417 W. Roosevelt St.
Phoenix, AZ 85003-1326
p 602.771.6501
f 602.256.0282
info@azarts.gov
www.azarts.gov

Arizona Commission on the Arts

Arizona Commission on the Arts
History of the Commission

1965
Following the creation of the National Endowment for the Arts in 1965, funding is provided to all state governments to form a state arts entity. Funding is to be used to survey the existing facilities, organizations and individuals engaged in the arts in each state.

1966
Governor Samuel P. Goddard establishes the Arizona Commission on the Arts and Humanities as a state council by executive order on January 24, 1966.

1967
The 28th Arizona Legislature passes S.B. 139, establishing the Arizona Commission on the Arts and Humanities as a permanent state agency, and Governor Jack Williams signs the bill on March 13, 1967.

The Arts Commission becomes the official agency of the State of Arizona "to stimulate and encourage public interest in the cultural resources, through the study and presentation of the performing arts and fine arts, to ensure that their role in the life of our communities will continue to grow and will play an even more significant part in the welfare and educational experience of our citizens."

1972
The Commission's programs begin with three Arizona artists working to serve one school district in the **Arts Education (now Arts Learning)** program.

1974
The Commission's **Expansion Arts** program, serving Arizona's diverse populations, is the first state program of its kind in the nation. The program encourages the presentation and preservation of Arizona's rich cultural traditions.

1976
In response to a need for quality performing arts events in Arizona towns, the Commission initiates the **Art in Arizona Towns** program. Performing artists visit communities for three to six days, giving performances and workshops.

In partnership with social service organizations, the Commission begins the **Ticket Discount** program to help elderly citizens and people with disabilities attend performing arts events. (The program remains active for 15 years.)

1978
The National Endowment for the Arts awards a **Challenge Grant** of $480,000 to the Commission for distribution among eight major cultural institutions. This special three-year grant requires the institutions to match each federal dollar with at least three dollars of new and increased giving. The institutions actually match the grant with seven dollars of private donations to one federal dollar. This same year general operating support grants, called Basic Aid, are awarded to large institutions. The Challenge Grant

and **Basic Aid** Grants demonstrate the commitment of the Commission to contribute to the continued artistic development of our statewide cultural treasures.

The **Artist Fellowship** program begins awarding fellowships in the visual arts followed in subsequent years by awards in the performing arts and creative writing. The program underscores one of the Commission's primary goals: recognition and support for Arizona's artists. Fellowship awards provide individual artists the opportunity for research and development. (The program continues for 24 years.)

When Governor Bruce Babbitt commissions works of art by Arizona artists for two new buildings in the Capitol Mall, the Commission designs and implements an **Art in Public Places** program to assist local communities in selecting, commissioning and funding art for public spaces.

With the support of a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship grant to Executive Director Louise Tester, the Commission begins a pilot project of cultural exchange with Mexico. This program, called the **International Exchange** program **(later called International Arts Exchange)**, provides assistance for Arizona artists to tour Mexico and other countries and for international artists to tour Arizona.

The first **Southwest Presenters Conference** is held. The conference later becomes a major showcase for performing artists and an important conference/booking meeting for presenting organizations from throughout Arizona. The conference addresses such issues as programming risks and how to market them, building an image through graphic design, audience development and how to develop broad based community support. Held in conjunction with the Scottsdale Festival of the Arts, the conference and showcase give presenters the opportunity to see the artists they are considering bringing to their communities perform before live audiences.

1980

The **Governor's Arts Awards** program begins with Governor Bruce Babbitt presenting the first awards to recognize excellence in individual and corporate support of the arts. The Governor's Arts Awards program continues as a joint project of the Governor's Office, Arizonans for Cultural Development (now Arizona Citizens/Action for the Arts) and the Arizona Commission on the Arts.

The Commission designs the **Organization Development Program (ODP)** as a specialized training program to give technical assistance to the board members and staffs of Arizona's developing arts organizations. The program, now known as **General Operating Support (GOS)**, provides funding and technical support to Arizona arts organizations which produce ongoing public programs.

