

# Arts Action News

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS ACTION FUND

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## Post-Election Impact on the Arts

The midterm election means many expected and unexpected results on the federal level, with many new member-elects joining Congress as well as changes in congressional leadership. In Congress, a new Republican majority in the U.S. Senate means that all of the Senate's committees and subcommittees will see new chairmen. The U.S. House also increased its current Republican majority. For the first time in eight years, the Republican Party will control both houses of Congress when the new Congress takes office in January. The Congressional Arts Caucus Co-Chairs **Rep. Leonard Lance** (R-NJ) and **Rep. Louise Slaughter** (D-NY) have been re-elected, but in a surprise sleeper race, Rep. Slaughter won her seat by only 582 votes. Among all members of the Congressional Arts Caucus, approximately 70 percent will return

to Congress. In this new freshman class, there are some pro-arts member-elects, including **Alma Adams** (D-NC), who takes the vacant seat of former Rep. Mel Watt. She is anticipated to find a committee seat on the Education and Workforce Committee and has already announced plans to continue with her collage art while in DC. Many of the Appropriations Subcommittees will also see new chairs due to retirements. The subcommittee that oversees funding for the U.S. Department of Education and the Arts in Education programs will have a new chair as Rep. Jack Kingston (R-GA) ran for another office and was defeated. **Rep. Ken Calvert** (R-CA) is expected to continue to chair the House Appropriations Interior Subcommittee that oversees funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, and will be joined by

**Rep. Betty McCollum** (D-MN) as expected Ranking Democratic Member, ensuring that steadfast friends of the arts remain in the leadership of that very important subcommittee.



Congressional Arts Caucus Co-Chair Louise Slaughter (D-NY) narrowly wins re-election of her seat in the Rochester, NY area with only 582 votes. The Arts Action Fund PAC provided maximum financial support to her campaign to help make sure she returned to Congress.



Passage of Rhode Island's statewide ballot measure on Election Day will now more than double the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts' annual budget for grants to artists and nonprofit arts organizations.

## Arts Ballots Win Big on Election Day

For the 2014 elections, there was one notable state ballot measure regarding arts and culture. In Rhode Island, citizens voted overwhelmingly—by 60.5 percent of the vote—to approve **Question 5**, which will now provide a \$35 million Creative and Cultural Economy Bond to support the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts and several other cultural institutions. At the local level, the voters in six out of six counties in Utah impressively passed sales tax ballot initiatives by 60-plus percentage margins to fund arts and recreational programs and facilities. In the Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD) in Arizona, voters approved a Yes To Children ballot measure that would increase property tax to raise \$18.8 million per year to reduce

classroom sizes and restore arts and physical education classes back into elementary schools. In Palm Beach County, FL, voters approved renewing Palm Beach County School Board's expiring property tax in order to raise \$36 million in the first year alone and pay for more than 500 arts, music, and physical education programs and teachers in more than 120 schools. In Mecklenburg County, NC, residents unfortunately voted against a quarter cent sales tax increase to fund schools, public university, libraries, and the Arts and Science Council. Learn more from our webinar! <http://artsactionfund.org/news/entry/post-election-impact-on-the-arts-update>.

## Message from the President

When the 114th new Congress begins in early January 2015, approximately 20 percent of our nation's representatives will be new freshmen members, who need to hear from grassroots constituents about how federal support for the arts and arts education impacts their specific congressional districts.

There's still plenty of work to do outside Washington, DC, too. That's why we are so grateful to Blick Art Materials (owner of Blick and Utrecht

stores nationwide) for partnering with us during National Arts & Humanities Month in October. Blick recruited more than 11,500 new members nationwide to the Arts Action Fund movement. This has been the most successful campaign that we've ever done. We look forward to partnering with Blick and other retail art stores in the future.

As we close out 2014, I want to urge all Arts Action Fund members to contribute to our Year-End Appeal to raise \$30,000 by December 31. We will use these funds to help us implement our 2015 plans to play a very important role in securing arts policy position statements on the presidential campaign trail in key early primary states: New Hampshire, Iowa, South Carolina, and Florida. We'll be mobilizing our grassroots constituents



Americans for the Arts & Action Fund President and CEO Robert L. Lynch (L) had an opportunity to personally thank iconic artist and activist Shepard Fairey (creator of the Obama "Hope" image) for helping to raise funds for Americans for the Arts' educational programs at the National Arts Awards gala in October.

to weigh in on the most important legislative agendas impacting the arts and arts education in our nation's capitol and in state and local legislatures across the country. We need your support to build our political clout to reach a million Arts Action Fund members and to raise \$250,000 over the next two years to support as many pro-arts congressional candidates as possible.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RL Lynch".



