



A Message from the Director

Please accept the enclosed materials as your Fiscal Year 2012 Grant Notification Packet.

As you consider the results of your FY2012 application(s), we want to provide you with an update regarding the Arizona Commission on the Arts' budget.

As a result of the state's enacted FY2012 budget, and for the first time in 46 years, the Arts Commission will not receive a general fund appropriation for FY2012. The Arts Commission will retain one state funding stream, the Arts Trust Fund, which will serve as matching funding to ensure the Arts Commission's eligibility for its federal arts grant. Unfortunately, the Arts Trust Fund will also suffer a reduction of roughly 8% of its projected revenue for FY2012.

These most recent reductions mean that state funding allocated to the Arts Commission has been reduced by 75% since the Arts Commission's peak state budget allocation just four years ago, with overall state arts funding at its lowest level in 26 years.

Even during times of peak funding for the arts in Arizona, our state ranked near the bottom in per-capita funding for the arts. After the loss of the Arts Commission's general fund appropriation, and the elimination of the Kansas Arts Commission, the Arizona Commission on the Arts expects the next published national report to show Arizona at the bottom of the list.

Though these fiscal challenges are great, we are pleased to report that reductions to most FY2012 grant awards are minor relative to last year's grants.

When the recession began and reductions were applied to the Arts Commission's budget, most reductions were applied to operations and personnel, so as to protect vital programs and grants for organizations and schools. Since 2008, agency personnel and operations expenditures have been slashed by huge percentages, with staff positions reduced by nearly half, and all staff sustaining permanent salary reductions.

We know you are busy and doing the best you can in these challenging times. *So why is it important for members of the arts and culture sector to understand the intricacies of state arts funding?*

1. There is a direct relationship between the amount of state funding dedicated to the state arts budget and the amount of funding available for arts grants.
2. **Together we must remain vigilant in support of the statewide arts and culture sector.**

(continued on reverse)

That is why it is so important to be proactive in maintaining support for arts and culture, statewide. We ask that you do the following immediately:

- **Review this packet and return required paperwork**, signifying acceptance of your award.
- **Contact your legislators** with a personal note or letter of thanks. Let them know what this support means to your organization and community. Consider inviting them to attend and/or speak at an event of your organization. Sample thank you letters and invitations can be found in the Arts Commission's publication, *Building Public Value for the Arts*. <http://www.azarts.gov/arts-advocacy/>
- **Create a profile and enter data in the [Arizona Cultural Data Project](http://www.azculturaldata.org/home.aspx)** (CDP). Get involved in CDP, a program that provides a wide variety of tools that will help your organization's work in this current economy.* Beginning with the FY2013 grant application cycle, organizations will be required to enter their budget data through the Arizona Cultural Data Project. <http://www.azculturaldata.org/home.aspx>
- **Consider becoming a member of your local Chamber of Commerce.** Join your voice with the voices of other business in your community. Your organization is a vital part of the economy in your community; be a part of the Chamber of Commerce to ensure visibility and representation for the arts industry.

Of equal importance is your engagement with Arizona Citizens/Action for the Arts, Arizona's statewide arts advocacy organization. Call their office at 602.253.6535, visit their website at <http://www.azcitizensforthearts.org/>, join their mailing list, follow their social networking efforts, and get to know the elected officials who make decisions about Arizona's investment in arts and culture.

Know that we take our charter and support of your work very seriously. We know, as you do, that arts and culture can play a significant role in Arizona's recovery and will feature prominently in Arizona's future.

Thank you for your continued service to Arizona's arts and culture sector. If there are specific ways we can be of assistance to you or your organization, please contact us.



Robert C. Booker, Executive Director

***Attention organizations in Tucson, Phoenix, Mesa, Flagstaff and the West Valley:** It is imperative that you complete your CDP profile and enter data as soon as possible. Data from organizations in these areas will be included in Americans for the Arts' upcoming *Arts & Economic Prosperity* report. Your cooperation to enter data by **August 1, 2011**, will ensure Arizona's data set for the report is accurate and comprehensive. *Questions about CDP? Contact Special Projects Coordinator, Patrick Fanning, at 602-771-6529.*