “Employment generated by the arts, both directly and indirectly, in New York State totaled 194,000.”
- “Wages generated was \$9.8 billion.”
- “Taxes to New York State generated \$1.2 billion.”
- “Motion picture and television production generated a total impact of \$8.4 billion.”
- “Nonprofit organizations generated a total impact of \$7.1 billion.”
- “Commercial theater generated a total impact of \$2.2 billion.”

- “Art galleries and auction houses generated a total impact of \$1.6 billion.”
- “Arts-Motivated visitors had an economic impact of \$5.8 billion.”

### **Americans for the Arts Facts & Figures for New York:**

- Creative Industries: There are 314,099 people employed by 52,451 Arts-Related businesses. This represents 5.1% of all businesses and 3.5% of all employees in New York ([Americans for the Arts](#))
- Economic Impact: In Westchester County alone, non profit arts organizations and their audiences spent \$156 million in Fiscal Year 2010 and contributed over \$22 million of revenue to state and local governments ([Americans for the Arts](#))
- In Fiscal Year 2016 the New York State Council on the Arts received \$46,174,000 in legislative appropriations (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))

### **Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts**

- During your time as Governor, you led New York to be ranked 3rd in the country in arts spending per capita. What effect did that have on education and do you feel like we need to invest more in arts spending?
- In the past you have said that the, “arts affect us in different ways”, how have the arts personally affected your life personally and professionally?
- When you came into office in 1995, the arts industry in New York had a \$13.8 billion dollar economic impact. In 2005, close to the end of your second term, the arts industry had a \$25.7 billion dollar economic impact, a difference of roughly \$12 billion dollars. How did your administration contribute to such a large growth in this industry?

### **Actions on the Arts during the 2016 Presidential Campaign**

#### **Interaction with New Hampshire Arts Advocate**

- On August 28, 2015, Arts Action Fund member Dominique Boutaud [attended a campaign gathering](#) in Derry, New Hampshire, for Governor Pataki. Sporting her Arts Advocate pin, Ms. Boutaud snapped a picture with Pataki and spoke with him about her support for the arts