



**To:** Arts Action Fund Members  
**From:** Americans for the Arts Action Fund  
**Date:** August 2, 2018  
**Re:** Maria Cantwell and the Arts, 2018 Candidate for Washington U.S. Senate

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**Name:** Maria Cantwell  
**Party:** Democrat  
**Occupation:** United States Senator from Washington  
**Incumbent:** Yes  
**Years Served:** 2001-Present, 17 years  
**Born:** October 13, 1958 (age 59), Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S.  
**Previous Public Offices Held:** Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Washington's 1st district (1993-1995), Member of the Washington House of Representatives from the 44th legislative district (1987-1993).  
**Other Positions:** N/A  
**Educational Background:** Received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Administration from Miami University.

**Contact Information:**

- Campaign Website: <https://www.cantwell.com/>
- Campaign Email: [maria@cantwell.com](mailto:maria@cantwell.com)
- Campaign Mailing Address: Post Office Box 12740 Seattle, WA 98111
- Campaign Phone Number: 206-682-7328

**Social Media Platforms:**

- Facebook: @MariaCantwell 33.8K followers
- Twitter: @MariaCantwell 6.6K followers
- Instagram: @MariaCantwell 1K followers

### 2018 General Campaign Prediction:

- Solid D (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Last General Election: Won 60.5% of the vote. (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Last Primary Election won 55.7% of the vote. (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))

**Personal Arts Background:** N/A

### Notable Arts Quotes:

- *"American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women contribute to their communities, Tribes, and the United States through work in many industries, including business, education, science, medicine, literature, fine arts, military service, and public service," the resolution reads. "[The Senate] celebrates and honors the successes of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women and the contributions they have made and continue to make in the United States; and... recognizes the importance of supporting equity, providing safety, and upholding the interests of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women."* – Cantwell said on introducing resolution honoring Native Women (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

### Examples of Actions on the Arts

- **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:**
  - Voted yes 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](#))
  - Voted yes 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 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](#))

#### **Arts Membership:**

- Cantwell has been a member in the Senate Cultural Caucus since 2014. She 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](#)).

#### **Information on the Arts and the Economy in Washington:**

- In Washington, arts and culture was a \$35.6 billion industry—equivalent to 7.9 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of 162,288 arts and culture industry jobs.<sup>1</sup>
- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 17,642 businesses employed 69,844 people in Washington involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—4.71 percent of all businesses and 1.95 percent of all employees.<sup>2</sup>

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

- Senator Cantwell, 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 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?

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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.

**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.