

Arts Action News



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Americans for the Arts Action Fund
Volume IV, 2020

ArtsActionFund.org

Congratulate Biden-Harris

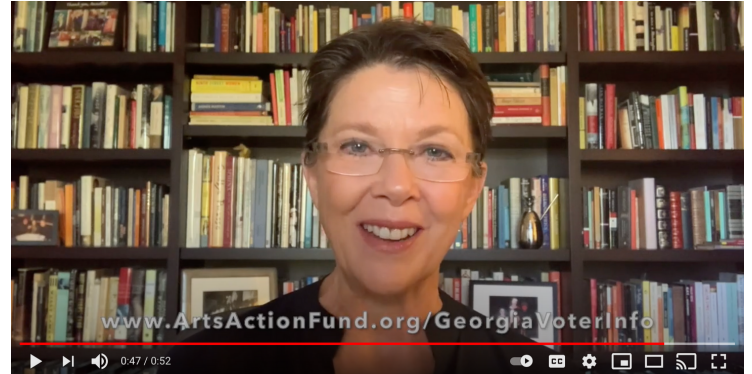


Sign on to the Arts Action Fund petition congratulating President-Elect Joe Biden and Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris on their historic win at www.ArtsActionFund.org/BidenPetition.

Urge them to boldly support the arts:

- Target a broad cross-section of federal programs to include creative workers and creative businesses in any infrastructure, workforce development, economic, and education efforts throughout every federal agency.
- Incorporate "[Get Creative Workers Working](#)" which has been endorsed by thousands of arts groups and artists.
- Create a Presidential Arts and Culture Advisor to oversee arts engagement throughout the federal government.
- Support the NEA and the NEH by doubling their funding and indexing them to \$1 per person.
- Proactively establish federal programs that support cultural and racial justice for all.
- Support expanding S.T.E.M. education to include the arts to become S.T.E.A.M.
- Support an across-the-board charitable tax deduction so that all taxpayers, including non-itemizers, are encouraged to make donations to their favorite charities.
- Launch an "Artists Corps," through the Serve America Act provisions
- Support our creative sector with meaningful COVID-19 economic relief for arts groups and gig artists.

Senate Georgia Run-Offs



Nothing was "normal" about the year 2020, including this year's presidential and congressional elections. President Trump continues to use accusations rather than evidence to unsuccessfully overturn the election. Drawing out the final results further are the Senate run-off elections in Georgia on **January 5, 2021**. Since none of the candidates received at least 50% of the popular vote in November, Georgia is now required to have run-offs. Unusually, both of Georgia's U.S. Senate seats are up for election in the same year because one seat is for a special election and the other is in its normal re-election cycle.

These run-off elections are particularly important nationally. If Democrat challengers **Jon Ossoff** and **Rev. Raphael Warnock** win both seats, then control of the entire United States Senate would change from Republican to Democratic control.

Regardless of who wins, the Arts Action Fund is encouraging all Georgians to get out the vote again in record numbers. We are partnering with **Georgians for the Arts** and have enlisted the help once again from ArtsVote ambassadors **Annette Bening** and **Brian Stokes Mitchell** to make ArtsVote Georgia video PSAs and post social medial ads to educate arts voters at

www.ArtsActionFund.org/GeorgiaAds.



Message from President & CEO Robert L. Lynch



"We need to do more."

Dear Arts Action Fund Member,

Americans for the Arts and its affiliate organizations have taken multi-year steps towards making racial and cultural equity the guiding principle in everything we do. Those steps have not been enough.

We need to do more – to increase our efforts and communicate those efforts to our stakeholders more effectively. To that end, the Americans for the Arts board has commissioned an Equity Task Force to be led by Abel Lopez, Chair of our Board Cultural Equity Committee and former Board Chair of Americans for the Arts. The Task Force will advise us on strategies for the field that will lead to transparent and accountable actions. The Task Force's members will consist of outside experts, as well as members of our board and staff. The Task Force gets underway in December, with Abel overseeing its work.

At its November meeting, the Americans for the Arts Board of Directors adopted a Statement of Recommitment to Racial and Cultural Equity, which includes specific financial targets; goals around the hiring of

Biden-Harris Agency Review Teams

On November 13, 2020, Americans for the Arts and the Arts Action Fund President & CEO **Robert L. Lynch** was honored to have been asked to join the Biden-Harris Transition Agency Review Team. Serving as a volunteer citizen in his personal capacity, he will specifically be part of the Arts and Humanities Agency Review Team. To read more, please visit BuildBackBetter.gov/the-transition/agency-review-teams

vendors, contractors, and staff; enhanced measurement and accountability efforts; and more.