1981

The Commission initiates the **Design** program to offer technical assistance to communities and nonprofit organizations in graphic design and the planning of cultural facilities, such as performing arts centers, galleries, museums, cultural parks and artist spaces.

1982

As a result of a positive performance review conducted of state agencies by the Arizona Auditor General's office, Governor Bruce Babbitt signs enabling legislation continuing the agency to July 1, 1992, and officially changing its name from Arizona Commission on the Arts and Humanities to **Arizona Commission on the Arts**.

1984

Arizona becomes a partner with **Meet the Composer, Inc.**, the national service organization which promotes the music of living American composers, encourages the commissioning of new music and develops audiences for the music of our time.

1987

The Arts Commission celebrates its twentieth anniversary with the completion of a major research project

resulting in a statewide arts plan, **Arizona: The Arts in Partnership, 1987 - 1990**. The plan gives visibility to Arizona's model arts programs and shows how the arts can serve as partners with other sectors in promoting Arizona's artistic resources.

1988

The Arizona Commission on the Arts joins six other state arts agencies in a national consortium which receives a three-year **Challenge Grant** from the National Endowment for the Arts to support individual artists.

The Arts Commission begins the **Local Arts Agencies** project to assist new and developing local arts agencies with program planning, administrative and organizational skills. The project increases awareness and access to the arts in each participating community.

The Arts Commission, with the Arizona Department of Education, completes the first **Statewide Survey on the Status of Arts Education in Arizona Public Schools, 1988**. Educators, arts administrators and community leaders attend a retreat to assess the survey information and subsequently issue a consensus statement, **The Oak Creek Accord**, detailing a five-year plan for growth and direction of arts education in Arizona.

1989

To support individual artists in all disciplines for specific projects, the Arts Commission creates the **Artist Projects** program. The program supports and encourages artists' ideas, dreams and needs, and supports collaborative and interdisciplinary projects.

The State Legislature establishes the **Arizona Arts Trust Fund** by adding fifteen dollars to the annual corporate filing fee. The program increases general operating support and requires participating organizations to outline a plan to include representatives of racial and ethnic minorities on their boards.

The Arts Commission's **Arts Education (now Arts Learning)** projects assist schools and arts organizations with projects that integrate the arts in educational programs. The program places strong emphasis on collaborations among arts disciplines and use of community resources in the arts.

1990

In an innovative partnership between artists, private enterprise, prosecutors, law enforcement and educators, the **Anti-Drug A.P.P.L.E. Corps** places artists in after school programs to help youth, family and community to reject drugs. The program is supported with RICO funds from the Maricopa County Attorney's Office.

The **Arizona Arts Congress**, in conjunction with Arizonans for Cultural Development (now Arizona Citizens/Action for the Arts) and Arizona Alliance for Arts Education, brings over 300 people to the Arizona Capitol to hear legislators speak about the arts and to attend a luncheon with their legislators.

Arizona Dance on Tour increases audiences for high quality dance presentations. National touring artists present concerts and residencies with local dance companies and communities.

The **Tribal Museum** program (later called Tribal Museum Assessment) provides technical assistance to the established and emerging tribal museums and cultural centers in Arizona. The Arts Commission surveys more than 25 Arizona tribes to identify needs of tribal museums and their communities. Technical assistance, including on-site consultants and salary assistance, is provided to these entities.

1991

The Arts Commission's **Rural Assistance** program provides technical assistance to rural sponsors for exhibition development. A series of workshops held in Bisbee, Flagstaff, Globe and Sacaton provide

training in audience development, education programs, care and preservation of artwork, working with historic buildings and developing exhibition seasons. (The program is active for two years.)

The Arts Commission joined the Arizona Department of Education and the fine arts departments of the three state universities in a collaborative effort to make the arts a part of basic education. The **Directory of Arizona Exemplary Fine Arts Sites, K - 8**, **Arizona Arts Education Research Institute** and **Artist/Teacher Institutes** are the result of the joint effort.

