



To: Arts Action Fund Members
From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund
Date: 4 May 2016
Re: Ted Cruz and the Arts*

*Note: Ted Cruz suspended his Presidential campaign on 5/3/2016.



Name: Ted Cruz
Party: Republican
Born: 22 December 1970; Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Previous Public Offices Held: U.S. Senator from Texas 2013-Present;
Solicitor General of Texas 2003-2008
Other Jobs Held: Lawyer
Educational Background: Princeton University (A.B.), Harvard Law School (J.D.)



2016 Presidential Campaign Information:

Declaration Location: Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA, March 23, 2015
Campaign Website: <https://www.tedcruz.org>
Campaign Email: ted@tedcruz.org
Headquarters Address: Cruz for President
P.O. Box 25376
Houston, TX 77265
Headquarters Phone: 713-353-4330
Campaign Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tedcruzpage>
Campaign Twitter: [@TedCruz](https://twitter.com/TedCruz) 1.09 Million Followers

Positions on the Arts

Personal Arts Background

- Cruz is a fan of country music. (Source: [CBS News](#))

Notable Quotes

- *"We should repeal every word of Common Core," he said. "We should get the federal government out of the business of curriculum."* (Source: [Breitbart](#))
- *"I grew up listening to classic rock, and I'll tell you sort of an odd story: My music taste changed on 9/11. And it's very strange. I actually intellectually find this very curious. But on 9/11, I didn't like how rock music responded. And country music collectively, the way they responded, it resonated with me. And I have to say, it just is a gut-level. I had an emotional reaction that says, these are my people. So ever since 2001, I listen to country music. But I'm an odd country music fan, because I didn't listen to it prior to 2001."* (Source: [CBS News](#))
- *"I have spent a life time fighting to defend the constitution and to defend the 10th amendment. We need to get the federal government out of areas it doesn't have the constitutional authority to do. We need to eliminate the department of education, we need to eliminate the department of commerce, **we need to eliminate the National Endowment for the Arts**. We need to eliminate the IRS and move to a flat tax or a fair tax."* (Source: [politicalguide.com](#))

Policy Views on the Arts and Education

- Cruz opposes Common Core Education Standards. (Source: [Breitbart](#))
- Does not support federal funding for the National Endowment of the Arts. (Source: [politicalguide.com](#))

Congressional Voting Record on the Arts

- Cruz is not a member of the Senate Cultural Caucus. (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- Cruz did not receive a thumbs up in the Arts Action Fund 2014 Congressional Arts Report Card. (Source: [Americans for the Arts Action Fund](#))
- In 2013 and 2014 Cruz did not sign a series of pro-arts Dear Colleague letters that requested increased funding for the NEA and NEH, robust support for the Office of Museum Services, and the protection of the charitable tax deduction, respectively (Source: [Americans for the Arts Action Fund](#))

Arts and the Economy in Texas

- As of 2012 the economic impact of the arts in Texas is \$4.6 billion in taxable sales that generate \$290.1 million in state revenue. (Source: [Texas Cultural Trust](#))
- Since 2002, the arts impact on the state economy has grown steadily by 12.6 percent. (Source: [Texas Cultural Trust](#))
- The arts industry has roughly 10,000 businesses that employ over 110,000 individuals. (Source: [Texas Cultural Trust](#))

- The average salary for someone in the arts industry was \$70,000 annually. (Source: [Texas Cultural Trust](#))
- The film industry contributes \$525 million to the economy. (Source: [The Caller Times](#))
- The video game industry contributes \$177 million to the economy. (Source: [The Caller Times](#))

Americans for the Arts Facts & Figures for Texas:

- Creative Industries: There are 190,364 people employed by 56,645 Arts-Related businesses. This represents 3.8% of all businesses and 1.6% of all employees in Texas (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- Economic Impact: In the Greater Houston Area alone, non profit arts organizations and their audiences spent \$977 million in Fiscal Year 2010 and contributed over \$130 million of revenue to state and local governments (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- In Fiscal Year 2016 the Texas Commission on the Arts received \$10,605,714 in legislative appropriations (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))

Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts

- In Texas alone, approximately 190,000 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 have said in the past that you do not support federal funding for the National Endowment of the Arts. As President, would you advocate to cut federal funding for the arts despite the millions of jobs and the billions of dollars in tourism revenue that they generate?
- You have mentioned in news interviews that you really enjoy listening to country music ever since 9/11. In what ways has music or the arts influenced your life or career?

Actions on the Arts during the 2016 Presidential Campaign

Cruz's top foreign policy adviser, Victoria C. Gardner Coates, is an Art Historian whose most recent published book, *David's Sling: A History of Democracy in Ten Works of Art*, attempts to establish a link between democratic political systems and great works of art. (Source: [The Washington Post](#))