The Americans for the Arts Board is currently made up of 26 members, of whom 40% are Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC). Two new members are to start in January 2021, and both with expertise in addressing issues of DEI. In 2021, the board will be 45% BIPOC. We will continue our efforts to increase diversity on the Board, for doing so is critical to the guiding principles of our organization. We are also working to ensure that we have BIPOC voices within our staff leadership, partners, and advisory groups.

You can read the full Americans for the Arts statement at bit.ly/MessageFromBobLynch.



1. Support Federal Arts Funding
We urge Congress to support a budget of \$70 million for the National Endowment for the Arts this year to ensure the continued access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts and to advance diversity and innovation in communities across the United States.

2. Support for Arts Education
We urge Congress, through the continued implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), to fully fund and administer the well-rounded education provision by strengthening equitable access to arts learning.

3. Support Charities
We urge Congress to restore and expand tax deduction incentives for giving to charities by ensuring a universal charitable deduction available to all taxpayers. Nonprofit arts organizations rely on donations made by individual taxpayers to support their mission of the future.



FEBRUARY 2020
Political & Engagement Agenda

Feb 3	Feb 6	Feb 6	Feb 25	Mar 26	Jul 6	Jul 7
Grassroots Action	Legislative Action	Legislative Action	Political Action	Legislative Action	Political Action	Legislative Action

Office Hours with **Nina**
Fridays @ 11am - 12pm ET
Find out more at: artsactionfund.org/officehours

Sign PETITION
TO THE END OF THE CARES ACT
We need your support to make the arts and humanities accessible to ALL.



ArtsVote2020
A program of Americans for the Arts Action Fund

ArtsVote 2020 Legislative & Political Timeline

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

PPP Forgiveness Options & Income Tax Implications
Receiving CARES Act Grants, Loans, or Unemployment Compensation

FREE WEBINAR
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2020
1:30PM ET

Nina Ozlu Tuncelli
Executive Director
Americans for the Arts Action Fund

Sarah M. Mercer
Shareholder Attorney
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

Register for this interactive live event through [ArtsU](https://www.ArtsU.com).
You can also watch on [Facebook.com/ArtsActionFund](https://www.facebook.com/ArtsActionFund).

Office Hours with
Nina

Fridays @ 11am - 12pm ET
Find out more at:
[ArtsActionFund.org/OfficeHoursNina](https://www.ArtsActionFund.org/OfficeHoursNina)

EXTENDED 2021

PAC Update (2019-20)

✓ **86% Contribution Win Rate This Cycle**

✓	Barbara Bollier for Senate	\$1,000
✓	Rep. Suzanne Bonamici	\$5,000
TBD	Rep. Anthony Brindisi	\$500
✓	Steve Bullock for Senate	\$1,000
✓	Rep. Ken Calvert	\$2,800
✓	Sen. Shelley Moore Capito	\$1,000
✓	Rep. David Cicilline	\$1,000
✓	Rep. Gil Cisneros	\$1,000
✓	Rep. Lacy Clay	\$1,000
✓	Rep. Jim Clyburn	\$2,500
✓	Rep. Tom Cole	\$1,000
✓	Sen. Susan Collins	\$1,000
✓	Sen. Chris Coons	\$1,000
✓	Cal Cunningham for Senate	\$1,000
✓	Rep. Ted Deutch	\$1,000
✓	Rep. Kay Granger	\$1,000
✓	Theresa Greenfield for Senate	\$1,000
✓	Rep. Kendra Horn	\$3,000
✓	Rep. Chrissy Houlahan	\$500
✓	Rep. Steny Hoyer	\$3,500
✓	Rep. Hakeem Jeffries	\$1,000
✓	Rep. Derek Kilmer	\$2,000
✓	Rep. Mike Levin	\$1,000
✓	Rep. Carolyn Maloney	\$1,000
✓	Rep. Betty McCollum	\$5,000
✓	Sen. Jeff Merkley	\$1,000
TBD	Sen. Lisa Murkowski for 2022	\$2,000
✓	Rep. Jerrold Nadler	\$1,000
✓	Rep. Richard Neal	\$1,000
TBD	Ossoff-Warneck Sen Victory Fund	\$2,500
✓	Rep. Nancy Pelosi	\$6,500
✓	Rep. Chellie Pingree	\$7,500
✓	Rep. Katie Porter	\$1,000
✓	Rep. Cedric Richmond	\$2,500
✓	Rep. Harley Rouda	\$1,000
TBD	Sen. Chuck Schumer for 2022	\$1,000
✓	Sen. Jeanne Shaheen	\$1,000
✓	Rep. Donna Shalala	\$1,000
✓	Rep. Mike Simpson	\$2,000
✓	Rep. Elissa Slotkin	\$1,000
✓	Rep. Abigail Stanburger	\$1,000
✓	Rep. Paul Tonko	\$1,000
✓	Rep. Debbie Wasserman Shultz	\$1,000