1992
The Legislature and Governor Fife Symington reinstate the Arts Commission until 2002.

As a part of a national campaign, the **Arizona Save Outdoor Sculpture!** program locates, inventories, and increases awareness of publicly accessible outdoor sculpture. Arizona SOS! joins with 35 other states in an effort sponsored by the National Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property and the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. (The program is active for two years.)

Funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the **Collaborative Initiatives** program focuses on collaborative artistic projects that help organizations reach and involve new communities. The Arts Commission gives priority to projects that show a sincere sharing of talents and specific efforts to understand different cultures. (The program is active for one year.)

In a collaborative project between the Arts Commission, the Arizona Department of Education and the fine arts colleges of the three state universities, **Arizona Arts Education Research Institute (AAERI)** funds research studies which examine programs in the arts to determine their impact on learning.

1993
The **Border Arts** project supports arts programs reflective of the cultural heritage of the people in the border counties of Yuma, Santa Cruz and Cochise. (This program is active for two years.)

Supported through the Western States Arts Federation, **Tumblewords: Writers Rolling Around the West** places Arizona poets and writers in underserved communities to provide outreach activities and public community readings. (This program is active for 10 years.)

1994
Arts Education Through Distance Learning allows two teams to conduct distance learning experiments using communications technology with K-12 arts curricula. The University of Arizona designs music and visual arts lessons; Arizona State University focuses on dance and drama. (This program is active for three years.)

1996
The Arizona Legislature and Governor Fife Symington create the **Arizona Arts Endowment Fund (Arizona ArtShare)**, a public/private partnership. This long-term funding mechanism will, through interest income from permanent endowment funds, support the stabilization efforts of Arizona arts organizations and arts education.

1997
The State Board of Education adopts **Arts Standards** with the expectation that students demonstrate competency in music, visual art, dance and theater by eighth grade and proficiency in one art form by graduation. The Arts Commission works with the Department of Education and the Arizona Alliance for Arts Education to develop strategies to help local schools make the arts an integral part of curriculum.

1998
The Arizona Commission on the Arts enters into a unique collaboration called **Arizona ArtsPlace** with the Phoenix Arts Commission (now Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture), Business Volunteers for the Arts

(now Arts and Business Council of Greater Phoenix), the Tucson/Pima Arts Council (TPAC), Arizona State University and the Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF). This collaboration provides grants, technical assistance, hardware, software and training to Arizona's non-profit arts organizations as they develop and maximize their online capabilities. (This program is active for six years.)

ArtistsRegister.com/Arizona is established as an online register of Arizona's visual artists which eliminates multiple slide submissions for artists and provides easy-to-access notices of public art projects and competitions. The online register connects people interested in visual arts with Arizona artists and their work. ArtistsRegister.com/Arizona is a collaborative project with the Chandler Arts Commission, City of Glendale, City of Yuma, Greater Oro Valley Arts Council, Phoenix Arts Commission (now Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture), Scottsdale Cultural Council, Tempe Cultural Services, Tucson/Pima Arts Council and the Western States Arts Federation. The program later adds performing arts and literary arts registers.

1999

A federally funded program, **School-To-Work**, brings businesses and schools together to create meaningful work experiences for students. The Arizona Commission on the Arts becomes the fiscal agent for a unique arts and humanities partnership that introduces students to the wide variety of careers available in the arts. (The program is active for three years.)

ARTability: Accessing Arizona's Arts is established as a consortium of 30-plus organizations which combine resources in order to hire a full-time Accessibility Coordinator. This Coordinator provides technical advice to arts and cultural organizations wishing to develop accessible programs and spaces; distributes information about accessible arts programs and facilities to the disability community; and organizes, promotes and coordinates Audio Description, American Sign Language interpretation and other accessibility services. ARTability also promotes Universal Design in architecture, provides information on accessibility-related issues and promotes community awareness of disability-related issues.

