



ARTS

FOUNDATION FOR TUCSON AND SOUTHERN ARIZONA

EXTRA! EXTRA!

The New Normal?

A Note From Debi

March 20, 2017

What we know about the arts

"I have seen first hand the value of the arts in America. I have watched as the local art community has transformed my city into a culturally vibrant and exciting place to live. I have witnessed the arts improve the quality of life for the disadvantaged. I am proud of my city and my city is proud of its arts community. These cuts are not just an attack on the arts, they are an affront to American culture and American values."

-Jeff Powell, Marketing and Communications Committee, Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona, University of Arizona Graduate

"The standard for arts endeavor and support in America has long been set and exemplified by the National Endowment for the Arts. To eliminate the NEA would send the message that arts and culture are unimportant as a part of American Society when the evidence of their central importance to our very humanity is

clear and overwhelming."

-Susan Franano, Board Member, Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona, Former Executive Director of the Tucson Symphony Orchestra

Those of you that committed to living in a region where innovation, intellectual curiosity, and human compassion are woven into the fabric of community have been very visible about your belief in the power of the arts to transform communities. You have sent letters and emails, signed petitions, stood up in Tucson City Council meetings, and testified to legislators in both Phoenix and in Washington D.C, to share data and stories about the impact the arts have in successfully addressing some of our most complex challenges as a society-- social justice, economic equity, closing achievement gaps in education, fostering a sense of well-being, safety, connectedness, and identity across cultures. You have also shared stories of expression, creativity, celebration, talent discovered (and recovered), and the love of all things **Art**.

Our community beyond the arts sector has benefited from your efforts.

Thank you!

If the budget recommendations released by President Trump last week are approved, we know there will be more work to do. Trump's budget has eliminated funding for the **National Endowment of the Arts (NEA)**, **National Endowment of the Humanities (NEH)**, **Corporation for Public Broadcasting** and the **Institute of Museum and Library Services**. Though this has not been passed yet, it is a reality check.

Is this the new normal for not just arts and culture, but for all public goods? What will Tucson and Southern Arizona, a well-known hub of arts and culture, look like?

We have no definitive answers right now, but we know the challenge that is in front of all of us. We must, and we will, continue to advocate for support for the arts in the public sector and continue to urge our elected officials to make a commitment to support of the arts on a state and national level. It is our obligation and mission to do so-- and it is the obligation of our government to provide such public goods.

"It is not unreasonable to dedicate a fraction of 1% of our tax dollars to the institutions and programs that fulfill the commitment made to the

American people...what is unreasonable is for our elected officials to ignore their duty to support and uphold our Constitution by not providing for ALL the established purposes and guidelines to our Constitution."

-Susan Gamble, Board Member, Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona, Owner, Santa Theresa Tile Company

This iteration of the attack on the arts exhibited by Trump is, unfortunately, not surprising. The question now becomes, how do we think about reducing the impact of an impending 'new normal'? To help answer that question, we are turning our energies toward exploring locally and regionally supported strategies and solutions that assure our values as Americans-- people *of* this region-- are reflected in how we care for and fund our creative and cultural communities. We hope you will join our efforts...

What can you do?

MAKE A STATEMENT: SHOWCASE YOUR ART

A live showcase

March 25 | 10:00 a.m. until...

Event location: 3202 East 1st Street Tucson, Arizona 85716.

RSVP deadline: March 22, 2017.

The Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona and Steve Kozachik, Ward 6 Council Member have teamed up to create a celebratory event to highlight arts and culture in our community: "Tucson: People, Politics, and Culture."

This event is a family-friendly, collective performance in celebration of the diverse creativity that exists in our community. We invite all artist-types and culture-makers to attend and present for 4-5 minutes on a piece of art or in their chosen creative form – whether it be music, dance, poetry and spoken word, meditation, design, textiles, painting, culinary work, theater and short acts, short films, photography. Through your participation, we will create a shared vision and voice as to why funding for the arts is important.

We invite you to participate in this event as a way of showing solidarity and support for the arts community here in town. To register, visit [The Arts Foundation website](#).

SHARE YOUR VISION

What would a fully funded arts and culture sector look like in Southern Arizona? What would be better or different about our community? What problems would be solved? What is working now that we should do more of in order to sustain the good work being done in this region? What steps should we take to accomplish this?

Send your thoughts and ideas to info@artsfoundtucson.org.

Start a conversation. Start a movement.

DONATE. DONATE. DONATE.

This is the major way you can help keep arts and culture funding a real thing in our community. The NEA estimates that for every \$1 it provides in grant money, an additional \$9 dollars is matched and leveraged through local and private sources. Our mandate is to ensure that these numbers grow, but we can't do it without you.

[Visit our GoFundMe page now!](#)



#SAVEtheNEA

Now is the time to commit yourself to sustained advocacy for arts and culture.

As part of Arizona Citizens for the Arts advocacy campaign – starting today – we are asking you to:

1. **Go to the Americans for the Arts Action Center** and send a customizable message to your elected representatives in Congress. Actively recruit your friends and family to do the same. Generously, share information on social media, using the national hashtags – #SAVEtheNEA, #ArtsVote, AND tag your Congressional members.
2. If you are a board member or an arts administrator for an organization, engage your fellow employees and your whole board in how the organization can engage in advocacy for the cultural agencies, and how each individual board member or employee will participate.

3. **If you are an individual or an organization that has benefited from an NEA grant, we would appreciate you [sending us a short narrative](#) about the impact of that grant – the program it supported, who benefited, why it was important to the community, and what would have been lost or never have come to be without the support. We will be using these stories in our lobbying.**
4. Stay informed, and be ready to act. Make sure you're [subscribed to our newsletter](#), AND enrolled in our [Legislative Action Center](#). And visit the [American's for the Arts Advocacy Mobilization Center](#) for up-to-date information about what is happening in Washington.

Finally, you can keep up with the other cultural agencies threatened with elimination by visiting these links for the: [NEH](#), [CPB](#) and [IMLS](#).

The Arts Matter. We Know They Do

Thank you for supporting the arts in Tucson and Southern Arizona!



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Our mailing address is:

Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona
33 South 5th Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85701

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