

Arts Action News



The Quarterly Newsletter for the Americans for the Arts Action Fund

Volume II, 2024

ArtsActionFund.org

First Legislative Fly-In of 2024: March 12 & 13



Photos of grassroots arts advocates conducting meetings with their U.S. Senators and Representatives on Capitol Hill.

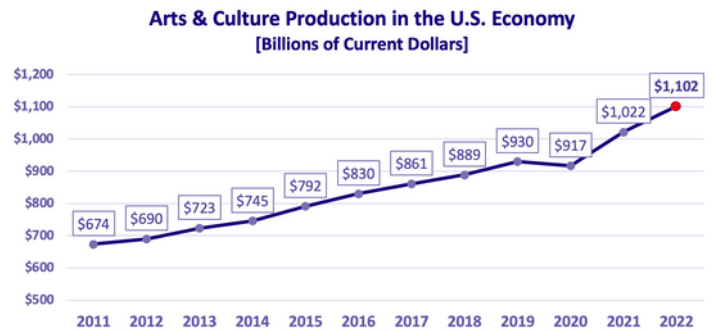
In 2023, **Americans for the Arts** and the **Arts Action Fund** created the Legislative Fly-In program to target key Members of Congress who have the power to positively impact arts legislation. This program was so successful that it will be continued in 2024.

The first Legislative Fly-In of 2024 occurred on March 12 and 13, 2024 and included grassroots arts leaders flying to Washington, D.C. from **11 states**: Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Texas, Missouri, Montana, New York, Oklahoma, and Washington. March 2024 Fly-In participants spearheaded **30+ targeted congressional meetings** on Capitol Hill to advocate passage of:

- National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities increased funding
- Department of Defense Community Arts Engagement
- Veterans Affairs Community Arts Engagement
- Arts Education for All Act and Arts Education funding
- The CREATE Act
- Creative Workforce Investment Act
- Fans First Act and Ticket Act
- Performing Artists Tax Parity Act
- Charitable Act
- STAR Act
- Arts in Embassies Program Funding

You can keep up-to-date on all of our Legislative Fly-In activities and events on our website. Each Fly-In page has resources that you can use for your own advocacy needs. You can also watch videos of our arts advocacy leaders to learn more about why they advocate for the arts in their states at www.ArtsActionFund.org/LegislativeFly-Ins.

Bureau of Economic Analysis Releases New Data



Arts are big business—and a growth industry in the U.S.—according to the annual **Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account report** by the **U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)** and **National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)**. The nation's arts and culture sector (nonprofit, commercial, education) was a **\$1.1 trillion industry** in 2022 that supported **5.2 million jobs**. That represents **4.3% of the nation's economy**—a larger share of GDP than powerhouse sectors such as Transportation, Construction, Education, and Agriculture. The nation's arts economy continued to outperform the entire U.S. economy in 2022 (+4.8% vs. +1.9%).

This was an *increase* from 2021 data showing a \$1.01 trillion dollar industry and 4.9 million jobs. Growth, however, was not sector-wide, with performing arts organizations and non-government museums among the arts industries that have yet to reach their pre-pandemic economic levels.

The nation's arts and culture industries continue to be an export industry for the U.S., posting a **\$21.0 billion international trade surplus** in 2022 (up from \$15.5 billion in 2021).

Arts and culture also represent an important share of state economies: **California** (8.0%), **Oregon** (3.2%), and **Idaho** (2.4%). You can find your state's Creative Economy Profile findings at bit.ly/CreativeEconomyProfilesNASAA.

While the data are impressive, the very fact that BEA measures arts and culture production in the U.S. is itself an indication of the important role of the arts in building a healthy innovation economy and ensuring the nation's global competitiveness.

Message from Executive Director Nina Ozlu Tunceli

Dear Arts Action Fund Member,

This year, the Arts Action Fund has already had great success with our educational training webinars, advocacy efforts, and political programs.

