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View the transcript or video of the
32nd Annual Nancy Hanks Lecture
by actress Rita Moreno at
AmericansForTheArts.org/Hanks



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Americans for the Arts Action Fund
Volume II, 2019

ArtsActionFund.org

Arts Action News

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Arts Advocates Lobby Capitol Hill for Pro-Arts Policies



Arts advocates from Michigan and Ohio take a break from meeting with members of their Congressional delegations to gather in front of the Capitol Building.

On March 4-5, 2019, Americans for the Arts hosted its **32nd annual National Arts Action Summit** in Washington, DC. More than **500 participants from all 50 states** first attended a full day of advocacy and policy trainings to learn the latest research and legislative arts priorities. The following day, **Arts Advocacy Day (AAD)** began with the Congressional Arts Kick Off, at which Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) and Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI) announced their reintroduction of the **CREATE Act (S. 650 and H.R. 1519)** in the US Senate and US House of Representatives. Other speakers at the Kick Off included Reps. Betty McCollum (D-MN) and Chellie Pingree (D-ME), National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman John Peede, and National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Acting Chairman Mary Anne Carter. Advocates then took their passion, knowledge, and stories to Capitol Hill for more than 300 meetings with congressional leaders and their staff.



Left: Actress Rita Moreno urges Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) to increase NEA funding while Rita's daughter—Fernanda Luisa Gordon—looks on. Right: Americans for the Arts President and CEO Bob Lynch, Rita Moreno, Americans for the Arts Board Chair Julie Muraco, Brian Stokes Mitchell, and Ben Folds present House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD)—second from the left—with the Americans for the Arts and U.S. Conference of Mayors 2019 Congressional Arts Leadership Award.

Artists Advocate for the Arts



House Interior Subcommittee Members meet with AAD artists to discuss NEA funding. From left to right: Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA), Rep. Jose Serrano (D-NY), Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME). Americans for the Arts President & CEO Bob Lynch, Rita Moreno, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Subcommittee Chair Betty McCollum (D-MN), Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID), Subcommittee Ranking Member David Joyce (R-OH), and Ben Folds.

Arts Advocacy Day artist advocates **Rita Moreno, Brian Stokes Mitchell, and Ben Folds** stormed Capitol Hill to advocate for increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, the passage of a universal charitable tax deduction, and the passage of legislation to improve the creative economy.

Brian Stokes Mitchell and Ben Folds teamed up to talk to **Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)**—one of the Senate Cultural Caucus co-chairs—about the need for a universal charitable deduction and how vital the creative arts are to the US economy. Rita Moreno met with **Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY)** to discuss the need for increased NEA funding. Fittingly, Senator Schumer and Moreno began the meeting by singing Broadway showtunes before getting down to business.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) received the Americans for the Arts and U.S. Conference of Mayors 2019 Congressional Arts Leadership Award. Afterwards, the artists and Bob Lynch recorded a national podcast about advocating for the arts on Capitol Hill, followed by a meeting with members of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. Listen to the podcast at bit.ly/2TUsj7T.

Message from President & CEO Robert L. Lynch



Arts Action Fund President and CEO Bob Lynch and Master Gunnery Sergeant Chris Stowe testified together before the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee in support of an NEA funding increase.

In February, I was invited to testify before the U.S. House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee along with USMC Ret. Master Gunnery Sergeant Chris Stowe. We urged the subcommittee to increase funding for the National Endowment for the Arts to no less than \$167.5 million for FY 2020 and focused our testimony on the NEA's Creative Forces program, which is managed by Americans for the Arts at 11 military hospitals and centers across the country. This was the first public witness hearing for the arts in four years. I am so pleased to share that the House Appropriations Committee has now, in fact, included \$167.5 million each for the NEA and NEH. Read our written testimonies at bit.ly/2VRgDna.

*A second piece of advocacy that we have been working on is tax incentives for charitable giving. The Arts Action Fund formally joined a statement submitted by the Charitable Giving Coalition that seeks to emphasize the importance and need to protect the incentives for individual philanthropic contributions to the nonprofit sector. New studies suggest that the pace of charitable giving is already beginning to slow down. When Congress considers legislation to correct problems created in the Tax Reform Act of 2017, we are asking them to support enactment of a "universal charitable deduction." This would allow **ALL taxpayers**—instead of only itemizers—to receive a tax benefit for their charitable donations. Read the statement at bit.ly/2WhHvMF.*



Arts Advocacy Day artists Rita Moreno, Brian Stokes Mitchell and Ben Folds with Arts Action Fund President and CEO Bob Lynch, advocate for the arts on Capitol Hill with ads placed in major political newspapers.

Rita Moreno Delivers the 2019 Nancy Hanks Lecture on the Arts



U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonya Sotomayor and trail-blazing actress Rita Moreno share laughs on stage at Americans for the Arts 32nd Annual Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy at the Kennedy Center on the eve of Arts Advocacy Day.