The Arts Commission's **Artist Teacher Institutes** support two or three-day professional development institutes for teachers and administrators on-site in rural school districts throughout Arizona. Presented by Arts Commission staff and Arizona teaching artists, the Institutes help teachers in rural schools to integrate the arts and implement the Arizona arts standards in the full curriculum.

2000

In a public and private partnership with the Arizona Community Foundation, the Arizona Humanities Council and the Arizona Department of Commerce, the **Arts and Culture Build Communities** program begins. The Arts and Culture Build Communities program supports projects with ethnic, rural arts, cultural or heritage organizations in support of a community's cultural resources. The program recognizes organizations utilizing economic and tourism development strategies, and is supported by interest income from private contributions to Arizona ArtShare. The program is later called **Arts Link to Tourism and the Economy**.

2001

The agency participates in a nine-month **Sunset Audit** by the Auditor General. Legislation is introduced and passes in the 2002 session, reauthorizing the agency for 10 more years.

2002

The Wallace-Reader's Digest Funds (now The Wallace Foundation) selects Arizona as one of 13 states to participate in a national research project exploring new strategies in building public participation in the arts. The Arts Commission designs the **Understanding Participation project (UP)** as a learning opportunity between the state arts agency, consultants in the areas of arts participation and Arizona's arts organizations, communities and artists. The project utilizes national research and technical assistance to

leverage local research and develop experiments to result in broadening, deepening and diversifying participation in the arts.

2003

The Arts Commission closes its longest running program. The **Traveling Exhibitions Program** brought artwork to a variety of locations around the state, offering a number of easy-to-order gallery exhibitions. Over time the agency noted the decline in usage as other options became available. Arts organizations that previously used the program began to curate their own exhibitions and obtain art work from other organizations. The Arts Commission celebrates the success of this program.

The Arts Commission plays a leadership role in the creation of **Alliance for Audience/Showup.com**. The valley-wide organization is established to activate new audiences and provide instant online information about arts and culture.

Working with a graphic artist, the agency creates a deck of playing cards to promote the arts in Arizona. The deck of cards, titled ***52 Reasons***, contains information about Arizona arts organizations and artists demonstrating the public value of the state's investment. A national printer donated the printing of the project and the cards are distributed at the annual Governor's Arts Awards ceremony.

The Residency Roster is converted to an online searchable database of Arizona artists in all arts disciplines. It is called the **Arizona Arts Roster** and continues to be used by organizations, schools and businesses to bring artists in to their communities.

2004

An online roster of consultants is created, called the Peer Consultants Roster. The roster is a collection of diverse individuals qualified to provide consultancies on a variety of topics to arts organizations and schools.

The Arts Commission announces a pilot program called **Open Door Support**. ODS is year-round, flexible financial support for arts organizations working to understand and build participation.

2005

The Arts Commission conducts statewide listening tours in preparation for development of a new strategic plan, to be in effect 2006-2010.

The Arts Commission's website is updated and redesigned, transitioning from www.arizonaarts.org to **www.azarts.gov**.

Alliance for Audience launches its website serving arts organizations in building audiences in the greater Phoenix area. The website, **Show Up.com** offers discount tickets to arts exhibitions, performances and more. Governor Janet Napolitano makes the first online ticket purchase.

Artist Career Advancement Grants are established to offer financial support to artists at various stages of their artistic careers for a particular component of building their work as a small business.

Building Your Career Forum, a forum for Arizona artists with disabilities and those who work to develop career opportunities for Arizonans, is held in conjunction with the LEAD/Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability Training Conference in October 2005. The forum presents opportunities for professional development, networking and solution-building for Arizona artists with disabilities, arts managers, presenters, publishers and exhibitors in both the commercial and nonprofit sectors, people in government and services who work with artists and/or people with disabilities.

The **Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program**, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, is initiated with the Southwest Center at the University of Arizona. The program allows Master artists to work with apprentices to insure continuation of traditional artforms.

