

August 14, 2020

Americans for the Arts Action Fund Launches ArtsVote "Make Your Vote Count" Campaign and Shepard Fairey ArtsVote Image

Arts Action Fund Urges Voters to Sign Pledge to "Make Your Vote Count," Use Customized Voter Resources for Every State to Begin Now

WASHINGTON, DC—Americans for the Arts Action Fund today presented its ArtsVote "Make Your Vote Count" campaign and pledge with artwork designed by renowned contemporary artist and Americans for the Arts Artists Committee member **Shepard Fairey**, as well as customized voter fact sheets for every state and U.S. territory. The fact sheets provide the latest details and deadlines on vote-by-mail ballots, early voting, and in-person voting. These resources can be found at www.ArtsActionFund.org/ArtsVote.

Fairey's art was produced exclusively for the Arts Action Fund to help inform and mobilize artists and arts advocates to make their vote count in an election year, when substantial changes have been made to the voting system in their states due to COVID-19. Digital artwork is being made available for free to download, in English and in Spanish, for those who take the pledge to "Make Your Vote Count" by taking four easy steps to make their vote count in their states. The Arts Action Fund is specifically encouraging voters to take each step as early as possible. This work builds on the momentum of the Arts Action Fund's advocacy efforts to get an arts plank added to the 2020 Democratic Platform.

Americans for the Arts President and CEO **Robert L. Lynch** commented: "Central to the ArtsVote 2020 platform is getting America's creative workers working. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic and heightened awareness of social and racial injustice, our nation needs to capitalize on the



abundance of under-employed yet talented, creative, and racially underrepresented workers in America to aid in the recovery, unity, and healing of our nation's communities and economy. Creative freedom, creative community, creative jobs, and creative economy are key themes in our ArtsVote 2020 platform and are very present throughout Shepard Fairey's artwork. He is a longtime member of Americans for the Arts' Artists Committee and I'm very pleased that he has lent his talents to our nonpartisan voter engagement activities for ArtsVote 2020."

"The focus of our 'Make Your Vote Count' campaign is on getting registered voters to learn all the new election rules and deadlines that have been created in their specific state as a result of COVID-19. From 'no-excuse' absentee ballots to early voting, the Arts Action Fund will be pushing artists and arts advocates to complete the four-step voting process as early as possible with the help of our participating state arts advocacy organizations across the country," said **Nina Ozlu Tunceli**, Executive Director of the Arts Action Fund and Chief Counsel of Government and Public Affairs at Americans for the Arts.

"The arts are incredibly important to both the individuals of this nation and who we are, collectively, as a nation. There's a tremendous economic benefit to art and all the creative endeavors and culture generated by the arts. Still, even more importantly, art connects people to their true humanity and their best selves, allowing them to express their unique vision and connect with other humans," said Fairey.

The Arts Action Fund is a nonpartisan 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization affiliated with Americans for the Arts, and the largest arts advocacy organization in the U.S. with more than 423,000 grassroots members across all 50 states and U.S. territories. The Arts Action Fund builds awareness in the political arena of the importance of the arts and arts education to American culture and our economy. The Arts Action Funds runs grassroots advocacy campaigns for its members; organizes candidate forums; and registers, educates, and mobilizes voters.

Americans for the Arts is a 501(c)(3) charity and does not endorse any candidates for elected office. Americans for the Arts is the leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education in America. With offices in Washington, D.C. and New York City, it has a record of 60 years of service. Americans for the Arts is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. Additional information is available at www.AmericansForTheArts.org.

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