"Tonight in this sanctuary of the arts we celebrate, tomorrow we charge the Hill. That's it. And we say, open the vaults of opportunity for all people and cash some checks for the arts," declared Rita Moreno, legendary Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony-winner and keynote speaker of the 32nd Annual Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy. She was introduced by her long-time friend and Supreme Court Justice Sonya Sotomayor.

Throughout her speech, Moreno connected her challenging experience as a young woman in Hollywood to her dedication to arts advocacy and inclusivity. **"It was my character, Anita, from *West Side Story* who taught me that I could actually be a person of strength, I could choose what was best for me, I could chart the course of my career."** She continued, **"Art confronts us with our humanity and introduces us to our better angels. Art invites us out of our enclaves to talk across division, to tear down walls. It teaches us the discipline of listening."**

Americans for the Arts presented its 32nd Annual Nancy Hanks Lecture on March 5, 2019 in the Concert Hall of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Other speakers included Tony-winner Brian "Stokes" Mitchell and Americans for the Arts and Arts Action Fund President and CEO Bob Lynch. To view Rita Moreno's lecture from the event, please visit AmericansForTheArts.org/Hanks.

Research Update on Arts and the GDP

We all know that the arts and culture are central to our economy, but new data from the federal government continues to prove it! According to the **Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)**, the arts and culture in America is **4.3%** of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or **\$804 billion**. This is up from last year's 4.2% or \$730 billion. For comparison, the arts and culture are larger than the construction industry, 4.1%; transportation and warehousing, 3.0%; travel and tourism, 2.6%; and agriculture, 1.0%. The arts and culture's segment of the nation's GDP has grown every year since 2009 when it was \$619 billion. The BEA recently started to track this data by state.

Check out your state GDP data on the chart to the right.

State	% of GDP	Economic Impact
Alabama	2.3	\$4,642,482
Alaska	2.7	\$1,355,056
Arizona	3.0	\$9,345,562
Arkansas	2.4	\$2,911,066
California	7.0	\$185,517,332
Colorado	4.4	\$14,537,731
Connecticut	3.5	\$9,177,526
Delaware	1.5	\$1,024,622
District of Columbia	8.5	\$10,997,622
Florida	3.7	\$35,048,379
Georgia	4.1	\$22,074,744
Hawaii	3.0	\$2,577,117
Idaho	2.8	\$1,941,777
Illinois	3.4	\$27,207,358
Indiana	2.2	\$4,009,391
Iowa	2.2	\$4,009,391
Kansas	2.7	\$4,234,212
Kentucky	2.5	\$4,949,843
Louisiana	2.9	\$6,687,423
Maine	2.6	\$1,520,018
Maryland	2.9	\$11,135,376
Massachusetts	4.3	\$22,215,123
Michigan	2.8	\$13,957,755
Minnesota	3.6	\$12,064,301
Mississippi	2.3	\$2,458,358
Missouri	3.3	\$9,900,085
Montana	3.3	\$1,517,890
Nebraska	2.3	\$2,732,028
Nevada	4.7	\$7,019,075
New Hampshire	3.2	\$2,499,230
New Jersey	3.7	\$21,545,037
New Mexico	3.2	\$2,908,101
New York	7.8	\$119,856,783
North Carolina	2.8	\$14,352,333
North Dakota	2.8	\$1,437,434
Ohio	2.9	\$18,286,989
Oklahoma	2.4	\$4,279,645
Oregon	3.6	\$7,848,160
Pennsylvania	3.3	\$24,040,778
Rhode Island	3.3	\$1,931,469
South Carolina	2.5	\$5,272,673
South Dakota	2.5	\$1,188,663
Tennessee	4.2	\$14,181,700
Texas	2.9	\$45,113,980
Utah	4.4	\$6,912,867
Vermont	3.2	\$995,563
Virginia	3.4	\$16,998,120
Washington	8.3	\$41,078,534
West Virginia	2.3	\$1,604,415
Wisconsin	3.1	\$9,749,065
Wyoming	3.0	\$1,070,697

PAC Update



Arts Action Fund Executive Director Nina Ozlu Tunceli, Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (D-ME), and Maine Arts Commission's Julie Richard and Charles Stanhope proudly hold the Sunday edition of the Portland Press Herald, where the Congresswoman is featured in an Americans for the Arts ad.

In the first half of 2019, the Arts Action Fund Political Action Committee (PAC) financially supported the following pro-arts candidates:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) | Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN) |
| Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA) | Rep. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) |
| Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI) | Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID) |
| Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL) | Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) |
| Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) | Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME) |

At the National Arts Action Summit on March 5th, the Arts Action Fund PAC presented the new Co-Chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus Congresswoman Pingree with a PAC check at our Arts Advocacy Day reception and fundraiser. Earlier on February 24th, Arts Action Fund's Nina Ozlu Tunceli joined Congresswoman Pingree in Portland, Maine for the inaugural ArtsEngageME conference. Congresswoman Pingree's advocacy for increased federal funding for arts and culture helps secure millions of dollars for nonprofit organizations to better serve their communities in Maine and across the country. Read more at bit.ly/2L1VPTs.

Source: bea.gov/data/special-topics/arts-and-culture



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. ArtsActionFund.org.