



**To:** Arts Action Fund Members  
**From:** Americans for the Arts Action Fund  
**Date:** 16 March 2016  
**Re:** Marco Rubio and the Arts\*

\*Note: Marco Rubio suspended his Presidential campaign on 3/15/2016.

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**Name:** Marco Rubio  
**Party:** Republican  
**Born:** 28 May 1971, Miami, Florida  
**Previous Public Offices Held:** U.S. Senator from Florida 2011-present; Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives 2007-2009; Florida House of Representatives, 111th District 2000-2009  
**Other Jobs Held:** Lawyer, Professor  
**Educational Background:** University of Florida (B.A.), University of Miami (J.D.)



#### 2016 Presidential Campaign Information:

**Declaration Location:** Miami Florida, Freedom Tower, April 13, 2015  
**Campaign Website:** <https://marcorubio.com/>  
**Campaign Email:** [contact@marcorubio.com](mailto:contact@marcorubio.com)  
**Headquarters Address:** Marco Rubio for President  
P.O. Box 558701  
Miami, FL 33255-8701  
**Headquarters Phone:** Unlisted  
**Campaign Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/MarcoRubio>  
**Campaign Twitter:** [@MarcoRubio](https://twitter.com/MarcoRubio) 1.32 Million Followers

## Positions on the Arts

### **Personal Arts Background**

- During high school, Rubio participated in theater.
- Rubio is a fan of musical artists David Guetta, Axwell, Ingresso, Swedish House Mafia and Nikki Minaj. (Source: [Billboard](#))
- "Besides [*This Is*] *Spinal Tap*, Rubio's favorite movies include *Pulp Fiction* and *Wedding Crashers*. He's an avid football fan, and once said the coolest moment in his career was catching a pass from then-Gators quarterback Tim Tebow. He jams to R&B, hip-hop, "non-offensive" rap – but is definitely not a fan of disco." (Source: [ABC](#))
- Norman Braman, the Chairman of Art Basel and art collector, is a top financial backer of Rubio. (Source: [New York Times](#))

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

- "Let's create a corporate federal tax credit to a qualifying, non-profit 501(c)(3) Education Scholarship Organization, so that students from low income families can receive a scholarship to pay for the cost of a private education of the parents choosing." (Source: [Forbes](#))
- Rubio opposes the Common Core Education Standards and supports educational vouchers and increased vocational training (Source: [Tampa Bay Times](#))

### **Examples of Actions on the Arts**

- "Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) criticized President Barack Obama for [apologizing to an art history professor](#) because he unintentionally trivialized an academic concentration in art history as not being as valuable as a technical degree." Rubio tweeted that the apology from the President was unnecessary and "pathetic". (Source: [Huffington Post](#))

### **Congressional Arts Voting Record**

- Rubio is not a member of the Senate Cultural Caucus. (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- Did not receive a thumbs up on the 2014 Congressional Arts Report Card. (Source: [Americans for the Arts Action Fund](#))
- Rubio did not co-sign a number of "Dear Colleague" letters in 2013-14 that requested higher levels of funding for the NEA and NEH, "robust" funding for the Office of Museum Services, and a protection of the charitable tax deduction, respectively (Source: [Americans for the Arts Action Fund](#))

### **Arts and the Economy in Florida**

- The arts industry in Florida has a \$135.2 billion economic impact. (Source: [Florida Department of State](#))
- The economic impact provides for 4.13 million full time jobs and provides 86.68 billion in household income. (Source: [Florida Department of State](#))

- The arts generates \$22.3 billion in local, state, and federal taxes. (Source: [Florida Department of State](#))
- There are 29,735 businesses in the arts industry which provide \$14 billion in payroll. (Source: [Florida Department of State](#))
- The arts industry also provide \$49.7 billion in annual revenue. (Source: [Florida Department of State](#))
- The arts industry represent 5.9% of all businesses in Florida. (Source: [Florida Department of State](#))

### **Americans for the Arts Facts & Figures for Florida**

- Creative Industries: There are 185,138 people employed by 54,994 arts-related businesses. This represents 3.6% of all businesses and 1.9% of all employees in Florida. (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- Economic Impact: In the city of Miami alone, non profit arts organizations and their audiences spent \$576 million in Fiscal Year 2010 and contributed over \$57 million of revenue to state and local governments (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- In Fiscal Year 2016 the Division of Cultural Affairs received \$39,458,772 in legislative appropriations (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))

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

- In Florida alone, approximately 185,000 people are employed in arts-related industries and we know 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 mention in interviews in the past that you use music to break the tension before interviews or debates. How else has music or the arts influenced your life or career?
- Since the creative arts industry is a \$135 billion dollar industry in Florida, what do you think the federal government could do to incentivize more state and local governments to invest in the arts in order to generate more economic impact and tourism revenue?