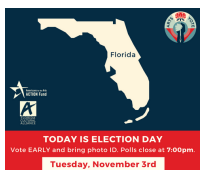
COVID-19 Relief Resources & Assistance

The Arts Action Fund has devoted considerable lobbying and technical assistance to securing emergency economic relief funds for artists and arts organizations across the country. As Congress works on an interim package of relief to cover the first quarter of 2021, we know that the incoming Biden administration is planning a much bigger investment. Therefore, in **2021**, we will continue Nina's weekly Zoom Office Hours, webinars, and updates to the CARES Act Table, along with our lobbying and grassroots activities to secure additional funds for the arts.

Join us at **Zoom Office Hours with Nina** which will continue into 2021, every Friday at 11:00am ET at www.ArtsActionFund.org/OfficeHoursNina.

Visit our new **COVID-19 Resources** webpage where you can find links to all of our topical webinars, legislative updates, CARES Act Table, and impact research at www.ArtsActionFund.org/COVID19Resources.

On **December 18, 2020 at 1:30pm ET**, the Arts Action Fund will be presenting another **free webinar** on PPP Forgiveness Options & Income Tax Implications on receiving any CARES Act grants, loans, or unemployment compensation. If you miss the LIVE webinar, you can watch it anytime at www.Facebook.com/ArtsActionFund.



Aug. 14

Aug. 14

Aug. 20 & 27

Sept. 22

Oct. 2

Oct. 19

Nov. 3

POLITICAL ACTION
The Arts Action Fund kicks-off the **ArtsVote: Make Your Vote Count** campaign with the goal of achieving record turnout for the general election in November. Artist and political activist **Shepard Fairey** designs an iconic artwork to visually support the campaign. Arts Action Fund then opens a Redbubble store, featuring Shepard's ArtsVote artwork on cool merchandise.

GRASSROOTS ACTION
Arts Action Fund partners with **dozens of national, state, and local arts organizations** to customize the ArtsVote campaign and advertising for all 50 states and 6 U.S. Territories. Detailed **State Voter Factsheets** are created and regularly updated with late-breaking state election law changes to feature four easy steps for voters to cast their votes early, either by mail or in person.

POLITICAL ACTION
The Arts Action Fund hosts **ArtsVote virtual events** on the closing nights of the **DNC and RNC** featuring guests **Annette Bening, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Ben Folds, Megan Beyer, Mary Anne Carter, Shepard Fairey, and Torrie Allen**.

MEDIA ACTION
In honor of **National Voter Registration Day**, **Annette Bening and Brian Stokes Mitchell** recruit many of their celebrity colleagues to put a spotlight on ArtsVote for the 9/22/20 episode of **"Stars in the House."** Additionally, many artists such as **Julianne Moore, Kenny Leon, Courtney B. Vance** and more sign up to create one-minute ArtsVote video PSAs to promote voter registration for key states.


MEDIA ACTION
The Arts Action Fund designs and places ads on **Instagram, Facebook, and Google** to reach arts voters in 19 battleground states to ensure they make their vote count by learning the deadlines and committing to vote early. **Our paid social media ArtsVote ads reach over 4 million people in 40 days.**

ELECTORAL ACTION
The Arts Action Fund releases its **2020 Congressional Arts Report Card**, providing analysis of arts voting records and leadership information for every Member of Congress (House and Senate) prior to the elections. The Congressional Arts Report Card also serves as the guide for providing **Arts Action Fund PAC** support to incumbent Congressional arts leaders.

ELECTORAL ACTION
On Election Day, voter turnout reaches 66.5% with a record level of 154 million votes and counting. More than 80 million Americans vote for **President-Elect Joe Biden**, who wins in a landslide over incumbent President Donald Trump with an electoral college vote of **306-232**. As President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Harris form their transition team to "Build Back Better," they select **Bob Lynch** to serve on the **Arts & Culture Agency Review Team**.




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