



Hillary Clinton's Plan to Strengthen the Arts

Hillary Clinton has long been a champion of the arts. As First Lady and as Senator, she has worked to support the arts because she believes that the arts are vital to our national character and community. Human expression, as conveyed through the arts, enables us to understand better the complexities of life and the world around us. Most importantly, exposure to the arts and culture enriches the lives of our children – increasing their potential for academic success while also helping them understand more fully their heritage and their relationship to the world in which they live. As First Lady, Hillary served as the founding chair of the Save America's Treasures program, a public-private partnership to restore and maintain our cultural and historic landmarks. As Senator, Hillary championed the Museum and Library Services Act, passed legislation designating historic landmarks, and secured millions of dollars for arts programs and institutions. When she is President, Hillary will build on her past efforts and continue to create more opportunities to support the arts. She will:

Invest in Arts Education. Hillary has a long record of supporting arts education. She believes that arts education is an important element in helping all of our children realize their dreams and fulfill their potentials. Investments in arts education are also necessary if the United States is to remain competitive in the global economy. We will need a workforce that is creative, imaginative, and inspired so that our country can continue to lead the world. Hillary will:

- **Ensure that school curricula include arts education.** Hillary is committed to ending the unfunded mandate of No Child Left Behind. Because of the lack of resources and heavy emphasis on increasing math and reading scores, many schools have eliminated their art, music, and drama programs, among others. Hillary believes that every child should receive a well-rounded education that includes the arts. As President, she will provide incentives to schools to offer arts education programs.
- **Support arts education through the new Putting Arts in Reach initiative.** Hillary will launch a new program called Putting Arts in Reach to offset the cost of musical instruments, art supplies, drama equipment, and other things used in arts education for children from low-income communities. She believes that active participation in the arts not only helps students value life-long learning through the arts, but also ultimately enriches their lives while helping them succeed in school.
- **Double funding for arts education.** Hillary will work to double the number of students served through the Department of Education's Model Development and Dissemination Grants Program and bring this program to high-schools. This program supports the

integration into and strengthening of the arts in core elementary and middle-school curricula. These grants are awarded to school districts in partnership with nonprofit arts organizations.

- **Support arts education teachers.** Hillary will continue to support the Department of Education's Professional Development for Arts Educators program, which supports high-quality professional development programs in elementary and secondary schools for music, dance, drama, and visual arts teachers.

Support Our Independent Arts Institutions. Hillary takes great pride in our country's arts and cultural institutions, and as President, she will ensure that they receive the funding they deserve. Inadequate public support for the arts not only threatens to damage our cultural institutions but also weakens our sense of identity and the American values that our country holds dear. Through museums, libraries, schools, theatres, and concert halls, the arts can become more of an integral component in our everyday lives. As President, Hillary will support the:

- **National Endowment for the Arts.** Hillary has defended the National Endowment for the Arts for many years against Republican attacks. As President, she will increase funding for National Endowment for the Arts so that it will meet more of the needs in our nation's arts and cultural communities.
- **National Endowment for the Humanities.** Hillary believes that humanities programs are important to the learning and growth of all Americans. As President, she will continue to support the humanities in our schools and communities.
- **Institute of Museum and Library Services.** Hillary has long supported our nation's libraries and museums, and as President, she will ensure that they are adequately funded. Hillary was an original co-sponsor of the Museum and Library Services Act of 2003, which was enacted into law.

Provide Assistance to Artists. Hillary believes that our country's artists, who make valuable contributions to our society, have specific needs that deserve our support. As President, she will:

- **Guarantee Quality, Affordable Health Care and Retirement Plans to All Artists.** Hillary knows that many artists, who are self-employed or work part-time at another job to support their full-time career as artists, do not have access to employer-based coverage. They must either pay for health insurance on their own, which can be very expensive, or go without coverage altogether. Hillary's plan will allow everyone to access the same plans available to Members of Congress or opt into a public plan option like Medicare. And she will provide people with a generous refundable tax credit designed to prevent premiums from exceeding a certain percentage of their income. Hillary will also create a 401(k) option with a generous federal match for the self-employed and others who cannot access a retirement plan through their employers.
- **Ensure Equity in Our Tax Code for Artists.** Under current law, artists who donate their works are only able to deduct the cost of supplies. This law is not fair to artists, whose

works are far more valuable than the sum of the cost of supplies, and hurts museums and libraries because artists are less inclined to donate. Hillary has co-sponsored the Artist-Museum Partnership Act, which ensures that artists can take a tax deduction equal to the fair market value of the works they donate. As President, Hillary will continue to support this legislation and work to make it law.

- **Use the Arts to Spur Economic Development.** As President, Hillary will support programs that create live/work spaces for artists that will not only serve the needs of local artists but also have a positive economic impact. In 2004, Hillary worked with the Mayor of Buffalo and Artspace Projects to help create a live/work space in the city for artists. In addition, Hillary will continue to support initiatives designed to help artists promote and sell their work. In 2004, she helped create the Finger Lakes Trading Cooperative, which provided businesses and artists in upstate New York with access to a variety of different critical tools – including training from eBay – to establish online businesses. Two years later, she helped expand the program to other areas in upstate New York.
- **Promote Cultural Diplomacy.** Hillary believes that cultural exchange programs not only benefit American and foreign artists but also our country and our relationships with other countries. They are an important way to build bridges among people of different countries, backgrounds, and faiths. Hillary will work to promote cultural diplomacy in the following ways: she will support public-private programs that send American artists overseas; she will simplify and streamline the visa process for foreign artists who want to enter the United States; and she will work to create a better dialogue with artists so that their contributions are not marginalized, but recognized.

Hillary’s record and accomplishments in supporting the arts also include:

- In 2006, Hillary created a new partnership between the Arts Center of Old Forge and Carnegie Hall, through Carnegie Hall’s National Music Education program.
- In 2004, Hillary helped designate the Kate Mullany House a National Historic Site. Mullany is one of America’s first women labor organizers.
- In 2004, Hillary sponsored legislation to establish a program in honor of the 225th anniversary of the American Revolution.
- In 2003, Hillary co-sponsored legislation to establish the “Votes for Women” History Trail to recognize New York State’s place in the development of the women’s rights movement. New York is home to some of the most significant locations of the women’s suffrage movement. Also in 2003, she secured funding for the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers.
- In 1999, Hillary received a National Arts Award from the Americans for the Arts for her work as First Lady.
- As First Lady, Hillary brought to the White House “Millennium Evenings,” a series of lectures and cultural showcases that she hosted with President Clinton.