

Arts Action News



The Quarterly Newsletter for the Americans for the Arts Action Fund

Volume I, 2023

ArtsActionFund.org

New Leadership in the House of Representatives



(L-R) Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy with Arts Action Fund board member and Americans for the Arts CEO Nolen Bivens on March 9, 2023.

On January 6, 2023, **Representative Kevin McCarthy** (R-CA-Bakersfield) was elected Speaker of the House after an historic 15 attempts at the ballot. The split within the Republican party's factions previewed the challenges to come this year in Congress to conduct regular orderly business and pass timely legislation.

As a result, several House of Representative rules were changed, including cutting spending back to FY 2022 levels and reinstating an open rule on the House floor for Members of Congress to cherry pick and challenge everything from funding a specific program to firing a federal employee. With both the White House and the Senate remaining in control by Democrats, it is anticipated Congressional impasses will occur. The country could experience temporary government shutdowns during key negotiations on raising the federal debt ceiling and passing annual appropriation bills to keep the federal government open.



Arts champion Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID)

At the Committee level, longtime Republican arts supporter **Rep. Mike Simpson** (R-ID-Boise/Idaho Falls) take over as Chairman of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, which sets the initial annual funding level for the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, Smithsonian Institution, and National Gallery of Art. While Chairman Simpson will be initially obliged to make budget cuts according to the new GOP budget rule, more flexible opportunities will emerge as he negotiates on a final conferenced bill with his Senate Subcommittee counterpart **Sen. Jeff Merkley** (D-OR), another great arts champion.

Biden Administration's Proposed FY 2024 Budget

On March 9, 2023, the Biden Administration released its FY 2024 budget request to Congress, calling for a **\$211 million** budget for both the **National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)** as well as for the



National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). While a modest increase, it is moving in the right direction and represents a \$4 million increase over FY 2023 levels. Last year's FY 2023 Omnibus package included funding increases that moved both federal cultural agencies closer to indexing their funding to \$1.00 per capita, **up from 54 cents to 62 cents per capita**—a policy proposal arts advocates strongly endorsed. The proposed FY 2024 budget shows an ongoing commitment to the arts as it continues to recover from the devastating effects of the pandemic.

We also commend **President Biden** on increasing education funding in the areas of Titles I and IV, which will increase funding for well-rounded subjects, including arts education. The arts support the daily well-being of students, foster a welcoming and safe school environment, and encourage inclusivity through multiple pathways for every child's creative voice.

We are deeply grateful to our pro-arts leaders in Congress, who continue to step forward and recognize both the value of the arts in making communities more livable as well as their role as a national asset. Special thanks to Congressional Arts Caucus Co-Chair **Rep. Chellie Pingree** (D-ME-01), STEAM Caucus Co-Chair **Rep. Suzanne Bonamici** (D-OR-01), and Senate Cultural Caucus Co-Chairs **Sens. Susan Collins** (R-ME) and **Jack Reed** (D-RI). Additional thanks to the bipartisan Interior Appropriations Subcommittee leaders **Sens. Jeff Merkley** (D-OR) and **Lisa Murkowski** (R-AK), and **Reps. Mike Simpson** (R-ID) and **Chellie Pingree** for uplifting the economic and intrinsic value of the arts and culture to our nation.

Read press release at bit.ly/FY24BidenNEAbudget.

Message from Executive Director Nina Ozlu Tunceli

Dear Arts Action Fund Member,



Advocacy doesn't happen in a vacuum. It doesn't exist only in Washington, D.C. And it isn't limited to one time of year. Advocacy happens every day, in every community, across this country. And it takes all of us. With this in mind, Americans for the Arts and the Arts Action Fund are jointly launching a year-long advocacy program that corresponds more closely with the Congressional calendar, complete with a series of timely arts advocacy webinar trainings, D.C.-based Legislative Fly-ins to lobby targeted members of Congress, and Fly-outs for our staff to come to your communities to do advocacy training together.

We are also expanding our Federal **State** Arts Advocacy Captains program to create a strategic Federal **District** Arts Advocacy Captains program to correspond with key Congressional House districts, representing those members of Congress in key decision-maker roles.

