



ARTS GEORGIA
STATE OF THE ARTS™

ArtsGeorgia State Arts Funding FY2015 Budget Proposal

ArtsGeorgia submits the following proposal for an increase in state arts funding to celebrate the 50 year anniversary of the founding of the Georgia Council for the Arts, to address recent reductions in arts funding, to support the creation of jobs in the nonprofit and creative industries, to avoid the loss of federal funds, to reverse cuts in arts funding resulting in Georgia's current rank at 50th in the United States (based on per capita state arts funding of .06 when the national average is \$.93). The proposed increase in state arts funding shall include the following specific allocations:

First, an increase of \$913,534.00 in state arts funding allocated to the Georgia Council for the Arts in addition to the FY2014 budget amount of \$586,466.00 for an FY 2015 total budget allocation of \$1,500,000.00. These funds support the General Assembly's findings that the arts have intrinsic value for the state of Georgia, its communities and its citizens; that the arts are an important part of the culture and heritage of the citizens of Georgia, representing how residents of our state depict our traditions, practices, and lifestyles; and the Georgia Council for the Arts cultivates the growth of vibrant, thriving Georgia Communities through the arts. The primary purpose is the creation of jobs in the creative industries and nonprofit arts sectors. (The number of jobs created is estimated to be in the range of 85-125, plus retention of 50-75 jobs.) The secondary purpose is to attain a higher national rank in the U. S. for economic development reasons. (Based on the proposed increase in arts funding, the per capita amount and Georgia's national rank are estimated to increase to \$.27 and 44th, respectively.) Lastly, this proposal insures receipt of all available federal matching funds.

Additional benefits include: a) the Arts Council's ability to expand its number of partner and project grants to historically qualified local arts organizations that have lost state funding due to budget reductions, b) the expansion of funding for cultural tourism, c) the celebration of the Arts Council's 50th anniversary supporting an enhancement in the scope of services offered by the Council staff, and d) support for the participation of Arts Council members in the exercise of their duties and the celebration of the arts council's achievements during its 50 years of service to the state of Georgia.

The above increase in state arts funding shall include a specific stipulation that a minimum of \$500,000.00 shall be designated for a) salary and support for a full time Arts Education Manager at the Georgia Council for the Arts, b) the development and management of new statewide initiatives to support and grow comprehensive arts education in Georgia including the completion of an arts in education 5-year strategic plan, and c) the planning for development of arts in education programming for K-12 in Georgia schools in partnership with the Georgia Dept. of Education.

In addition to the above, ArtsGeorgia submits there be a line item FY2015 budget allocation of \$1,000,000.00 for a state wide Community Arts Partnership (CAP) program (similar to the former Grassroots Art Program which is no longer funded by the Georgia General Assembly) to insure distribution of funding for arts programs, cultural tourism, traditional arts and economic development in local communities in all of Georgia's 159 counties. It is recommended that ArtsGeorgia, along with other statewide arts organizations, cooperate with Georgia Council for the Arts in the process of drafting guidelines and administrative procedures for the implementation of the proposed public private partnership.

The above recommendations are respectfully submitted to the Georgia arts community, the leaders of Georgia's statewide arts service organization, and to the Director and all of the members of the state Arts Council.

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