

Federal Advocacy Report #8

Ask Congress to Support Policy Recommendations on the Arts and Economic Recovery



Right now, there is an unprecedented opportunity for the nation's art and culture community to play a role in revitalizing America's economy.

Last week, Americans for the Arts, our national arts advocacy organization, submitted its policy recommendations on the arts and economic recovery to the Obama Transition Team. The entire document is [here](#), but, in short, the nine point program includes:

1. Include Artists in Proposals for Unemployment & Healthcare Benefits for Part-Time Employees.
2. Boost Arts Projects in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).
3. Provide Economic Recovery Support to Federal Cultural Agencies.
4. Include Cultural Planning Through the Economic Development Administration (EDA).
5. Increase Cultural Facilities Support in the Rural Development Program (USDA).
6. Link the Transportation Enhancement Program (TE Program) with State Arts Agencies.
7. Create the Artist Corp.
8. Make Human Capital Investments in Arts Job Training.
9. Appoint a Senior-Level Administration Official to Coordinate the Arts Portfolio.

Please click [here](#) to send an email or letter to your congressional representative and urge them to support these recommendations as part of a national economic recovery plan. You can also click [here](#) to send a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.

In addition, this [link](#) will connect you to the Cultural Advocacy Group's page on Change.gov, the President-Elect's transition website. It includes recommendations endorsed by 16 national arts service organizations, including the American Association of Museums, Opera America, Theatre Communications Group and Americans for the Arts, with policy recommendations on:

1. National Endowment for the Arts
2. Cultural Exchange
3. Arts Education
4. National Service and the Arts
5. Appointment of a Senior-Level Official to Coordinate Arts and Cultural Policy
6. Role of the Arts in the Not-for-Profit Community

The page includes a comments section where you can post your thoughts on the role of arts and culture in the next administration and in our national discourse.

As always thank you for your advocacy efforts. Your voice *does* make a difference.

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