While the Red Wave never came about, Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives still did well enough to win control of the House by a slim margin of 221 to 213. However, Republicans in the U.S. Senate actually lost one seat with Pennsylvania flipping to blue, thereby now providing Democrats outright control of the Senate 51 to 49. Despite Arizona Senator Kyrsten Sinema switching from Democrat to Independent in December, she will still accept her committee assignments from Democrats and will not caucus with either Democrats or Republicans.

What does this mean for the arts in 2023? Because it is less likely the House will recommend large funding increases for the federal cultural agencies, we will need to rely on the Senate and the White House to advance these and other pro-arts policies forward. Now that the Democrats have majority control in the Senate, President Biden’s nominations for political appointments will be able to move more quickly out of committee and to a floor vote. These political appointments can range from members of the National Council on the Arts and the Institute of Museum & Library Services to judicial court appointments.

The new 118th Congress will convene and be sworn in on January 3, 2023. Congressional leadership will spend the month of January finalizing committee assignments. Additionally, Congressional Arts and Senate Cultural Caucuses will be looking to recruit members for the new 118th Congress and arts advocates can play a role in reaching out to new members next year to join.

On September 30, 2022, President Biden signed a long awaited Executive Order to reestablish The President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and to expand its mission to include museums and libraries.

As you may recall, former President Donald Trump had allowed this presidential advisory committee’s authority to expire during his administration. This new Executive Order lays out a robust national strategy for integrating the arts and humanities as part of the solution to some of the most urgent challenges facing our country.

The Executive Order stated in part: “Under my Administration, the arts, the humanities, and museum and library services will be integrated into strategies, policies, and programs that advance the economic development, well-being, and resilience of all communities, especially those that have historically been underserved. The arts, the humanities, and museum and library services will be promoted and expanded to strengthen public, physical, and mental health; wellness; and healing, including within military and veteran communities. We will enhance access to high-quality arts and humanities education and programming with the aim of enabling every child in America to obtain the broad creative skills and enrichment vital to succeed... Finally, my Administration will... advance the cause of equity and accessibility by lifting up more — and more diverse — voices and experiences through Federal support for the arts, the humanities, and museum and library services.”
Message from Executive Director Nina Ozlu Tunceli

Dear Arts Action Fund Member,

Happy holidays and warm wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year! As I reflect on 2022, we had so much success on our legislative agenda, success in our vital technical assistance to help artists and arts groups with pandemic relief assistance, and success in our political work to educate voters and help elect pro-arts candidates into office.

Thanks to members, like you, who contributed to our Arts Action Fund PAC, we were able to write checks totaling $76,000 to 45 federal pro-arts candidates in this 2021-2022 election cycle. We supported federal candidates in both the House and Senate, Democratic and Republican pro-arts leaders, as well as incumbent and open seat candidates. We had an impressive 96% win rate. These pro-arts leaders will now help shape arts policy in the next Congress!

ArtsActionFund.org/PAC-Giving-Success

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Final Omnibus Funding Bill Includes Major Increases for the Arts

In the final days of the current Congress, federal legislators have finally reached a deal on a bipartisan Omnibus appropriations bill to fund federal government agencies and programs through September 2023, as well as allocate funds for congressionally-approved and popular earmark projects. We are very pleased that both the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities were successfully allocated an all time high of $207 million each for FY 2023. This represents a $27 million increase from current year and, more importantly, includes report language recommending more equitable grant-making efforts to take place.

Additionally, more than 68 cultural organizations across the country succeeded in securing over $66 million in congressionally approved earmark funding in the FY 2023 Omnibus bill.

The following arts-related bills will likely be re-introduced in the next Congress in early 2023:

- Comprehensive Resources for Entrepreneurs in the Arts to Transform the Economy Act (CREATE Act)
- Promoting Local Arts and Creative Economy Workforce Act (PLACE Act)
- The 21st Century Federal Writers Project Act (21CFWP)
- Creative Economy Revitalization Act (CERA)
- Saving Transit Arts Resources Act (STAR Act)
- Arts Education for All Act (AEFA)
- Capital, Repairs, and Employment for Art Talent to Improve Visibility Everywhere (CREATIVE Act)
- Advancing Equity Through the Arts and Humanities Act
- Performing Arts Tax Parity Act (PAPTA)
- Universal Charitable Tax Deduction

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**ArtsVote 2022 Advocacy Timeline**

See the full timeline at www.ArtsActionFund.org/Timeline

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1. Achieved federal legislation that advances the creative economy, broader arts education policies, and increased giving.
2. Skewered the White House in its initial or revised FY2023 budget proposal, as well as the House Appropriations Committee’s FY2023 appropriations bill to describe an appropriate and equitable funding picture.
3. Developed a path to double funding for the NEA and NEH by bringing together each House party’s funding, resulting in an estimated $102 million increase per agency.
4. Secured resources that fund arts and cultural organizations, local governments, and state arts agencies through the FY2023 Omnibus bill.

