



Americans for the Arts
ACTION Fund

Arts Action News

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

ArtsActionFund.org

ArtsVote 2020 Podcast Series with Ben Folds



Presidential Candidate Mayor Pete Buttigieg sits down with ArtsVote 2020 Chair Ben Folds and Senator Mark Begich for the ArtsVote 2020 Podcast to discuss his background and his vision for the arts.

The Arts Action Fund launched the new podcast series “**ArtsVote 2020 with BenFolds**” in order to generate a national discussion with 2020 presidential candidates and political leaders about the arts, arts education, and tax policies to advance nonprofit charities in America. The Arts Action Fund has specifically invited every Presidential Candidate to have a one-on-one, 30-minute conversation with **Ben Folds** about their personal background and views in the arts and arts education. Candidates are encouraged to share their previous policy efforts to transform communities and states through the arts, and their vision for advancing support for the arts and the charitable sector in the future.



Ben conducts the podcast series in person or by phone with candidates and other political leaders as they travel across the country on the campaign trail. These podcasts are conversations about public policy and the arts and are not endorsements for a candidate. All podcasts are

posted online at ArtsActionFund.org/podcast, along with additional resources like our 2020 arts policy platforms and candidate questionnaire. Subscribe to the podcast on the Anchor app or your favorite podcast app.

Iowa and New Hampshire ArtsVote 2020 Forums



Presidential candidate Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA) discusses his background on the arts and arts education with Ben Folds and Arts Action Fund President and CEO Robert L. Lynch at the Iowa Arts Forum.

On August 14-15, 2019, the Arts Action Fund partnered with the Iowa Cultural Coalition, the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education, Hoyt Sherman Place, and the Iowa Arts Council to present the ArtsVote 2020 Iowa Arts Forums in Des Moines and Clarina, Iowa. Advocates learned what steps they can take to ensure the arts are on the agendas of candidates and the media as campaigns set their sights on Iowa as the first-in-the-nation caucus. Iowa arts advocates were given tips to elevate the creative economy by advancing arts policy at the local, state and national levels. ArtsVote 2020 Chair and renowned musician **Ben Folds** led a series of live interviews with Presidential candidate **Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA)** and surrogates for **Governor Steve Bullock (D-MT)** and **Rep. Beto O'Rourke (D-TX)**. Interviews were streamed live on Facebook and were recorded for our podcast series at ArtsActionFund.org/podcast.

We've done similar ArtsVote 2020 events in New Hampshire by partnering with the New Hampshire Citizens for the Arts to train more New Hampshire primary voters to be highly effective in engaging Presidential candidates, and to ensure that the next President understands the value of investing in the arts. These arts advocates, like you, will help serve as our eyes, ears, and voices on the ground in early primary and caucus states.

Listen to the ArtsVote podcasts and Iowa interviews at
ArtsActionFund.org/podcast

Message from President & CEO Robert L. Lynch



Arts Action Fund President and CEO Robert L. Lynch speaks at the Iowa Arts Forum on August 15, 2019. Bob showcases the full-page ad we placed in three major Iowa newspapers about the impact of the arts on the state for presidential candidates and voters to read.

Dear Arts Action Fund Member,

Every four years, extraordinary national media and political attention is placed on the top two presidential early primary/caucus states in the country: New Hampshire and Iowa. Both the media and presidential candidates seek to learn more about the policy issues that the residents in these states care about most in order to win their vote. As a result, an opportunity is created for advocates living in these two influential states to have meaningful discussions with presidential candidates about the arts, the needs for the future, and the economic opportunities for growth in the arts on behalf of the entire nation.

ArtsVote 2020 is a national campaign dedicated to ensuring that the arts impact national elections by encouraging candidates to take strong positions on the arts and arts education. Our goal is to create opportunities to empower members and advocates like you, especially in early primary states, such as Iowa and New Hampshire, to stand up for the arts on behalf of the entire nation. We need more arts advocates to ask presidential candidates about their positions on the arts.

We have also begun working with our local arts partners in Milwaukee and Charlotte for the 2020 Democratic and Republican National Conventions for our ArtsVote panels, where we engage delegates, artists, CEOs, and elected officials on arts and arts education policies.

Bob

Americans for the Arts
federal legislative priorities
for the 2019-2020 Congress
can be viewed at

ArtsActionFund.org/LegPriorities



Arts Action Fund Launches New Website



The Arts Action Fund launched its newly-designed website with easier navigation and mobile-friendly features. You will find the latest legislative news and top stories, action alerts, and our ArtsVote advocacy timeline, as well as helpful publications such as our quarterly newsletters, Congressional Arts Report Cards, Why the Arts Matter Factsheets for every state, and the ArtsVote

2020 Podcast Series with Ben Folds. Be sure to check out all of our advocacy tools at ArtsActionFund.org. If you have any questions about the website, please email ArtsActionFund@artsusa.org.

