2020 Party Platform: Arts and Humanities

Get Creative Workers Working

Amid the Coronavirus pandemic, we believe our nation needs to capitalize on the abundance of under-employed creative workers in America to aid in the recovery, unity, and healing of our nation’s communities and economy. As federal efforts are considered to rebuild and grow the nation's economy, we urge targeted federal policies to tap creative workers, nonprofit arts organizations and arts-related businesses to be included in any infrastructure, workforce development, economic, and education efforts.

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the creative economy adds $878 billion a year to our nation's Gross Domestic Product, representing 4.5% of the GDP and 5.1 million jobs and has a growth rate of nearly double the rest of our economy. The national economic impact of the nonprofit arts and culture industry alone boasts $166.3 billion in economic activity annually, and generates $27.5 billion in federal, state, and local government revenue. Investing in existing creative enterprises, fostering the growth of new businesses, and investing in creative economy workforce development will help revitalize and strengthen both our national and local economies now and into the future.

We also believe in making the arts and humanities accessible to all people, including our most underserved and rural areas. We specifically value arts education and the preservation and expression of our nation’s rich cultural heritages, through the arts and humanities. Federal grants to the nation’s finest nonprofit cultural organizations, scholars, and state and local governmental arts agencies help to increase participation, enhance appreciation, and nourish the intellectual and artistic curiosity of our nation.

To that end, we believe the federal government should:

- Target a broad cross-section of federal programs to specifically encourage and include creative workers and creative businesses in any infrastructure, workforce development, economic, and education efforts throughout every federal agency from the Department of Labor to the Department of Defense.
- Support the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities by doubling their funding and indexing them to $1 per person, currently funded at only $162.25 million each (44 cents per person).
- Support expanding S.T.E.M. education to include the arts to become S.T.E.A.M., as well as reinstating the necessary data collection to continue issuing the nation’s report card in the arts.
- Support an across-the-board charitable tax deduction so that all taxpayers, including non-itemizers, are encouraged to make donations to their favorite charities.
- Through the Serve America Act provisions, AmeriCorps can and should fully launch an “Artists Corps,” so that artists can be tapped to bring more innovation, creativity, and economic development to address unmet needs in our communities.