EGOR (Electronic Grants Online Resource) is launched for electronic submission of organization proposals, retrieval of information and increased ability to analyze trends of the Arizona arts industry.

The Arts Commission receives one of two grants from the Creative Capital Foundation for a research project to study the support structures in existence for artists with innovative practices. This research is guided by the Arizona Partnership for Innovation—a steering committee comprised of artists, arts leaders, and funders. The final report, **Creative Capital State Research Project: Arizona**, is unveiled at the 2007 Southwest Arts Conference.

As a result of the State Research Project, the Arts Commission conducts **Creative Capital Professional Development Workshops for Arizona Individual Artists**. The Arts Commission receives funding from the Arizona Community Foundation to conduct two professional development workshops in partnership with Creative Capital Foundation. Both workshops take place in Phoenix, AZ.

2006

Shelley Cohn, Executive Director, retires after 30 years of service to the Arts Commission and the arts in Arizona. Her retirement celebration, noted as a "Shelleybration," contributes a sizeable amount of funding to the private Arizona ArtShare endowment managed by the Arizona Community Foundation.

Robert C. Booker, former executive director of the Minnesota State Arts Board, is hired as the Executive Director of the Arizona Commission on the Arts. Booker receives the **Gary Young Award** from the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies for national leadership in and dedication to the arts. Mr. Booker receives the award exactly 10 years after former Executive Director Shelley Cohn received the same award. Arizona becomes the only state in the union to have two Arts Commission Executive Directors receive the Gary Young award.

Robert C. Booker, Executive Director of the Arts Commission, is appointed by Governor Napolitano as **Co-chair of the Arts and Culture Committee of the Arizona Mexico Commission**.

Southwest Arts Conference (SWAC) keynote speakers are **Bill Ivey**, former Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, and **Meredith Monk**, performing artist.

Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and The Poetry Foundation, begins. The launch of Poetry Out Loud at a nationwide level is the result of a successful pilot program that the NEA and The Poetry Foundation started in Chicago and Washington, D.C., in 2005. Poetry Out Loud entices over 250,000 students to recite and engage in poetry this year alone. The NEA and The Poetry Foundation continue their partnerships with the state arts agencies and other participating organizations to broaden the range of student participation throughout the states.

The Arizona State Legislature passes a budget that includes additional **ArtShare** funding. The final funding of the ArtShare endowment is realized with a $7 million addition to the fund. The goal to secure a state investment of $20 million in public funds is reached.

The earned interest from **ArtShare** goes directly into programs that work to stabilize Arizona's arts organizations and build working capital reserves to provide better financial stability and liquidity—a fundamental tool of smart business management. Additionally, interest revenues are used to support educational programs for children and cultural tourism initiatives across Arizona.

Emerging Leaders AZ is established as a resource for early career arts and culture administrators looking to expand their professional network and improve their job-related sills. Emerging Leaders are: passionate in the service of their organizations; energized by the process of learning their business and craft; supportive of their peers; searching for collaboration, cooperation and education opportunities; taking the lead to make Arizona's arts and culture organizations inclusive, innovative and well-respected. Through quarterly meetings and other activities, the **Emerging Leaders AZ Advisory Council** provides support and education opportunities to Arizona's emerging arts and culture administrators.

The Arts Commission announces **American Masterpieces**, an initiative through the National Endowment for the Arts that offers arts organizations large and small, urban or rural, assistance in bringing American artistic classics to their communities. The initiative at the Arts Commission enables visual and performing arts organizations to build upon their current programming or create new programs in dynamic ways. Grants through this program deepen and broaden the understanding of American masterpieces.

Arizona Citizens/Action for the Arts and the Arizona Commission on the Arts celebrate the **25th Anniversary of the Governor's Arts Awards**.

The Arizona Commission on the Arts celebrates its 40th Anniversary.

Arts Commission staff serves on the committee to select the design for the **AZ911 Memorial**.

