

Dear Arts Action Fund Member,

Will you stand up for the arts and ask questions to candidates?



*Arts Action Fund members from across the country stand up for the arts at the U.S. Capitol. These grassroots art advocates also convinced Congress to stand up to **President Trump's** budget proposal to terminate the National Endowment for the Arts and to successfully push forward to increase funding for the arts and humanities.*

We've made a commitment to train more grassroots organizers and volunteers to speak out at candidate forums and town hall meetings, as well as to drive social media with real stories about the impact of the arts. We started in **New Hampshire**, the first-in-the-nation primary state and then moved on to **Iowa**, the first-in-the-nation caucus state. We began with training Arts Action Fund members who vote in these early battleground states to ask our ArtsVote 2020 questions directly to the dozens of presidential candidates buzzing around their states. The campaign is now nationwide, **and we need your commitment** to help make a difference.

Would you make a year-end financial contribution of \$25-50 to our ArtsVote campaign to help us elevate the power of the arts as we fully enter the 2020 election year?

We're also talking to presidential candidates directly. In addition to the advocacy work of grassroots members like you, we've enlisted acclaimed musician **Ben Folds** to serve as Chairman of ArtsVote 2020. Ben, with the help of former U.S. Senator Mark Begich, has taken the lead in our new podcast series "**ArtsVote 2020 with BenFolds**" in order to get presidential candidates on the record about arts policy issues. You can listen to the podcast interviews at www.ArtsActionFund.org/podcast.



Presidential candidate Mayor Pete Buttigieg sits down with ArtsVote 2020 Chair Ben Folds and Senator Mark Begich in our podcast interview to discuss his background and vision for the arts, if elected President of the United States.





Arts Action Fund Executive Director Nina Ozlu Tunceli (right), is pictured with **Rep. Betty McCollum** (center) and Arts Action Fund member Sheila Smith (left) in Saint Paul, MN. The Arts Action Fund PAC presented a check for \$5,000 to Congresswoman Betty McCollum's re-election campaign for her pro-arts leadership.

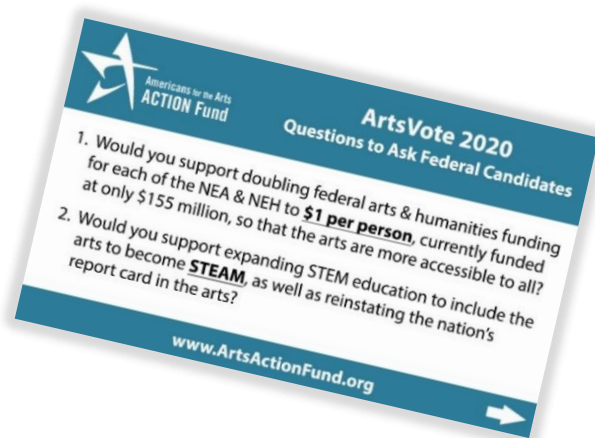
But it's not just about the White House, we also need to keep a pro-arts majority in Congress. Our Arts Action Fund PAC is the only political action committee in the country dedicated to advancing the nonprofit arts in America. Did you know that since 2006, Arts Action Fund members, like you, have contributed more than **\$700,000** to our PAC to support the election campaigns of **385 pro-arts candidates** running for Congress?

The Arts Action Fund PAC has cultivated strong working relationships with arts champions in Congress from both sides of the aisle. Our longstanding commitment to bipartisanship has paid off! **Congressional arts leaders from both parties came together to fight against Trump's attempt to zero-out funding for the arts.**

There is work still to be done. It's an election year with dozens of open Congressional seats and a slim margin of control in the Senate. We will also stay focused on ensuring that a budget increase for the arts is signed into law. As we consider which Congressional candidates to support with Arts Action Fund PAC dollars, we rely heavily on the grades earned by incumbents in our upcoming **Congressional Arts Report Card**, as well as seek answers to our **Candidate Arts Questionnaire** from new challengers. We also publish our **2020 Arts Policy Platforms** as a guide for candidates and as a resource for our members. You can download these documents at www.ArtsActionFund.org/ArtsVote.

You can help now in the following three ways:

1. **Contribute to our 2019 Year-End Campaign** by sending a gift in the enclosed reply envelope. Every dollar directly supports our advocacy efforts, and your contribution will automatically extend your membership for another year.
2. **Use the Questions to Ask Pocket Card** enclosed and pictured on the right. This is for YOU to have handy in your wallet and use to ask any federal candidate key questions about the arts. Please remember to record, video or just write down your interactions with candidates and their answers to these questions, and e-mail them to us at ArtsActionFund@artsusa.org. If arts advocates don't ask the questions, who will?



3. **Sign and Share Our Petition** directed to the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and Republican National Committee (RNC) to add our arts and humanities policy position to their national party platforms. You can add your name to both petitions or just choose either the Democratic or Republican version at www.ArtsActionFund.org/ArtsPlatform. Please also help us recruit others to sign the petition by using **#ArtsPlatform** on your own social media. **Let's make this petition campaign go viral!**



There is only one way that we can succeed in this costly work and that's with your immediate support. We will use your commitment to hold politicians accountable and push for pro-arts measures across the country.

Help us build the necessary **political clout** to win victories for the arts. Your gift today will help us next year to:

- expand our get-out-the-vote campaign across the country;
- identify and support more pro-arts candidates on the campaign trail;
- get arts position statements from Presidential and Congressional candidates;
- maximize our presence at the Democratic and Republican National Conventions in 2020; and
- broadly publish and distribute our Congressional Arts Report Card to inform voters before Election Day on November 3, 2020.

Keep the momentum going with a contribution to the Arts Action Fund. Your generosity during this holiday season is so very appreciated.

Nina Ozlu Tunceli
Executive Director

***Thank you for
your support!***

P.S. You can help us reach our year-end goal even faster by contributing online at www.ArtsActionFund.org/AAF2019.