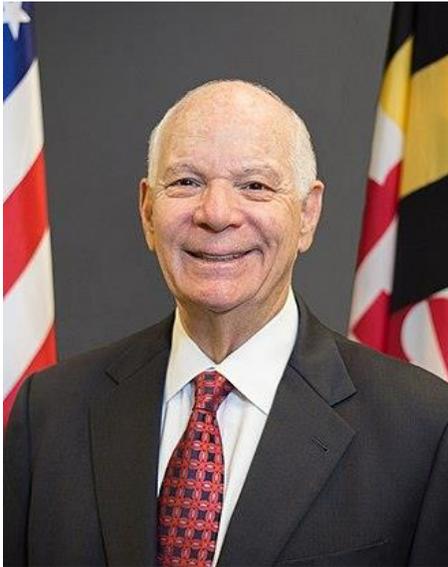




**To:** Arts Action Fund Members  
**From:** Americans for the Arts Action Fund  
**Date:** August 2, 2018  
**Re:** Ben Cardin and the Arts, Candidate for Maryland U.S. Senate

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**Name:** Benjamin Cardin  
**Party:** Democrat  
**Born:** October 5, 1943 (age 74) in Baltimore, MD  
**Occupation:** United States Senator from Maryland  
**Incumbent:** Yes  
**Year Served:** 2007-Present, 11 years  
**Previous offices Held:** Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Maryland's 3rd district (1987-2007), Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates (1979-1987), Member of the Maryland House of Delegates from the 42nd district (1967-1987).  
**Other Jobs Held:** Worked at a private practice as a lawyer.  
**Educational Background:** Received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pittsburg and earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland School of law.

**Contact Information:**

- Campaign Website: <https://bencardin.com/>
- Campaign Email: [info@bencardin.com](mailto:info@bencardin.com)
- Campaign Headquarters: Post Office Box 21093 Catonsville, MD 21228
- Headquarters Phone: 443-865-7290

**Social Media Platforms:**

- Facebook: @bencardin 4.9K followers
- Twitter: @BenCardinforMD 5.2K followers
- Instagram: N/A

## 2018 General Election Results:

- Solid D (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Last General Election: 56.0% (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Last Primary Election: 80.4% (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Ben Cardin won democratic vote in the primary with 450,890 votes which was 80.4% of the vote. (Source: [Washington Post](#))

**Personal Arts Background:** N/A

## Notable Arts Quotes:

- *“...in support of the critical work being done at the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). These federal agencies provide vital support and resources to endeavors in the arts and humanities across the country that serve as drivers of innovation and economic prosperity. We encourage you to support the Chairmen of these agencies, who demonstrate a continued commitment to supporting the arts and humanities.”* – Joint statement made, including Ben Cardin, asking Trump to preserve federal funding for the NEA and NEH. (Source: [Vote Smart](#))
- *“Maya Angelou’s words were powerful. She chose each one carefully and with purpose. Her life was not an easy one, but she understood that the lessons she shared with the world were important. Her stories were filled with spirit and resonance. Maya Angelou will be profoundly missed, but she will continue to be a presence, influencing generations with her words, her hope, and her love for all people of this world.”* -Ben Cardin released this statement on the death of poet, actress and activist Maya Angelou. (Source: [Ben Cardin Website](#))

## Arts Action Fund Congressional Report Card

- [2016 Congressional Report Card](#): Thumbs up
- [2014 Congressional Report Card](#): Thumbs up
- [2012 Congressional Report Card](#): B+

## Examples of Actions on the Arts

- **NEA Funding:**
  - Voted yes to pass a conference report (HR2361) that appropriates \$27.73 billion for the Department of the Interior, environment and related agencies for FY 2006. Conference report was adopted by the house with a vote of 410 to 10 on July 28, 2005. (Source: [Congress.Gov](#))
  - Voted no to pass a conference report (HR 2361) that appropriates \$27.73 billion for the Department of the Interior, environment and related agencies for FY 2006. Bill passed through the house with a vote of 329 to 89 on May 19, 2005. (Source: [Congress.Gov](#))
- **Tax Cuts and Jobs Act:**
  - Voted no on *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* (HR 1) sponsored by Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX) which would double the standard deduction limiting specific incentives for income tax deductions of gifts to charity, becoming severely limited to only the top five percent of

taxpayers who itemize their deductions. The Senate voted 51 to 48 on December 13, 2017 to pass the bill in a party-line vote. (Source: [New York Times](#))

