

STATE ADVOCACY ALERT 2010-01

**Thank You
Secretary of State
Kurt Browning**

United Arts invites you to follow our lead and send a letter of thanks to the Secretary. Our letter can be found at the end of this alert from Florida Cultural Alliance.

Dear Local Arts Agency Leaders:

For those of you who participated on last week's statewide conference call, this is a follow-up reminder that if you have not e-mailed Secretary of State Browning and copied Sandy Shaughnessy and JuDee Pettijohn regarding state arts and cultural appropriation requests for Fiscal Year 2010-2011, please follow through this week and send

those e-mails. As we discussed last week, we all need to communicate thank you e-mails to Secretary Browning for his incredible support and leadership for our industry, and encourage him to please submit the following appropriation requests for the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs grant line items in his Department of State FY2010-2011 budget requests to the Governor and the Governor's Budget Office:

- a. Cultural and Museum Grants -- \$14 million
- b. Specific Cultural Project Grants -- \$2.5 million
- c. State Touring Program and Fellowships -- \$350,000 (\$250,000 for State Touring and \$100,000 for Fellowships)
- d. Florida Humanities Council -- \$279,000

and the following lists for funding consideration:

- e. Rollover Cultural Facilities List once updated and finalized by the Division of Cultural Affairs
- f. Cultural Endowment List once updated and finalized by the Division of Cultural Affairs

I suggest you write a thank you letter to Secretary Kurt Browning for his support and encourage him to include the Division of Cultural Affairs' 2010-2011 budget requests (listed above) in his agency budget requests to the Governor's Office. Please copy JuDee Pettijohn, Sandy Shaughnessy, and me on your e-mails. Thank you so much for following up on this request this week.

Here are the e-mail addresses:

secretaryofstate@dos.state.fl.us

JPettijohn@dos.state.fl.us

SShaughnessy@dos.state.fl.us

info@flca.net

Following is our letter to Secretary Browning:

August 25, 2009

Dear Secretary Browning,

United Arts of Central Florida would like to express our sincere appreciation for your continued support and advocacy on behalf of Florida's arts and cultural communities and organizations. We know that it is imperative to maintain sustaining levels of funding to promote arts education, cultural programs and the economic impact that stems from our creative industries. We offer our full support for your FY2010-2011 budget request.

United Arts endorses the following funding allocations in your budget request:

\$14 million - Cultural and Museum Grants
\$2.5 million - Specific Cultural Project Grants
\$350,000 - State Touring Program (\$250,000) and Fellowships (\$100,000)

Cultural Facilities Rollover List
Cultural Endowment Rollover List
Historic Special Category Rollover List

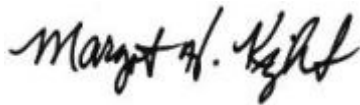
The economic impact of the arts in the Central Florida Region is astounding. In 2005 the total economic expenditures for Arts and Cultural Organizations and Audiences was \$165,312,100. This represented over 5,660 jobs with household incomes of \$111,717,000. Local governments benefited to the tune of \$8,966,000 and the State gained \$11,720,000 in revenue.

The benefit to early and continuing education is well documented. Our recovery from the economic contraction must include our artistic workers and the employees who support our cultural organizations. Our citizens need, now more than ever, the positive stimulus that comes from the arts and the creative environment they engender. Cultural tourism is so important to our local economy that is blessed annually with millions of visitors from all over the world. We must maintain a "critical mass of the arts" to stay on their radar. Our cultural cache is important to the entire State as well as the nation.

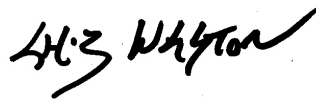
Thank you for your example and advocacy for the arts of Florida,

Margot H. Knight

Thank you for your advocacy efforts.
Your voice *does* make a difference.



Margot H. Knight
President & CEO



Chip Weston
Government Affairs