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**GRASSROOTS ACTION**

Arts Action Fund members cast their vote on our 2022 Arts Policy platform positions. Based on the overwhelming support from membership, the board of directors adopted the policies as its legislative agenda for the year. See full article at ArtsActionFund.org/2022ArtsPolicyVote

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**LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

Americans for the Arts President and CEO Nolen Bivens submitted testimony to the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, requesting a path of $1 per capita funding for both the NEA and NEH. You can read the full testimony at ArtsActionFund.org/FY23Testimony

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**EDUCATIONAL ACTION**

The Arts Action Fund’s annual Why the Arts Matter State Factsheets were updated in collaboration with state arts agencies and state arts advocacy organizations. The factsheets are helpful tools for both advocates and political leaders to understand how the arts strengthens each state’s economy. Find your state factsheet and download at ArtsActionFund.org/StateFactsheets

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**GRASSROOTS ACTION**

The Arts Action Fund launched its ArtsVote 2022 voting campaign by releasing new State Voter Factsheets for all 50 states and 6 territories with detailed voting rules and deadline information. These factsheets simplified voting into 4 easy steps so that voters could make their vote count. Customized social media toolkits for each state also allowed voters to advocate on their own social media platforms. ArtsActionFund.org/ArtsVote

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**Mar. 10**

**EDUCATIONAL ACTION**

Nina Ozlu Tunceli, Executive Director, addressed at the Americans for the Arts 2022 Action Summit. The inspiring speech described her vision and determination to advance the arts during her term as Chair. You can read her full speech at ArtsActionFund.org/ChairJacksonNAAS

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**Mar. 26**

**EDUCATIONAL ACTION**

Newly appointed Chair of the National Endowment for the Arts Dr. Maria Rosario Jackson made one of her first public addresses at the Americans for the Arts virtual National Arts Action Summit. The inspiring speech described her vision and determination to advance the arts during her term as Chair. You can read her full speech at ArtsActionFund.org/ChairJacksonNAAS

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**Mar. 28**

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Chellie Pingree (D-ME) set a high-water mark by allocating $207 million each to the NEA and NEH (a $28 million increase over current year.) Senate Democrats later released their appropriations plan allocating only $195 million for each agency. Final funding level will be set in the FY23 Omnibus bill by December 23, 2022. bit.ly/FY23FundingAction
Voters Pass California Prop 28 Arts Ed Funds

November 8, 2022: 6.9 million California voters—an impressive 64.4%—adopted ballot Proposition 28 to provide $1 billion in funding for arts and music education. The proposition will:

- Require an annual source of funding for K-12 public schools for arts and music education
- Distribute a portion of the additional funding based on a local education agency's share of economically disadvantaged students
- Require schools with 500 or more students to use 80% of the funding for employing teachers and 20% to training & materials.

Prop 28 will allocate up to $1 billion to arts and music education and provide numerous, valuable arts education jobs by ensuring that 80% of funding is focused on employment.

bit.ly/Prop28Info.

10 Reasons to Support the Arts

Every year Americans for the Arts publishes the “Top 10 Reasons to Support the Arts.” Keep this list handy when you advocate, and you will always be ready to deliver a powerful arts message.

1. Unity. 72% of Americans believe “the arts unify our communities regardless of age, race, and ethnicity.”
2. Well-being. 81% of the population says the arts are a “positive experience in a troubled world.”
3. Economy. The arts are an $876.7 billion industry that supports 4.6 million jobs (2020)—4.2% of the U.S. economy.
4. Tourism. Arts attendees spend $31.47 per person, per event, beyond the cost of admission on items such as meals, parking, and lodging.
5. Education. Students engaged in arts learning have higher GPAs, standardized test scores, and college-going rates as well as lower dropout rates—benefiting students across all socio-economic strata.
6. Innovation. Creativity is among the top five applied skills sought by business leaders—72% say it is of “high importance” when hiring.
7. Social impact. Arts in a city leads to higher civic engagement, more social cohesion, better child welfare, and lower poverty rates.
8. Healthcare. When the arts are part of healthcare, patients heal faster, take less medicine, and have less depression.
9. Military. The arts heal the mental, physical, and moral injuries of war for military service members, veterans, and their families.
10. Mental Health. The arts reduce depression and anxiety and increase life satisfaction.

Visit 10 Reasons to Support the Arts in 2022 to download this 1-pager and social media toolkit for more details. bit.ly/10Reasons2022

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POLITICAL ACTION
The Arts Action Fund released its detailed 2022 Congressional Arts Report Card in preparation for the midterm elections. The Report Card is a one-stop guide to help arts voters make informed decisions at the ballot box. They used metrics and analysis based on arts congressional voting records, sponsorship of key arts legislation, and participation in the arts and cultural caucuses.

EDUCATIONAL ACTION
Pulitzer Prize-winning author and President of PEN America Ayad Akhtar delivered the Americans for the Arts 34th Annual Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy. The lecture also featured remarks by Rockefeller Brothers Fund President & CEO Stephen Heintz and performances by artists Rez Abbasi and Kira Ahlawia. You can watch the full lecture video at bit.ly/HanksVid2022.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION
The White House released an official White House proclamation declaring the month of October as National Arts and Humanities Month. Responding to our call to action, the President also issued an Executive Order reestablishing the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and expanding it to also include museums and libraries. Read more at bit.ly/ArtsCommitteeExecutiveOrder.

POLITICAL ACTION
Midterm Elections turned out larger than expected voting with many voters completing mail-in ballots, taking advantage of early voting, and showing up for day-of voting. Of note in California, 64.4% of voters adopted Prop 28 to fund up to $1 billion for arts education in public schools throughout the state.

The Arts Action Fund is humbled that ArtsVote could play a part in this successful national voter turnout campaign! bit.ly/Prop28Info

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LEGISLATIVE ACTION
The bipartisan, bicameral FY 2023 Omnibus bill includes a $27 million increase to the NEA and NEH, bringing them to their highest-ever funding level of $207 million each. Special thanks to our State Captain, the Oregon Cultural Coalition for its timely constituent sign-on letter to Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR), urging him to match Rep. Chellie Pingree’s (D-ME) House Interior Subcommittee proposed funding level in his Senate Interior bill.

ArtsActionFund.org/FY23IncreasesOmnibus
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Contribute to Year-End Campaign

Click here to make your Year-End contribution to the Arts Action Fund.