

Candidate: Ben Cardin
Party: Democrat
State: MD
District: Senate



1. Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

		Visual Arts					
Additional Comments (optional):							

2. Background: The budget of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) was cut in half during the 1990s. With its current funding of \$124 million, the NEA spends just 41 cents per American – about the cost of a pack of gum.
Question: Do you support a significant funding increase for the National Endowment for the Arts, so that arts organizations in your district can present more high quality arts programs for all of its citizens?

Additional Comments (optional):							
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3. Background: Prior to the budget cuts of the 1990s, the NEA funded local arts agencies to make re-grants in their communities, ensuring strong local input and control over artistic programming, especially in rural and underserved areas. After the cuts, however, the re-granting program ended because of insufficient funds.
Question: Do you support dedicated funding for an NEA re-granting program for local arts agencies?

Additional Comments (optional):							
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4. Background: The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) defines the arts as a core academic subject, allowing school districts to use federal funding for arts instruction as well as for arts teachers' professional development. NCLB also authorizes an arts education grants program, currently funded at only \$35 million annually, that supports model programs and research to further school improvement through the arts.
Question: Do you support increased funding for the U.S. Department of Education's arts education grants program?

Additional Comments (optional):							
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5. Background: The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which has been level-funded at about \$400 million for several years, is a major provider of arts programming on public television and radio.
Question: Do you support increased funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting?

Additional Comments (optional):							
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6. Background: Currently, art collectors can claim a fair market value tax deduction for works that they donate to cultural organizations, but artists can claim only the cost of materials when they donate work that they have created, regardless of its value.
Question: Do you support bipartisan legislation to correct this inequity and to ensure that museums, libraries, and other cultural organizations receive donations?

Additional Comments (optional):							
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For more detailed information on these arts policy issues, please visit:
www.ArtsActionFund.org/sc/LegislativePriorities

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Please return survey responses by October 4, 2006 to 202.371.0424 (fax), or e-mail nrome@artsusa.org.

Questions? Please contact Narric Rome at nrome@artsusa.org or 202.371.2830.