Blick Art Materials store associates wore Advance the Arts t-shirts in October to promote Arts Action Fund membership.

Your Year-End contribution will also enable us to educate Congress on the facts about arts funding. That an investment in the arts is an investment in the growth of the American economy, an investment in our national culture and heritage. Please make a contribution online at <https://secure.artsactionfund.org/YENews> or by returning the enclosed envelope.

## Nationwide Initiative for Setting Arts Education Standards in Schools

To make nationwide changes, Americans for the Arts has banded together with other national arts education partners to form the National Coalition for Core Arts Standards (NCCAS). The goal of NCCAS is to lead the charge in introducing standards for arts education disciplines—dance, music, media arts, theater, and visual arts—across the country, which will guide curriculum and instruction to help prepare students for college, careers, and citizenship. On October 20, 2014 songwriter and activist Ben Folds joined with NCCAS members to host the public launch of the standards which kicked off Americans for the Arts' work on the adoption and adaptation of these standards in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The standards are intended to serve a broad constituency of individuals and organizations—students, teachers, administrators, parents, and the community at large—with a common platform to address improvements to arts education in their schools.

In achieving the mission of ensuring a quality arts education for all of America's students, Americans for the Arts will be working with local and state advocates in every single state to promote the adoption or adaptation of these new standards. As each state is different, each advocacy campaign will be different. To learn more about the standards, please visit [www.NationalArtsStandards.org](http://www.NationalArtsStandards.org) or send an e-mail to Arts Education Program Coordinator Jeff Poulin at [jpoulin@artsusa.org](mailto:jpoulin@artsusa.org).

# Shaping Federal Arts Policy

The Arts Action Fund monitors arts policy at the federal level and helps bring citizens' voices to the table when important arts issues are debated. For detailed legislative updates, please visit [www.AmericansForTheArts.org/news-room/legislative-news](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org/news-room/legislative-news).

## Federal Funding Caught Up (Again) in Election Dynamics

As the new fiscal year approached on October 1, Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government open and give Congress extra time to try to pass the FY 2015 appropriations bills to fund the federal government during a

lame duck session. Work now surrounds a "cromnibus" proposal, under which the National Endowment for the Arts would continue to see current funding levels of \$146 million, through the end of the current fiscal year ending on September 30, 2015. Congress is considering this proposal right up until the current CR

expires on of December 11, 2014 and the 113th Congress finishes its last business before the next Congress takes seat in January. Check [www.AmericansForTheArts.org/news-room/legislative-news](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org/news-room/legislative-news) for the latest funding decisions as the House and Senate negotiate final FY 2015 spending bills.

# Supporting Arts Advocacy in States and Cities

## State Appropriations Nationwide

State legislatures have determined their budgets for FY 2015, and arts funding continues to grow—especially in Florida, whose appropriation increased by more than 350 percent. Where does your state fall?