Advocacy 201 Training Webinar

The focus of the Advocacy 201 Training Webinar was on how to collectively reach out to your Members of Congress to support FY25 funding for the NEA, NEH, and arts education. We also featured 3 state arts advocacy captains, who shared their best practices for timely virtual meetings with Members of Congress. bit.ly/2024Advocacy201

Advocacy Efforts

During the second quarter, Americans for the Arts and the Arts Action fund hosted our first-ever National Arts Advocacy Zoom-In Week. This event included participation from **350+ advocates** from a total of **45 states**. The event also inspired **1,730+ emails** to be sent to Members of Congress. We want to thank our State and District Arts Captains for their collaboration with this event, we so appreciate their hard work! bit.ly/NationalArtsAdvocacyWeek

Political Programs

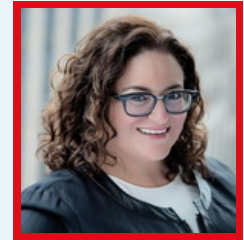
Our most recent Arts Insider Political Briefing took place on April 4, 2024 and included Brownstein Policy Director **David Reid**. You can watch the full briefing conversation at bit.ly/ArtsInsiderPoliticalBriefing.

Welcome Interim Co-CEOs of Americans for the Arts

Effective June 1st, two highly established arts leaders **Jamie Bennett** and **Suzy Delvalle** began serving as Interim Co-CEOs of our affiliate organization **Americans for the Arts**, while a national search for a permanent CEO is under way. We expect a permanent CEO will be installed sometime in 2025. Both Suzy and Jamie have extensive experience and proven track records of leadership in the arts & culture fields. The CEO Search/Selection Committee includes a diverse group of recognized leaders in the national arts & culture sector. **Koya Leadership Partners**, based in Chicago, Illinois, has been engaged to conduct the national search for a permanent CEO. You can see the full announcement at bit.ly/2024AFTAIInterimCEOs.



Jamie Bennett



Suzy Delvalle

Nina

Federal Update

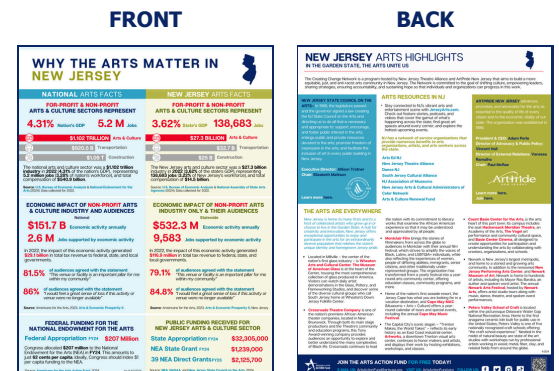
In March, Congress finally completed (six months late) the fiscal year 2024 appropriations for federal agencies and programs, including federal funding for the arts and culture. **Overall, the FY24 appropriations were mostly level compared to the previous year (see chart below).** However, Americans for the Arts and the Arts Action Fund advocated for and secured \$10 million in new arts funding in the Department of Defense as well as \$5 million for creative arts therapies and \$5 million of new arts funding for partnerships for mental health and suicide prevention at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

For FY25, Americans for the Arts is advocating for an increase to **\$211 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)** and parity in funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The President had only requested \$210.1 million for the NEA and only \$200.1 million for the NEH in his budget request to Congress. We are also urging Congress to create a path to index annual funding for the NEA and NEH at **\$1 per capita**. Each agency is currently funded at only 62 cents per capita.

Key Federally Funded Arts Programs & Agencies	Final Enacted FY'23 Funding 10/1/22 - 9/30/23	Final Enacted FY'24 Funding 10/1/23 - 9/30/24	President's FY'25 Budget 10/1/24- 9/30/25	AFTA & Arts Community's Legislative Ask for FY'25
NEA	\$207 million	\$207 million	\$210.1 million	\$211 million
NEH	\$207 million	\$207 million	\$200.1 million	\$211 million

Why the Arts Matter State Arts Factsheets

Every year, the Arts Action Fund creates detailed data and narrative-driven state factsheets that help tell the story of "Why the Arts Matter" in each state. These factsheets can be used as both an **educational** and **advocacy** tool, empowering arts advocates with a stronger case for the arts that they can bring to their political representatives at the federal, state and local levels.



