October Legislative Fly-In Happens at Key Moment

Americans for the Arts and the Arts Action Fund hosted its third Legislative Fly-In of 2023 on October 16-17 in Washington, DC. A strategic group of 14 grassroots arts leaders were invited from California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Maine, Michigan, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Washington, and Wisconsin. We wanted to ensure the right arts constituent (the messenger) could deliver the right arts message to the right elected officials at the exact right time.

On training day, our staff worked one-on-one with the Fly-In advocates to prepare them for their 38 Capitol Hill meetings. Advocates took a deeper dive into some of the legislative issues to discuss with their Members of Congress as the House and Senate near conference negotiations. These included:

- Prevent cuts in funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities in House version of the FY’24 Interior Appropriations Subcommittee.
- Request the Senate to match the House funding increases for community arts engagement funding (arts and healing) in the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs Administration.
- Approve charitable and more equitable tax policies both for artists (Performing Arts Parity Tax Act) and for donors to nonprofit charities (The Charitable Act).
- Support for creative small businesses and gig workers through the CREATE Act.
- Protect funding for the Art in Embassies program in the Senate version of the FY’24 State Department and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill.

Over the course of the three fly-Ins, arts advocates met with more than 95 targeted representatives and senators to advocate for the arts policy priorities we trained them on. Meet the advocates, hear their stories, and read the policy issues at ArtsActionFund.org/October-2023-Fly-In.

Congressional Briefing on Economic Data on the Arts

On October 17, 2023, in conjunction with the October Legislative Fly-In, Americans for the Arts presented a Congressional Briefing on the Economic Impact of the Arts in cooperation with the Senate Cultural Caucus, Congressional Arts Caucus, and the Congressional STEAM Caucus. Featured at the briefing was the Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 study (AEP6), the most comprehensive economic and social impact study of the nation’s $151.7 billion nonprofit arts & culture industry. AEP6.AmericansForTheArts.org.

Speakers included:

- Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), Co-Chair of the Senate Cultural Caucus (pictured above)
- Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), Co-Chair of the Senate Cultural Caucus
- Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI), Member, Congressional Arts Caucus and STEAM Caucus
- Nolen V. Bivens, General U.S. Army (retired), President & CEO of Americans for the Arts
- Nina Ozlu Tunceli, Executive Director of the Arts Action Fund
- Randy Cohen, Vice President of Research of Americans for the Arts
- Lynne McCormack, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Arts Council (pictured above)
- Dinah Minot, Executive Director of Creative Portland
- Ekhlas Ahmed, Co-Executive Director of the Cultural Alliance of Maine
- Deb Polich, CEO of Artrain in Michigan
- Carrie Tillis, Artist in Residence for Arts Action Fund

“In these polarizing times, the arts has the power to bring us together.”

The entire Congressional briefing was videotaped live on the Americans for the Arts Facebook and Instagram platforms and can now also be viewed on our website at bit.ly/CongressAEP6Briefing.
Message from Executive Director Nina Ozlu Tunceli

Dear Arts Action Fund Member,

Happy Holidays to you and all our Arts Action Fund members!

As I reflect on 2023, here are some of the highlights that come to mind:

- Implementing our Year-Round equitable arts advocacy program with a focused Fly-In strategy targeting key Members of Congress with arts leader constituents from their states and districts.
- President Biden issuing an executive order to re-establish the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities as well as proposing the highest funding level to date of $211 million for the NEA and NEH each.
- Launching the Arts Action Fund’s Artist in Residence program with Carrie Tillis. We’ve already presented “Why the Arts Matter” pictorial tapestries to Congressional leaders in eight states.
- Securing first-time funding for community arts engagement programs within the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs Administration.
- Winning major bipartisan votes on the House floor to defeat attempts to zero-out funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Help us continue our progress by contributing to our Year-End campaign at ArtsActionFund.org/YearEnd2023

Carrie Tillis
Director Nina Ozlu Tunceli

Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 Study (AEP6) Data Released

On October 12, 2023, Americans for the Arts released 2022 data on the economic impact of nonprofit arts and culture organizations and their audiences in 373 study regions. The arts and culture industry generated $151.7 billion in economic activity—$73.3 billion in spending by the organizations, which leveraged an additional $78.4 billion in event-related spending by their audiences. The impact of this economic activity is far reaching, supporting 2.6 million jobs, providing $101 billion in personal income to workers, and generating $29.1 billion in tax revenue.

An analysis of audience surveys collected at BIPOC and ALAANA events showed nearly identical results in audience spending (above and beyond the ticket price) of approximately $38 per person. Additionally, 77% of non-local audience respondents said the primary purpose of traveling to the event was specifically “to attend that cultural event.”

AEP6 delivers a clear message: when communities invest in arts and culture, they are not doing so at the expense of economic development. They are investing in an industry that stimulates the economy, supports local jobs, and contributes to building healthy, vibrant, and livable communities.