PAC Update



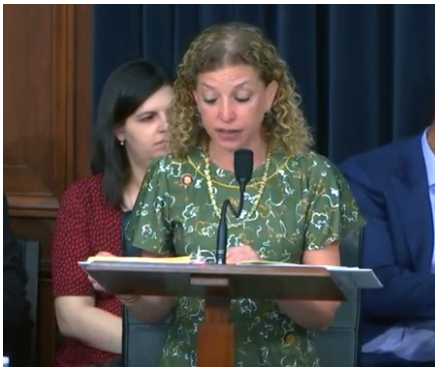
House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN) was the featured speaker at the Arts Action Fund PAC fundraiser in Minneapolis in June. Minnesota Citizens for the Arts Executive Director Sheila Smith (left) and Arts Action Fund Executive Director Nina Ozlu Tunceli (right) present the Congresswoman with a full-page ad in the Saint Paul Pioneer Press to thank her for her leadership in increasing funding for the arts across every federal cultural agency in the U.S.

Arts Advocates Meet in Minneapolis

On June 14, 2019, dozens of Arts Action Fund members gathered in Minneapolis for a fundraiser to support the Arts Action Fund PAC. At the event, we honored Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN) with a \$5,000 PAC check (maximum possible) for her support of increased federal funding for the cultural agencies.

With the 2020 election coming up, we are vetting many candidates, as well as supporting the re-election bids for proven incumbent arts leaders looking to return to Congress. The Arts Action Fund PAC will distribute \$60,000 by the end of 2019 and, with your help, double that in 2020.

Federal Update



Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Chair of the Military Construction and Veteran Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee, includes \$5 million in new funds for creative arts therapy programs for veterans, for the first time ever in a military budget.

its appropriations process. Unfortunately, the Senate Subcommittee on Interior made an initial allocation of only \$157 million each to the NEA and NEH (\$10.5 million less than the House-approved level.) As the bill moves through the full Senate, **Arts Action Fund members can weigh in on this issue by contacting their Senators through our online Arts Action Center.** It's a quick and easy way to email your Senators with a customizable, pre-written message urging them to match the House allocated funding levels. Please visit bit.ly/SenateNEA.

View the full funding status chart at ArtsActionFund.org/CurrentFunding.

Key Federally Funded Arts Program/Agency (in \$ millions)	Final FY 2019 Funding	President Trump's FY 2020 Budget Proposal	U.S. House Approps Subcommittees Proposal	House Floor	U.S. Senate Approps Subcommittees Proposal	Senate Floor	Final FY 2020 Funding
National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)	\$155	Termination	\$167.5	\$167.5	\$157	TBD	TBD
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)	\$155	Termination	\$167.5	\$167.5	\$157	TBD	TBD
Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)	\$242	Termination	\$267	\$267	\$244	TBD	TBD
Creative Arts Therapies in Veterans Healthcare Networks	N/A	N/A	\$5	\$5	TBD	TBD	TBD
Corporation for Public Broadcasting	\$445	Termination	\$495	\$495	\$445*	TBD	TBD
Assistance for Arts Education	\$29	\$0	\$35	\$35	\$29*	TBD	TBD
Student Support & Academic Enrich Grants	\$1,170	\$0	\$1,320	\$1,320	\$1,220*	TBD	TBD
Smithsonian Institution	\$1,043	\$978	\$1,070	\$1,070	\$1,040*	TBD	TBD
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts	\$41.30	\$40	\$43.5	\$43.5	TBD	TBD	TBD
National Gallery of Art	\$158.4	\$154	\$181.6	\$181.6	TBD	TBD	TBD
U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum	\$69	\$67	\$61	\$61	TBD	TBD	TBD
Save America's Treasures	\$13	\$0	\$16	\$16	TBD	TBD	TBD
Commission of Fine Arts	\$2.8	\$3.00	\$3.28	\$3.28	TBD	TBD	TBD
National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs	\$2.75	\$0	\$5	\$5	TBD	TBD	TBD

*Funding has not yet passed Subcommittee

Latest Updates: AmericansForTheArts.org/Legislative-News

State and Local Update

Alaska State Council on the Arts Funding Restored!

The Alaska state legislature, during its second special session, restored funding for the Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) with the governor announcing he would not veto its funding on August 19, 2019. The Alaska State Council on the Arts had officially closed its doors on July 15, 2019 after its state funding was previously vetoed by Governor Mike Dunleavy.

In his official statement, ASCA Chairman Ben Brown said, "The voices of thousands of Alaskans, and the firm and patient position taken by our funding partners, have all helped produce this wonderful result. I am especially grateful to the members of the Alaska Legislature and other elected officials and community leaders whose unwavering dedication and conviction were integral in conveying ASCA's value to the Executive Branch."

Texas Governor Approves New Funding for Arts and Military Program

Spearheaded by Texans for the Arts, Governor Greg Abbott signed the 2020-2021 state budget on June 15, 2019, adding \$250,000 in new public funding for the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA)'s Arts Healing Grants for Active Service Members and Veterans. Also included in TCA's budget is restored funding for the Cultural Districts Project Grants, as well as a \$5 million grant to the Flower Mound Cultural Arts Commission to construct a community cultural and performing arts center.

California Arts Advocacy Impact

Arts advocates' hard work has paid off: Governor Gavin Newsom approved the FY 2019-2020 state budget on June 27, 2019, which included a \$10 million permanent increased funding allocation for the California Arts Council. This funding increase will allow the state arts council to award more arts grants to nonprofit arts organizations throughout the state.



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**Don't forget
to register to
VOTE!**

[USA.gov/register-to-vote](https://www.usa.gov/register-to-vote)



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