



To: Arts Action Fund Members
From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund
Date: August 2, 2018
Re: Sherrod Brown and the Arts, 2018 Candidate for Ohio U.S. Senate



Name: Sherrod Brown
Party: Democrat
Occupation: United States Senator from Ohio
Incumbent: Yes
Years Served: 2007-Present, 11 years
Born: November 9, 1952 (age 65), Mansfield, Ohio, U.S.
Previous Public Offices Held: Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Ohio's 13th district (1993-2007), 47th Secretary of State of Ohio (1983-1991).
Other Positions: N/A
Educational Background: Received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Russian Studies from Yale University and Master's Degree in Education and Public Administration from Ohio State University.

Contact Information:

- Campaign Website: <https://www.sherrodbrown.com/>
- Campaign Email: info@sherrodbrown.com
- Campaign Mailing Address: 3867 West Market Street, Suite 289 Akron, OH 44333
- Campaign Phone Number: 614-221-6563 (Ext. 1144)

Social Media Platforms:

- Facebook: @sherrod 229.8K followers
- Twitter: @SherrodBrown 32.4K followers
- Instagram: N/A

2018 General Campaign Predictions:

- Lean D (Source: [Cooks Political Report](#))
- Sherrod Brown ran unopposed as the incumbent Democrat Senator in the primary election. (Source: [Politico](#))

Personal Arts Background:

- Sen. Sherrod Brown helped organize a five-day manufacturing camp to help Lorain County girls entering sixth, seventh, and eighth grades practice the skills of designers, carpenters, and engineers. Students learn how products are made, participate in team-building exercises, and work on a project specific to their community (Source: [The Morning Journal](#)).
- *"Ohioans are proud of our state's long manufacturing history. To keep up that tradition, we must get a new generation interested in our changing manufacturing sector. That's what these camps are all about."* -Brown said about the camps (Source: [The Morning Journal](#)).
- Browns wife, Connie Schultz is a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist and author of two books (Source: [Pultizer.org](#)).

Notable Arts Quotes:

- *"The National Endowment for the Arts has helped local organizations across Ohio enrich our cities and towns with music and art since its creation. It's important to support NEA's mission so all Ohioans have access to the creative projects in their own backyards."* – Brown said about the NEA's investment in the local arts scene in Ohio (Source: [Cleveland.com](#)).
- *"Ohio has always been at the forefront of creativity and innovation. Our film supply chain is another example that Ohio knows how to make things. Movie and TV studios contribute nearly 33,000 jobs and more than \$1 billion to our economy. In order to continue creating jobs and growing our local economy, we should do everything we can to give studios incentives to make their films here in the United States."* – Brown said about the film industry contributing \$1 billion to Ohio's economy and extending critical tax credit to spur production in the U.S (Source: [Press Release](#)).

Arts Action Fund Congressional Report Cards:

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

Arts Action Fund PAC support this election cycle as of 8-2-18:

- \$1,000 on 2/16/2018
- \$1,000 on 2/24/2017

Examples of Actions on the Arts

- **Funding for National Endowment for the Arts:**
 - Voted yes 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. Conference report was adopted by the house with a vote of 410 to 10 on July 28, 2005 (Source: [Congress.Gov](#)).

- Voted nay 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](#)).
 - Voted yes on amendment (H Amdt 753) that restored \$98 million in funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. Amendment adopted by the House with a vote of 253 to 173 on July 21, 1998 (Source: [Congress.Gov](#)).
 - Voted nay to override a Presidential veto (HR 1977) on a bill that appropriates \$12.49 billion to the Department of the Interior and related agencies for fiscal year 1996, among other provisions. Veto Override Failed in the House with a vote of 239 to 177 on January 4, 1996 (Source: [Congress.Gov](#)).
 - Voted yes to adopt a conference report (HR 4602) that appropriates \$14.18 billion for the Interior Department and related agencies for fiscal year 1995. Bill Passed the House with a vote of 338 to 85 on June 23, 1994 (Source: [Congress.Gov](#)).
- **Tax Bills:**
 - Voted nay to adopt a conference report (HR4279) that authorizes and extends \$69.96 billion in tax credits and cuts through 2010 including section 204 which provides an election to treat sales of certain musical compositions or copyrights as capital gains if created by the taxpayer. Conference report was adopted by the house with a vote of 244 to 185 on May 10, 2006 (Source: [Congress.Gov](#)).
 - 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](#))
- **2010 Transportation Appropriation Bill:**
 - Voted yes on amendment offered by Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) to halt funding for the Transportation Enhancement program, which includes funding eligible for historic preservation and museums, within the FY 2010 Transportation Appropriations Bill. (Source: [2010 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
 - Voted yes on amendment offered by Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) to prohibit funds within the 2010 Transportation Appropriations Bill from being used for any museum. (Source: [2010 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
 - Voted yes on a motion to table an amendment offered by Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) to prohibit Transportation Enhancement funds in the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2012 from being used on “lower-priority projects,” such as transportation museums, historic preservation and public art projects. (Source: [2010 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
- **Letters:**
 - Cosigned 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 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](#))

Membership:

- Brown has been a member in the Senate Cultural Caucus since 2012. He is currently serving as a member in the 115th Congress. There are 34 members and the list is maintained by office of Caucus Co-Chairs, Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#)).

Awards:

- Sen. Sherrod Brown received the Americans for the Arts Congressional Arts Leadership award in 2014. (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))

Information on the Arts and the Economy in Ohio:

- In Ohio, arts and culture was a \$17.5 billion industry—equivalent to 2.9 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of 174,125 arts and culture industry jobs.¹
- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 19,049 businesses employed 94,040 people in Ohio involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—3.48 percent of all businesses and 1.46 percent of all employees.²

Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts:

- Senator Brown, as you know 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

¹Arts 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.

²Findings 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.

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.