Visit AEP6.AmericansForTheArts.org to read the full report.
NEA Survey of Public Participation in the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) released a summary report of its latest Survey of Public Participation in the Arts in October 2023. It provides a deep (and troubling) look at arts participation by U.S. adults during the pandemic year of July 2021 to July 2022. When compared to the previous study’s analysis of 2017, steep declines in attendance and participation were observed.

Percent of U.S. adults attending selected arts events: 2017 vs. 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attended Musicals</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended non-musical plays</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended dance performances</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Went to the movies</td>
<td>58.6%</td>
<td>43.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visited art museums or galleries</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended craft fairs or visual arts festivals</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended jazz music performance</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Read more bit.ly/ArtsParticipationPatterns2022

Bipartisan Victory in the House Saves NEA & NEH FY’24 Funding

On November 2, 2023, the U.S. House of Representatives took up consideration and debate over the FY24 Interior Appropriations bill, which house funding the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment the Humanities (NEH).

During floor debate, there were two attempts to eliminate federal funding for the arts and humanities in the bill. Two floor amendments sponsored by conservative Freedom Caucus Chairman Scott Perry (R-PA-10) attempted to eliminate all future funding of the NEA and NEH, but were soundly defeated.

Amendment #60 to eliminate all funding for the NEA was defeated by a vote of 292-to-129 and Amendment #61 to eliminate all funding to the NEH was defeated by a vote of 292-to-132. A full 100% of Democrats voted against both amendments and were joined by a strong 39% of Republicans to make it a bipartisan declaration that Congress supports the arts and culture. You can now see your House member voted on the NEA vote bit.ly/HR4821NEAvote and the NEH vote bit.ly/HR4821NEHvote.

Next step is that this House bill will now move to the Senate, where there is a difference in funding levels that needs to be reconciled. The House level sets both agencies at $186 million each and the Senate recommends $207 million each. We, along with our grassroots members, will be lobbying for the higher level of $207 million. Please thank your House members who voted against both amendments at: bit.ly/ThankYouAlert

LEGISLATIVE ACTION
In July, the House Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations Chairman Rep. Mike Simpson of Idaho (pictured on left) set the FY 2024 funding level for the NEA and NEH at $186 mil. each. While it was a 10% cut, it was much less than other cuts made in the bill. On the Senate side, Sen. Jeff Merkley of Oregon (pictured on the right) set the FY 2024 funding level at $207 mil. each. While this was level funding with FY 2023, it was still considered a success in the current political and economic environment. bit.ly/July2023Update

EDUCATIONAL ACTION
National Arts in Education Week was September 10 - 16, 2023. During this week, Americans for the Arts recognized the value of the arts in education through a webinar which focused on arts education policies at the federal, state, and local levels. On September 13, 2023, Rep. Suzanne Bonamici of Oregon introduced the Arts Education for All Act which is the most comprehensive arts education bill ever introduced in Congress. ArtsActionFund.org/arts-education-week-webinar2023

EXECUTIVE ACTION
On October 1, 2023, the White House proclaimed October as National Arts and Humanities Month. bit.ly/NationalArtsMonth23

LEGISLATIVE ACTION
On October 6, 2023, Congresswoman Alma Adams of North Carolina introduced the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Arts Act. The legislation provides funding to support existing HBCU arts, arts education, and cultural programs. bit.ly/HBCUbill2023

LEGISLATIVE ACTION
The third Fly-In of 2023 took place in Washington, DC and included 14 artists leaders from California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Maine, Michigan, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Washington, and Wisconsin. This team took on 38 meetings and advocated on a wide range of issues including higher funding levels for the NEA and NEH, Performing Artist Tax Parity Act, CREATE Act, and Charitable Act. The focus of this Fly-In was to impact conference negotiations between the House and Senate. bit.ly/FlyIn2023

LEGISLATIVE ACTION
On November 2, 2023, there were two attempts in the House of Representatives to eliminate federal funding for the arts and humanities in the FY 2024 Interior Appropriations bill and both were soundly defeated! Freedom Caucus Chair Rep. Scott Perry (R-PA-10) sponsored two floor amendments: Amendment #60 to eliminate all funding for the NEA was defeated by a vote of 292-129 and Amendment #61 to eliminate all funding to the NEH was defeated by a vote of 292 to 132. bit.ly/Nov-2-2023
Please click here to make your Year-End contribution.

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2023 Advocacy Timeline

NEA Survey of Public Participation in the Arts

Bipartisan Victory in the House Saves NEA & NEH FY’24 Funding

Contribute to Year-End Campaign

Ann Marie Miller

- Director of Advocacy & Public Policy at ArtPride New Jersey
- Americans for the Arts Federal Advocacy Captain for New Jersey
- 2015 Recipient of the Alene Valkanas State Arts Advocacy Award

Retiring after 28 years!