The Arts Commission partners with the Arizona Arts Education Research Institute (AAERI), the Maricopa Partnership for Arts and Culture and the Morrison Institute for Public Policy on the report **Beyond Snapshots: Tracking the Status of Arts Education in Arizona**. The study identifies and explains issues, challenges, and options affecting formal and informal arts education in Arizona.

2007

Executive Director Robert Booker is selected to serve on the **Governor's Centennial Committee**.

Southwest Arts Conference keynote speaker is actor and contemporary Chicano art collector, **Cheech Marin**.

Bi-National Meeting in New York: Mitch Menchaca and Robert Booker attended a gathering of representatives from U.S. regional arts organizations and southern border-states in an effort to further cultural exchanges and seed new bi-national projects in arts and culture between the United States and Mexico.

2008

SWAC Conference speakers are **Carla Perlo**, founder/director of Dance Place in Washington, DC and **Anne L'Ecuyer**, Associate Vice President of Field Services for Americans for the Arts.

Robert C. Booker, Executive Director of the Arts Commission is elected as a **Trustee of the Western States Arts Federation.**

The Arts Commission moves to an electronic email system, **Patronmail**, to distribute notices and newsletters to constituents. The agency transitions from a paper newsletter to online communications.

The Arts Commission works with a design firm to create and print a new **Agency Brochure**.

The state legislature awards the Arizona Commission on the Arts $200,000 in additional funding for arts education programs. The Arts Commission responds with two new programs in the arts. **Partners in Arts Learning**, a grant program designed to broaden an arts organization's reach into their community by working with a nearby community organization, and **Step into Arts Learning**, a grant program designed to introduce rural and non-inclined schools to arts based learning programs.

Website Redesign: The Arts Commission begins redesigning its website to be in compliance with GITA policy, but also takes advantage of the migration to a new template to redesign how the agency communicates its values, goals, programs, and services.

Creative Capital Professional Development Workshops for Arizona Individual Artists: The Arts Commission receives funding from the Arizona Community Foundation to conduct two professional development workshops in partnership with Creative Capital Foundation. Both workshops take place in Tucson, AZ. A one-day workshop hosts nearly 50 individual artists from across the state, practicing in a variety of artistic disciplines. A two-day workshop hosts 25 individual artists at a pivotal moment in their career, chosen through a nomination/application process. Workshops focused on the topics of marketing, communications and strategic planning. Artists participating in these workshops and workshops held in 2005, work in tandem with Arts Commission staff to disseminate professional skills building information to artists and students in Arizona.

2009

The Residency Roster becomes the **Teaching Artist Roster**. Statewide applications for the **Teaching Artist Roster** launch in an online format. Juried artists appear in the new Teaching Artist Roster, an online directory of Arizona artists representing all artistic disciplines. Teaching artists engage schools and communities in arts based learning programs. Artists are juried into two tracks on the roster; Community Based and Education Based.

The National Endowment for the Arts awards the Arts Commission with a competitive professional development opportunity that brings selected states together to consider strategies to advance arts education. Executive Director Robert C. Booker attends the **Education Leaders Institute** on behalf of the Arts Commission in partnership with the Arizona Department of Education.

Southwest Arts Conference (SWAC) keynote speaker is renowned photographer and environmental activist, **Chris Jordan**. The annual conference moves to a new venue in Carefree, the Carefree Resort and Villas, and includes two days of learning. The first **Teaching Artist Symposium** is held, offering sessions and learning opportunities unique to teaching artists.

Governor Jan Brewer attends her first Governor's Arts Awards dinner. Education Superintendent Tom Horne plays the piano and Secretary of State Ken Bennett presents awards created by Arizona glass artists.

The state legislature sweeps $10 million of the $20 million **Arizona ArtShare Endowment** to meet the state's budget shortfall.

The **Working Capital** program that supports organizations with rainy day fund reserves is discontinued due to budget constraints.

Though the Arts Commission's actual operating cash budget is reduced by over 33% in legislative reductions and interest/fee losses within the year, the agency is able to fulfill all fiscal year 2009 grant commitments. The Arts Commission accomplishes this by careful fiscal planning and deep cuts to programs, operations and personnel – reducing agency staff by 23% over the previous two fiscal years.

