

## Restore State Art Funds – Advocacy Action Plan

**Help the ARTS in Georgia by joining with arts advocates from around the state to ask for an increase in arts funding.**

The budget for the Georgia Council for the Arts was cut by half in 2010; then cut by 90% in 2011. The Grass Roots Arts Program was defunded completely. Georgia ranks 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation in arts spending. Georgia has a per capita rate of \$.06. Severe cuts in the state arts budget have eliminated jobs, cut programs, decreased the number of GCA Grantees (888 to 66), caused a loss of members, the loss of local matching funds and the loss of NEA federal funds. The cuts have reduced GCA staff and programs. While no one expects the State to provide PRIMARY funding for arts groups, the State DOES need to be a robust PARTNER along with individuals, corporations, foundations and local governments. The cuts have put the state arts community at risk. Our arts council celebrates 50 years of service in 2015. Now is the time to celebrate 50 years of our arts council's achievements and Georgia's rich heritage of arts and culture. Post and share this Action Plan, post reminders on your website, on social media and ask others to support the Advocacy Action Plan. Need help? [artsga@artsgeorgia.net](mailto:artsga@artsgeorgia.net)

### ADVOCACY ACTION PLAN ----- *Tomorrow's Promise Begins NOW: Act for the Arts*

Date	Action	Description
<b>September</b>	<b>Advocacy Action Plan Kick Off</b>	
09.05	Print the ArtsGeorgia Budget Proposal. Identify 5 people to work with you. Make calls to confirm they will help.	<a href="http://bit.ly/1feZxPi">http://bit.ly/1feZxPi</a> Ask 5 arts friends if they will make calls, send e-mails, mail letters or attend meetings with legislators. Set up teams of 2-3 for meetings with officials.
09.09	Print GCA Funding Charts; download and copy NASAA state rankings.	Charts at same Link as above. NASAA report (use last page) here: <a href="http://bit.ly/18nz1oY">http://bit.ly/18nz1oY</a>
09.09.	Review Resources and talking points	ArtsGeorgia Advocacy Tools, Talking Points, Resources and the <i>ArtsGeorgia Official Arts Advocacy Handbook – 2013</i> .
<b>09.16</b>	Tell Gov. Deal the Arts Community wants to work closely in support of his plan for economic development, cultural tourism and job creation.	Use the sample letter (or write your own) to ask Gov. Deal for specific acts: 1) Governor increase the FY2015 budget for the Georgia Council for the Arts. 2) Governor include funds in the budget for a Community Arts Partners Program. 3) Governor announce an arts budget increase at the Governor's Awards.
<b>09.23</b>	Call your state Senator and state Representative to ask for meetings. Ask to support arts budget increase.	Find your members of the General Assembly at these links:  <a href="http://www.house.ga.gov/Representatives/en-US/HouseMembersList.aspx">http://www.house.ga.gov/Representatives/en-US/HouseMembersList.aspx</a> <a href="http://www.senate.ga.gov/senators/en-US/SenateMembersList.aspx">http://www.senate.ga.gov/senators/en-US/SenateMembersList.aspx</a>
	Ask them to be an arts advocate to support an arts budget increase	<a href="http://www.nasaa-arts.org/Advocacy/Advocacy-Tools/10ways.pdf">http://www.nasaa-arts.org/Advocacy/Advocacy-Tools/10ways.pdf</a>

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>Arts &amp; Humanities Month</b>	
10.02	TBD - pending announcements	Governor's Awards for the Arts and Humanities at the State Capitol
<b>10.03</b>	E-Mail* Governor Deal to repeat the ask that he increase the Arts Budget.	Use sample email (or your own message) to ask Gov. Deal for specific acts: 1) Governor increase the FY2015 budget for the Georgia Council for the Arts 2) Governor include budget funds for the Community Arts Partners program.
<b>10.07-10.28</b>	Call and/or meet with your Georgia state Senator and your state Representatives.	Find your members of the General Assembly at the links above. Ask them to be an advocate with their votes to increase the arts budget. Ask them to join in the 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the arts in Georgia.
<b>November-January</b>		The Advocacy Action Plan and future events, before and during the 2014 session of the Georgia General Assembly, will be updated based on reports, success with planned activities and published news about the Governor's FY2015 arts budget.
<b>April, 2014</b>		<b>Arts Advocacy Day</b> The 2014 National Arts Action Summit - Washington DC

\*Mail/E-Mail addresses at sample letters.

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### **Economic Data and Statistics**

Georgia's arts employment, employee compensation, assets/revenues, plus additional statistics & economic data along with charts are in Creative Industries Report.

<http://bit.ly/134Iwot>

In Georgia: 12,768 creative industries establishments, employing 199,921, generate total revenues of approx. \$29 billion. There are 2,474 arts, cultural and humanities nonprofits, generating revenues of \$461 million with almost \$1.7 billion in assets.

### **Advocacy Tools:**

Sample letters & e-mails in MS Word can be found on the ArtsGeorgia website.

### **Find Your State Legislator (zip code)**

<https://www.votervoice.net/ARTSUSA/address>

### **Contact your local or state Media.**

Site has sample op-ed letters to the Editor.  
Consider other talking points and economic data in composing letters and e-mails.

<https://www.votervoice.net/ARTSUSA/Campaigns/30431/Respond>

ArtsGeorgia, Inc.  
[www.artsgeorgia.net](http://www.artsgeorgia.net)