Each state's factsheet also comes with a social media graphic for you to share on your platforms! #WhyTheArtsMatter

www.ArtsActionFund.org/StateFactsheets

The CREATE Art Act and The STAGE Act



Rep. Maxwell Frost introduced the **CREATE Art Act (Cultivating Resources for Emerging Artists to Thrive and Excel in Art)** in April alongside Rep. Dan Kildee (D-MI), Rep. Greg Casar (D-TX), and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY). The bill establishes four new grant programs for emerging artists including:

- Progress Grants providing up to **\$2,000** to support a year of artist activities;
- Project Grants for up to **\$100,000 per project** that can be used over two years;
- Live Performance Grants giving up to **\$35,000** for live performances; and
- Development Fund providing up to **\$10,000** to pay the living and working expenses of artists while they research, write, or cultivate stories and projects.

Congressman Frost and the bill's co-sponsors recognize that arts are a cornerstone of American culture and individual livelihoods and lives. This legislation will support emerging artists as they are finding their footing and pursuing their dreams.

Americans for the Arts and the Arts Action Fund are excited to endorse this important legislation that will benefit artists from across disciplines as they are getting their careers started. Learn more about the CREATE Art Act at bit.ly/LearnCREATEArtAct.

The **STAGE Act (Supporting Theater and the Arts to Galvanize the Economy)** was introduced by Sen. Peter Welch (D-VT), Sen. John Fetterman (D-PA), and Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) and it authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to make grants to professional non-profit theaters to support operations, employment, and economic development. The bill was introduced on the House side by Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR). The STAGE Act would provide **\$1 billion annually** to support the industry and the grants could be used to employ artists, support professional personnel, invest in workforce development and other business related operations.



Americans for the Arts and the Arts Action Fund appreciates the intent of the bill and will work with legislators to try and expand this legislation to assist organizations representing all art forms.

bit.ly/LearnSTAGEAct

House TICKET Act Passes in Important Step Toward Passing Ticketing Reform

The **Fix the Tix Coalition**, the National Independent Venue Association (NIVA), Americans for the Arts and its Arts Action Fund commend the U.S. House of Representatives and House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair **Cathy McMorris Rodgers** (R-WA), Ranking Member **Frank Pallone** (D-NJ), Subcommittee Chair **Gus Bilirakis** (R-FL), and Subcommittee Ranking Member **Jan Schakowsky** (D-IL), as well as Representatives **Kelly Armstrong** (R-ND) and **Lisa Blunt Rochester** (D-DE) for working to strengthen and pass H.R. 3950, the **TICKET Act**. This progress is crucial and we applaud it. www.nivassoc.org/fixthetix

We now call on the Senate to pass S. 3457, the **Fans First Act**, which builds on the TICKET Act by including additional provisions to wholly ban speculative, or fake, tickets, to ensure that deceptive imagery on websites does not trick consumers, to increase mandatory reporting of illegal BOTS to obtain tickets, to require clear and conspicuous itemization of the ticket price and fees at the beginning of the transaction, and to provide meaningful enforcement of these provisions.

*This bipartisan Senate Cornyn-Klobuchar **Fans First Act** bill can be the vehicle for the strongest ticketing consumer protections bill to become law. bit.ly/FansFirstAct-Cornyn*




Maryland and Minnesota Pass State Ticket Legislation to Protect Consumers


Sometimes states can be policy laboratories for federal law. While arts advocates have been focused on federal legislation to address how people buy and sell tickets to sports and music events, Maryland and Minnesota lawmakers recently leaped ahead of the federal government and passed their own legislation into law. **MD Senate Bill 539**, which takes effect on July 1, 2024, and **MN House Bill 1989** (a nod to the birth year of Taylor Swift), which takes effect on January 1, 2025, both require transparent ticket pricing through the ticketing process (no more hidden fees), prohibits advertising and selling of "speculative" tickets which are often multiple times more expensive than the face value of the original ticket. Further, the Maryland legislation also creates meaningful penalties for violators starting at **\$10,000** for the first infraction and going up to **\$25,000** thereafter. In Minnesota, the legislation requires ticket sellers to tell the buyers exactly where their seats will be and requires that the seller obtain permission for the venue before opening a secondhand marketplace.



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Janet Langsam Retiring and Danielle Brazell Starting



Janet Langsam

Retiring

Thank you to Janet Langsam for her service as CEO of ArtsWestchester and New York arts icon.

Retiring after 33 years of Stalwart Leadership!



Danielle Brazell

Welcoming

Congratulations to Danielle Brazell for her appointment by California Governor Gavin Newsom as the new Executive Director of the California Arts Council.

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