1. **In the first quarter**, we encourage you to register for our free **Advocacy 101 Webinar** on March 29th on how to engage with elected officials, an overview of the current federal legislative landscape, legislative priorities, and what effective action can be taken in the next 30 days. Earlier this month on March 2nd, we conducted a **Congressional Earmarks Webinar** on the eligibility requirements, best practices, and process for requesting earmarks from federal legislators.
2. **In the second quarter**, we will host a D.C.-based legislative **Fly-in** for up to 20 of our district and state arts advocacy captains to come to Washington, D.C., to lobby targeted members of Congress on the entire field's behalf. Americans for the Arts will provide specific training and travel stipends. Our next **Advocacy 201** webinar will focus on securing cosponsors for key arts policy legislation and a House floor strategy to protect arts funding bills.
3. **In the third quarter**, we will conduct legislative **Fly-outs**, where our staff will work with local arts agency members, district and state captains, and others to organize larger in-person advocacy training workshops throughout the country in key legislative congressional districts.
4. **In the fourth quarter**, we will host another legislative **Fly-in** to Washington, D.C., that will specifically focus on the release of the *Arts and Economic Prosperity 6 Study* and conference negotiations for a final FY24 spending bill. This Fly-in will involve key local and state participants in that study that correspond with targeted federal decision makers. Our **Advocacy 301** webinar will also focus on House-Senate conference negotiations and what every constituent can do.

Nina

2023 Public Leadership in the Arts Award Recipients

For the 26th year, Americans for the Arts was pleased to partner with **The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)** to honor elected officials and artists with the Public Leadership in the Arts Awards. These awards honor elected officials for their consistent and outstanding support and promotion of the arts and the creative economy. This year's recipients include **Mayor Jon Mitchell** of New Bedford, MA, representing cities with a population under 30,000; **Mayor David Holt** of Oklahoma City, OK, representing large cities; and **Governor Dan McKee** of Rhode Island. Additionally, in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Hip-Hop music and culture, artists **Eric B** and **Kool DJ Red Alert** were honored with Legendary Artist Awards.

Each year, Americans for the Arts hosts the Mayors' Arts Breakfast at the USCM's Winter meeting where these awards are presented and the nation's mayors learn the latest on how the arts are being used to promote cities and their economies. This year, joining the mayors was **National Endowment for the Arts Chair Dr. Maria Rosario Jackson** for a discussion with USCM Vice President and **Reno, NV, Mayor Hillary Schieve** to talk about how cities are using the arts in innovative ways to promote their cities and help people with mental health issues and loneliness as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.



(L-R) Joining United States Conference of Mayors CEO Tom Cochran is New Bedford, MA, Mayor Jon Mitchell; Legendary Hip-Hop artist Kool DJ Red Alert; Oklahoma City, OK, Mayor David Holt; Reno, NV, Mayor Hillary Schieve; Legendary Hip-Hop artist Eric B; and Americans for the Arts President and CEO Nolen Bivens.

Read the full press release at bit.ly/LeadershipArts2023

Share your American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Arts Story!

Last year, Congress provided state and local governments with \$350 billion dollars to help restart the economy post the COVID-19 pandemic. Some governments were quick to appropriate the funds while others are still deciding. **We are interested in hearing how your state and local government used ARPA Funds to support the arts and culture.** Please let us know your ARPA story by adding your information at bit.ly/ARPAStorySurvey.

Two of our public sector partners the **National Conference of State Legislatures** and the **National League of Cities** have included the arts and culture as part of their state tracker bit.ly/ncslARPTraacker.

Here are some new state and local arts examples:

- **Ohio:** \$50 million in state ARPA funding dedicated to helping Ohio's creative industry.
- **New Jersey:** \$20 million in state ARPA funding dedicated for the arts and culture. Potentially \$70 million more currently under consideration.
- **San Antonio, TX:** \$5 million in local ARPA funding allocated to the arts, with \$1 million for artists.
- **St. Louis, MO:** \$10.6 million in local ARPA funding dedicated for the arts.
- **Providence, RI:** \$2.5 million in local ARPA funds to support 18 arts and culture-based non-profit organizations' capital repairs, renovations to existing facilities, and the construction of new ones.
- **Frederick, MD:** \$200,000 in local ARPA county funds to the arts council for regranting.
- **Toledo, OH:** \$6 million in local ARPA funds for artists.