State	Final FY 2014 Legislative Approp	Final FY 2015 Legislative Approp*	Percent Change FY14 to FY15	State	Final FY 2014 Legislative Approp	Final FY 2015 Legislative Approp*	Percent Change FY14 to FY15
AL	3,784,496	3,984,496	5.3%	MT	540,944	538,391	-0.5%
AK	804,100	803,100	-0.1%	NE	1,454,000	1,510,157	3.9%
AZ	1,000,000	1,000,000	0.0%	NV	1,280,245	1,268,763	-0.9%
AR	2,091,164	3,895,165	86.3%	NH	369,522	393,761	6.6%
CA	5,925,000	8,955,000	51.1%	NJ	17,396,000	16,396,000	-5.7%
CO	2,000,000	2,000,000	0.0%	NM	1,441,100	1,490,000	3.4%
CT	5,842,681	6,622,905	13.4%	NY	39,974,000	39,974,000	0.0%
DE	3,420,800	3,406,100	-0.4%	NC	7,163,423	7,163,360	0.0%
DC	11,753,500	16,460,085	40.0%	ND	752,051	752,051	0.0%
FL	10,574,921	56,384,417	433.2%	OH	11,349,204	11,349,204	0.0%
GA	586,466	596,713	1.7%	OK	4,010,087	3,789,532	-5.5%
HI	\$5,590,966	5,916,292	5.8%	OR	2,155,508	2,341,101	8.6%
ID	\$690,500	702,000	1.7%	PA	9,065,000	9,476,000	4.5%
IL	\$10,142,495	10,109,300	-0.3%	RI	1,943,044	3,693,402	90.1%
IN	2,831,912	2,965,353	4.7%	SC	2,965,885	2,965,885	0.0%
IA	\$1,233,764	1,233,764	0.0%	SD	730,662	771,971	5.7%
KS	\$200,000	200,000	0.0%	TN	6,991,600	6,902,500	-1.3%
KY	\$2,797,700	3,017,300	7.8%	TX	5,582,228	5,672,288	1.6%
LA	\$2,315,823	3,060,667	32.2%	UT	4,610,600	3,087,900	-33.0%
ME	\$729,079	742,663	1.9%	VT	641,607	651,723	1.6%
MD	\$15,440,315	16,225,767	5.1%	VA	3,884,572	3,907,459	0.6%
MA	\$11,082,439	12,000,000	8.3%	WA	1,093,000	1,093,000	0.0%
MI	\$7,000,000	10,600,000	51.4%	WV	1,068,524	857,995	-19.7%
MN	\$34,189,000	34,189,000	0.0%	WI	779,800	780,000	0.0%
MS	\$1,786,629	2,814,659	57.5%	WY	1,169,450	1,231,786	5.3%
MO	7,467,736	4,800,000	-35.7%				

\*Legislative appropriations including line items



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## PAC Update



Arts Action Fund members Roger Brooks and Nicki Clarke met with Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (L) before a campaign rally at the University of New Hampshire to present her with a \$1,000 contribution to her campaign. Sen. Shaheen thanked Americans for the Arts Action Fund PAC for its support and said she would continue to work for federal arts funding through the National Endowment for the Arts, knowing that the federal funds strengthen the cultural life of towns and cities across New Hampshire.

In September, the Arts Action Fund released the 2014 Congressional Arts Report Card to inform arts advocates of the arts voting records of their members of Congress running for re-election. Check out the 2014 Congressional Arts Report Card and see if your congressional delegates received a “Thumbs Up” at [www.ArtsActionFund.org/pages/Congressional-Report-Card](http://www.ArtsActionFund.org/pages/Congressional-Report-Card). In the 2014 election cycle, the Arts Action Fund PAC was able to support the following candidates who won their election:

Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA)  
Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA)  
Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA)  
Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA)  
Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA)  
Rep. Juan Vargas (D-CA)  
Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL)  
Rep. Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)  
Rep. Bill Nelson (D-FL)  
Rep. John Lewis (D-GA)  
Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID)  
Rep. Aaron Schock (R-IL)  
Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL)  
Rep. Joe Kennedy (D-MA)

Seth Moulton (D-MA) for Congress  
Rep. Niki Tsongas (D-MA)  
Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD)  
Rep. Gary Peters for Senate (D-MI)  
Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN)  
Sen. Al Franken (DFL-MN)  
Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-MN)  
Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN)  
Rep. Tim Walz (DFL-MN)  
Rep. David Price (D-NC)  
Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)  
Rep. Leonard Lance (R-NJ)  
Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM)  
Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-NY)

Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY)  
Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY)  
Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY)  
Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY)  
Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY)  
Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY)  
Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)  
Rep. Michael Fitzpatrick (R-PA)  
Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA)  
Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI)  
Don Beyer (D-VA)  
Rep. Dave Reichert (R-WA)

Americans for the Arts Action Fund is the advocacy arm of Americans for the Arts. We engage citizens in ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to appreciate, value, and participate in the arts. Arts Action Fund members are citizen activists who are committed to helping make certain that arts-friendly public policies are adopted at every level of government and in the private sector. Arts Action News is delivered four times a year to supporters of the Arts Action Fund. Executive Director, Nina Ozlu Tunceli. [www.ArtsActionFund.org](http://www.ArtsActionFund.org).



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