



To: Arts Action Fund Members
From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund
Date: 4 February 2016
Re: Rick Santorum and the Arts

***Note: Rick Santorum suspended his Presidential campaign on 2/3/2016.**



Name: Rick Santorum
Party: Republican
Born: 10 May 1958, Winchester, Virginia
Previous Public Offices Held: Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference 2001-2007; U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania 1995-2007; U.S. House of Representatives (PA-18) 1991-1995
Other Jobs Held: Lawyer
Educational Background: B.A. Pennsylvania State University; MBA, University of Pittsburgh; J.D., Dickinson School of Law



2016 Presidential Campaign Information:

Declaration Location: Cabot, Pennsylvania at Penn United Technologies on May 27, 2015
Campaign Website: <http://www.ricksantorum.com/>
Campaign Email: info@ricksantorum.com
Headquarters Address: Santorum for President 2016
P.O. Box 238
Verona, PA 15147
Headquarters Phone: (515) 216-0105
Campaign Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RickSantorum>
Campaign Twitter: [@RickSantorum](https://twitter.com/RickSantorum) 256,000 Followers

Positions on the Arts

Personal Arts Background

- In 2012 Santorum became CEO of EchoLight Studios, *“the first movie company to produce, finance, market and distribute faith-based, family films across all releasing platforms”* (Source: echolight.com)
- Santorum’s official campaign song is “Take Back America” (Source: ricksantorum.com)

Notable Quotes

- During attempts to cut the PBS budgets of the 1990s Santorum defended public broadcasting programs, saying, *“I have my share of ‘Shining Time Station’ puzzles for my 4-year old and my 2-year old... I have a bunch of this stuff-Mr. Rogers, a wonderful man... who does a tremendous show.”* (Source: thinkprogress.org)

Policy Views on the Arts and Education

- During the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) votes in congress in the 1990s, Santorum was asked why he supported the NEA, and he replied that *“many highly acclaimed orchestras, fine arts programs and performing arts groups in Pittsburgh and across the state rely on NEA funding.”* (Source: Huffington Post)
- Santorum told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in a statement, *“The arts foster a strong sense of community and bring new ideas and cultures to many individuals and families all over the nation.”* The statement goes on to say, *“Elimination of such programs would create a cultural vacuum that could not easily be filled.”* (Source: The Washington Times)
- In 2005, the Department of Housing and Urban Development granted \$4.3 million in the form of a loan to the city of Reading to transform an old eyeglass factory to an arts and educational center. Santorum said, *“This loan guarantee will provide resources needed to make capital improvements to the building and strengthen the local economy. The projects that are benefiting from the funding will ensure Reading remains a great place to live and do business.”* (Source: thinkprogress.org)

Examples of Actions on the Arts

- Santorum, along with Senator Arlen Specter, in 2006 directed \$300,000 in federal money for the August Wilson Center for African American Culture in Pittsburgh. (Source: thinkprogress.org)
- On August 14th, 2015 Santorum spoke at the Iowa Arts Advocacy Caucus where he related to the attendees as a fellow artist, spoke generally of his support for the arts and his desire for artists to appreciate the responsibility of their potential impact on society (Source: Americans for the Arts Action Fund)

Congressional Arts Voting Record

- Voted 6 times to preserve the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in the 1990s. *“But one conservative chose to sit out the NEA floggings: then-Rep. Rick Santorum. The current GOP front-runner voted repeatedly against measures to defund the agency.”* (Sources: [The Washington Times](#); [Huffington Post](#))
- In 1991 Santorum voted to ban the NEA from supporting “obscene” projects (Source: [thinkprogress.org](#))
- In 2005, Sen. Santorum supported the Fair Tax Value Artist Deduction Amendment. (Source: [congress.gov](#))

Americans for the Arts Facts & Figures for Pennsylvania

- Creative Industries: There are 127,613 people employed by 24,959 arts-related businesses. This represents 3.5% of all businesses and 2.0% of all employees in Pennsylvania. (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- Economic Impact: In the state of Pennsylvania, non profit arts organizations and their audiences spent \$2.5 billion in Fiscal Year 2010 and contributed over \$360 million of revenue to state and local governments (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- In Fiscal Year 2015 the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts received \$9,488,000 in legislative appropriations (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))

Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts

- At the end of your term as Senator, the arts had become a \$1.99 billion dollar industry in Pennsylvania, supporting over 61,000 jobs. If elected President, what kinds of economic policies would you submit to generate this kind of economic impact at the national level?
- As Senator you repeatedly supported funding for the National Endowment of the Arts. Can we count on you doing the same as President?
- What’s your position on the role arts education plays in creating an innovative workforce to compete in the 21st century global economy?

Actions on the Arts during the 2016 Presidential Campaign

Statement at the Arts Action Fund’s Iowa Arts Advocacy Caucus event. ([watch the video here](#))

On August 14, 2015 Rick Santorum spoke about the arts at the Arts Action Fund’s Iowa Arts Advocacy Caucus event, saying that creativity is “incredibly important” and challenging artists to “seek the truth”

(Source: [Arts Action Fund video](#))