



FY 11 Advocacy Day Legislative Requests

Dedicated Funding for the Arts (DCCAH Funding)

Dedicated arts support from the District was cut over 53% from FY 09 to FY 10. The reduction in dedicated arts support resulted in lost jobs, lost tax revenue, and lost services for residents. Increasing the grant making from the city is critical to maintain the local creative economy.

In 2005, Arts and Culture organizations in the District paid \$335 million in wages to residents and \$62 million in taxes (directly related to more than 11,000 full time jobs.) Jobs in the arts and culture sector leverage additional city revenue. Visiting arts and culture attendees spend -- on average -- \$40 additional dollars per event on concessions, food, transportation, and additional associated expenses.

The impact of dedicated arts funding from the local government is immense. On average, nationally, one dollar of government funding results in an additional seven dollars in private support. 54% of all District non-profits have budgets under one million dollars, and while the average revenue stream for non-profits includes only 7% from Government sources, that small contribution is critical. We request that the District's 2011 allocation for dedicated arts funding support local arts jobs, and the tax revenue base.

Support Every Student in the DCPS with Arts Education

The District can do more to reinforce the efforts of students on the cusp of succeeding, but more also needs to be done for those at the greatest risk of failing. Performing and Fine Arts education supports future careers in graphic arts, culinary arts, fine arts, media, journalism, and related fields, and also supports development of critical character assets.

Success within the educational system encourages a child's development of executive function. Just as directly, failure within the education system undermines a child's development of executive function. Education specialist Jerome Kagan, Ph.D. notes, "an excellent predictor of juvenile crime in a town or city is the magnitude of the difference between the top and bottom quartiles [on standardized tests.] Moreover, the size of this difference is also an excellent predictor of the incidence of adult criminality, depression, and addition to alcohol or drugs." The opportunities for success provided by sound arts education programming support the development of executive function in all students. Education Policy analyst Tina Beveridge argues, "If we marginalize all non-tested subjects, we create a system in which only the affluent members of our society have access to the most comprehensive and well-rounded educations, which widens the achievement gap rather than closes it." When entire classes, and schools, are treated as lesser than other classes, and schools, those students are provided less of a chance to develop their independent will to achieve.

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The principles with which the city supports arts education should take into account that the outcomes to measure include not only skills, and higher test scores on other subjects, but dropout rates. We ask that the District of Columbia include arts education in school reform efforts, and support grant-making for arts education.

Quick Fact: The 4 billion in total government arts funding (federal, state, and local) in 2005 resulted in 29.6 billion in government revenue.

Amend the Universal Commercial Code to Protect Artists

The DC Advocates for the Arts ask that the City Council pass a bill amending the UCC to protect the rights of Artists, Collectors, and the Estates of Artists. Since July 2001, DC has had no provision that pertains to artist/gallery transactions involving works of art. In the absence of a statute, works of art owned by artists but in the possession of galleries (e.g., loaned for exhibition or otherwise in a gallery's inventory) can be seized by creditors of the gallery. A draft bill addressing these concerns is: B18-451.

Support the Health of DC Public School Students

The DC Advocates for the Arts support efforts to address the health of students through legislation increasing required physical education programming. The habits of exercise and consumption that students learn in school are critical to their future health. We support development of more meaningful physical education requirement, and encourage District-wide implementation of diverse physical education options – including dance – in fulfillment of the physical education requirement. The long-term health and well being of school children should be considered in the design of community schools.

Quick Fact: In 2008 4,625,000 individuals attended museums in the District, and 563,000 attended the theater.

Continue to Develop City-Wide Tools For Government Transparency

The District of Columbia is on the leading edge in the development of new tools encouraging citizen participation in the legislative and budgetary process. The recently released beta of track.dc.gov can be further developed for real-time accountability. The DC Advocates for the Arts ask that the city adding a feed for public review of proposed legislation before consideration by the council, and a searchable database for all one time policy initiative proposals (earmarks.) Through transparency, citizens and policy-makers are encouraged to be rigorous, creative, and bold in their use of taxpayer money. We applaud the District government for being in the lead nationally on this issue.

For more detailed information, please visit: www.dcadvocatesforthearts.org