

Nevada Arts Council

Board of Directors – Advocacy Platform, MARCH 2011

[CULTURAL POLICY: ESSENTIAL FOR NEVADA]

Government demonstrates its values and priorities through its public policies and programs—an ideal as valid during times of economic duress as in times of economic prosperity.

The Board of the Nevada Arts Council (NAC) is grateful to you, our policymakers, for continued support of the NAC and its dedicated staff. However, following an unexpected 43% cut to the NAC budget in FY09, we are gravely concerned **with the proposed additional 10+% reduction each year in FY12–13**. This cut will not help balance the budget in any meaningful manner, yet will be the ‘tipping point’ for this agency—the NAC will no longer be able to achieve its mission to serve the entire state with its vital and imaginative programs.

[OUR REQUEST TO THE STATE LEGISLATURE]

Recognizing the challenges and decisions being considered this session, the NAC Board requests that you examine the value of your state arts agency—and the role of Nevada’s arts and culture (creative) industry—as substantive catalysts for change.

The Governor’s Budget allocates just over \$1 million for the next biennium in state appropriations to the NAC—a figure so small it amounts to less than 1/10 of 1 percent—less than 3 cents per \$1,000 of the state budget.

We respectfully call upon you, our lawmakers, to maintain state funding to the Nevada Arts Council at the FY11 level of approximately \$1.1 million for each year of the next biennium. This is not an increase but maintenance of the 43% reduction in state funding for the NAC—our shared sacrifice—occurring last session. This will halt further repetitive and damaging cuts to one of Nevada’s smallest, yet most efficient and innovative state agencies.

This very small and reasonable investment is right for:

[NEVADA’S ECONOMY]

- The arts are an industry—supporting jobs, investing in local economies and government revenue, and providing the cornerstone for cultural tourism. With the proposed move into the Nevada Commission on Tourism, the NAC requires stable—not decreasing—funding to enhance Nevada’s cultural tourism strategies.
- Nevada’s arts industry is comprised of large and small businesses and entrepreneurs—the very same business sector that our government says is critical to Nevada’s recovery.
- Continued cuts to the NAC will result in less robust communities and local economies—the wellspring of the creative workforce that attracts new businesses, jobs and skilled workers to Nevada.

[NEVADA’S EDUCATIONAL FUTURE]

- Continued cuts to education require a stronger—not weaker—Nevada Arts Council. The NAC now provides frontline educational programs for Nevada’s youth. In FY10, NAC grants benefited nearly 750,000 Nevada youth in 32 urban and rural communities.
- To prepare the creative thinkers of tomorrow, Nevada’s education leaders need access to arts education programs and strategies today.
- The tools of arts education encourage creativity and innovation for every child in Nevada, while ensuring that lifelong learning opportunities are available to all Nevadans.

[NEVADA’S VALUES]

- Urban and rural Nevadans value the arts for their intrinsic worth—their beauty, vision, and inspiration; their ability to open new horizons and sharpen and challenge our thinking.
- A 21st-Century Nevada must lead the region with a vibrant cultural profile—an essential quality of life indicator—to attract quality businesses and workforce.
- Nevada’s arts and creative industries are vital to Nevada’s future success.

THE NEVADA ARTS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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