Arts Policy Vote 2023

Cast Your Vote by April 17

1. Continue the path to increase funding for the NEA and NEH by indexing them each to \$1 per person, currently funded at only 62 cents per person.
2. Promote federal legislation that advances more equitable arts education policies, programs, and funding opportunities.
3. Expand arts policy and funding opportunities within other federal agencies, such as Department of Labor, Small Business Administration, Defense, and Veterans Affairs.
4. Work with the newly re-established President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities to advise on economic and domestic arts policy issues.

www.ArtsActionFund.org/2023ArtsPolicyVote

Arts Action Fund 1st Qtr Congressional Meetings

Arts Action Fund board members and staff met in-person with 50+ Members of Congress in just the first quarter of 2023.



(L-R), Arts Action Fund Board Member Nolen Bivens at the Open House for newly elected Rep. Gabe Vazquez (D-NM-Albuquerque), which featured a mariachi band.

Events included swearing-in ceremonies for members of the

Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Congressional Black Caucus, Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies, Congressional Progressive Caucus, and Voto Latino. Individual visits also took place with the following:

Rep. Troy Balderson (OH-central Ohio)

Rep. Joyce Beatty (OH- Columbus)

Rep. Yvette Clarke (NY-Brooklyn)

Sen. Chris Coons (Delaware)

NEW Rep. Jasmine Crockett (TX-South Dallas)

Rep. Rosa DeLauro (CT-New Haven)

Rep. Jake Ellzey (TX-Fort Worth/Tarrant County)

NEW Rep. Robert Garcia (CA-Long Beach)

Del. Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon (Puerto Rico)

Rep. Raul Grijalva (AZ-Phoenix)

NEW Rep. Maxwell Frost (FL-Orlando)

Sen. Maggie Hassan (New Hampshire)

NEW Rep. Jonathan Jackson (IL-Chicago)

Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX-Houston)

Rep. Bill Johnson (OH-Athens)

Rep. David Joyce (OH-Cleveland)

NEW Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove (CA-Los Angeles)

Sen. Amy Klobuchar (Minnesota)

Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (NM-Santa Fe)

Rep. Mike Levin (CA- northern San Diego)

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (CA-Bakersfield)

Rep. Betty McCollum (MN-St. Paul)

Rep. Bill Pascrell (NJ-Clifton)

Sen. Gary Peters (Michigan)

Rep. Chellie Pingree (ME-Portland)

Sen. Jackie Rosen (Nevada)

Sen. Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (NY)

Rep. Mike Simpson (ID-Boise/Idaho Falls)

Rep. Michelle Steel (CA-Orange County)

Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson (PA-State College)

NEW Rep. Gabe Vazquez (NM-Albuquerque)

Rep. Frederica Wilson (FL-North Miami)



Arts Action Fund
1275 K St NW, Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20005

CONTRIBUTE



Facebook.com/ArtsActionFund

@ArtsActionFund

Youtube.com/ArtsActionFund

@ArtsActionFund

@ArtsActionFund

ArtsActionFund@artsusa.org

Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts & Public Policy



The official transcript and video of the Americans for the Arts 34th Annual Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy, featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Ayad Akhtar**, is now available online. You can read through the published transcript and watch the full video at AmericansForTheArts.org/Events/Nancy-Hanks-Lecture.



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Americans for the Arts Action Fund
Volume I, 2023

ArtsActionFund.org

Arts Action News

IN THIS ISSUE:

New Leadership in the House of Representatives

Biden Administration's Proposed FY 2024 Budget

Message from the Executive Director

2023 Public Leadership in the Arts Award Recipients

Share your American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Arts Story!

Arts Policy Vote 2023

Arts Action Fund 1st Quarter Congressional Meetings

Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts & Public Policy

[Click here to cast your 2023 Arts Policy Vote and make your contribution to the Arts Action Fund.](#)