The **Arts Education Survey** is distributed to schools statewide in partnership with the Arizona Department of Education. The survey seeks to identify what methods are being used to provide arts education in schools, who is teaching in the arts and what is being taught.

2010

The Arts Commission's first **Teaching Artist Award** recipient is **Josh Schachter**, recognized for innovative practices in the teaching artist field.

The Arts Commission announces the **Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)** grant program with financial support from the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust. Over 30 AED's will be placed in nonprofit visual, literary, and performing arts centers throughout Maricopa County.

The Arizona Commission on the Arts partner with the American Composers Forum (ACF) to commission two musical compositions - one choral and one for concert band – in celebration of the Arizona Centennial. The **Arizona Centennial Music Commissioning Project** selects composer **Sy Brandon** (concert band composition), composer **James DeMars** (choral composition) and librettist **Alberto Rios**. The commissioned works are celebratory in nature and reflective of the unique historical and cultural aspects of the state.

The Arizona Commission on the Arts, in partnership with Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests and Arizona Art Alliance, hosts a juried art exhibition for the **U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree**. The exhibition is shown at the Arizona State Capitol building in October 2009.

The Arts Commission is awarded funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, or "the Stimulus." Regranting funds are focused exclusively on job preservation. 22 grants are awarded through the **Arizona Arts Jobs Preservation Program**.

In the spring of 2009, Quadrant Arts Education Research, on behalf of the Arizona Arts Education Research Institute, began to study the level of arts education in Arizona public schools. Arizona K-12 public school principals were invited to participate in a survey about arts education in their schools. 409 school principals, representing 236,645 students, participated by reporting on their schools curriculum, instruction, funding and factors that contribute to the delivery of arts education. The Arizona Commission on the Arts and the Arizona Department of Education published the resulting report, ***Engaging Students, Supporting Schools, Accessing Arts Education:*** **Highlights from the Arizona Arts Education Census Project.**

2011

Commissioners ratify the Arts Commission's Strategic Plan, ***Building an Artistic Future for Arizona***, for FY11-FY14.

Governor Jan Brewer eliminates the appropriation received by the Arts Commission from the State of Arizona General Fund.

The Arts Commission launches the ***The Choice is Art*** campaign, a four-year promotional campaign for the arts in Arizona. NBA basketball player and art collector **Grant Hill** signs on as the campaign spokesperson. Over the course of four years, the campaign intends to

- Advance the cultural conversation in Arizona,
- Grow public understanding about the broad-spectrum benefits of arts programs and increase arts participation in Arizona communities, and
- Fortify a privately-held arts endowment whose funds can be utilized in support of statewide arts programs. This endowment, Arizona ArtShare, was established in 1996 and is held by the Arizona Community Foundation.

The Choice is Art's first focus is the importance of access to arts education. The campaign will evolve to address the following: the significant contributions of Arizona artists and arts professionals, the positive impact of the arts on community health and livability, the broad economic impact of the arts and culture sector, and the singular role of the arts in promoting cultural understanding.

The **Arizona Cultural Data Project,** a powerful online management tool designed to strengthen arts and cultural organizations, is launched through the work of a consortium of funders for arts and culture, including the Arizona Commission on the Arts, the Arizona Community Foundation, the City of Mesa Arts and Culture, the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona, Flagstaff Cultural Partners, Flinn Foundation, Morrison Institute for Public Policy, Tucson Pima Arts Council and the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust.

Arizona Town Hall convenes the ***98th Town Hall: Capitalizing on Arizona's Arts and Culture***. In advance of the convening, arts leaders across the state of Arizona are asked to contribute to a background report, **Capitalizing on Arizona's Arts and Culture: The Full Report**. Participants in the convening come to a consensus on recommendations for the Arizona arts industry, and the **Final Recommendations** are released by Town Hall participants.