- **Every Student Succeeds Act:**

- Vote on S.1177—Senate bill to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, titled *Every Child Achieves Act* (ECAA) on July 16, 2015. (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
- Vote on S.1177—final legislation to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, now called the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA), replacing No Child Left Behind on December 9, 2015. (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))

- **Letters:**

- Cosigned yes on a “Dear Colleague” letter on March 16, 2018, asking Senate appropriators to fund the NEA and NEH at no less than \$155 million in FY 2019. The letter was led by late Representative Louise Slaughter. (Source: [Arts Action Fund](#))
- Cosigned a “Dear Colleague” letter on March 16, 2016, asking Senate appropriators to fund the NEA and NEH at no less than \$149.8 million in FY 2017. The letter was led by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM). (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
- Cosigned a “Dear Colleague” letter on March 23, 2015, asking Senate appropriators to fund the NEA and NEH at \$147.9 million in FY 2016. The letter was led by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM). (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
- Cosigned a "Dear Colleague" letter on March 17, 2016, asking Senate appropriators to support "robust" funding for the Office of Museum Services in FY 2017. The letter was led by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY). (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
- Cosigned a "Dear Colleague" letter on March 27, 2015, asking Senate appropriators to support "robust" funding for the Office of Museum Services in FY 2016. The letter was led by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY). (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
- Cosigned a "Dear Colleague" letter on January 23, 2014, asking Senate tax leaders to protect the full value and scope of the charitable deduction during any comprehensive tax reform efforts. (Source: [2014 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))

**Arts Membership:**

- Former member in the Senate Cultural Caucus, 113<sup>th</sup> Congress as of August 15, 2014. The list is maintained by the office of Caucus Co-Chairs Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY) (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))

### Information on Arts and the Economy in Maryland:

- In Maryland, arts and culture was a \$10.9 billion industry—equivalent to 3.0 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of 81,171 arts and culture industry jobs.<sup>1</sup>
- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 13,185 businesses employed 52,723 people in Maryland involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—4.13 percent of all businesses and 1.58 percent of all employees.<sup>2</sup>

### Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts:

- Senator Cardin, the budget of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) was cut in half during the 1990s. With its current funding of \$153 million, the NEA spends just 47 cents per American—half the cost of a pack of gum. Would you support a plan to increase federal arts funding to the NEA to \$1 per American, so that arts organizations in your state or district can present even more accessible arts programs for all its residents?
- With the implementation of *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA), states now have more responsibility for providing a well-rounded education – including the arts. Would you support full funding (\$1.6 billion) of the Well-Rounded Education provisions of ESSA, including data collection of arts education programs by the states and advocating for the integration of the arts into STEM education?
- Nonprofit arts organizations are charities, and on average, 25 percent of their annual budgets rely on donations made by individual taxpayers to serve the public good. The charitable tax deduction incentive is currently only available to individuals who itemize their tax returns. Would you support a Universal Charitable Deduction, so all taxpayers have the incentive to donate?

### About ArtsVote2018:

- The mission of ArtsVote2018 is to advance the role of arts in the 2018 midterm elections by providing arts advocates, arts leaders, elected officials, and media with needed information to effectively advocate for the arts.

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<sup>1</sup>Arts and cultural production are defined as those industries that produce arts and culture related commodities and generally follow the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). Employment estimates for ACP-related industries are for “direct” employment. [Arts and Culture Production Satellite Account](#) (ACPSA), 2015; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and National Endowment for the Arts, 2018.

<sup>2</sup>Findings count active U.S. businesses registered with Duns & Bradstreet in the following categories: museums and collections; performing arts; visual art/photography; film, radio, and television; design and publishing; schools and services. [Creative Industries: Business & Employment in the Arts](#), Americans for the Arts, 2017.