



Top 2009 Arts, Arts Education, and Cultural Legislative Issues

**Arts and Culture —
part of the solution . . .**

“The arts, humanities, and museums are critical to the quality of life and livability of America’s cities. It has been shown that the non-profit arts and culture industry generates over \$166 billion in economic activity annually, supports over 5.7 million full time jobs, and returns over \$12 billion in federal income taxes annually.

Governments which support the arts on average see a return on investment of over \$7 in taxes for every \$1 that the government appropriates.

Furthermore, federal, state and local governments, private foundations, corporations and individuals provide access to artistic activities for peoples of all races, creeds, and income levels.”

U.S. Conference of Mayors Strong Cities...Strong Families...for a Strong America Mayors’ 10-Point Plan

“...policy makers should direct state investment in Arts, Culture, and Historic resources as a way to help rebuild and sustain Florida’s economy and give our state the competitive edge to attract, sustain, and advance tourism, commerce, a skilled and creative workforce, jobs, downtown and neighborhood revitalization, health and wellness, key business relocation, and substantial returns on state investment.”

Associated Industries of Florida’s Economic Stimulus Package 2.0

1 Support state investments that fund the Department of State’s FY 2009 - 2010 requests for arts, cultural, historical, and humanities resources -- proven catalysts for economic diversification and development. For every dollar government invests in these resources, on average, \$7 is returned in taxes.

State investment in these resources should be a vital component of a comprehensive economic stimulus package to help build Florida's innovative economy, encourage business relocation, retain businesses, expand tourism, sustain and increase jobs, improve student achievement and graduation rates, decrease crime, strengthen health and wellness, revitalize downtowns and neighborhoods, and enhance image and quality of life in Florida.

Program/Project Grant Line Items: Florida Department of State Requests for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 as of 12/15/08:

Arts in Education Grants Program	\$ 700,000
Cultural Institutions Grants Program	7,000,000
Historic Museum Grants Program	2,000,000
Local Arts Agencies/State Service Organizations Grants Program	750,000
Science Museum Grants Program	550,000
State Touring Grants Program	300,000
Statewide Arts Grants Program	4,000,000
Youth and Children Museum Grants Program	270,000
National Endowment for the Arts State Block Grant	297,200
Florida Humanities Council (pass-through appropriation)	\$ 430,000
Historic Preservation Grants Program (Funded under Division of Historical Resources)	\$2,500,000

SUBTOTAL Investment Request: \$19,094,400

2 Support further economic development and jobs, and fund the ranked grant lists submitted by the Florida Department of State. Divisions of Cultural Affairs and Historical Resources for:

Challenge Grants Program (19 projects)	\$ 1,080,900
Cultural Facilities Grants Program (33 projects)	13,431,469
Cultural Endowment State Matches (32 qualified matches)	7,680,000
Historical Special Category Project Grants (50 projects)	13,259,921

SUBTOTAL for Ranked Grant Lists: \$35,362,290

TOTAL of State Investment Requests: \$54,456,690

Other legislative issues — see page 2.

For additional information on these legislative issues, please e-mail the Florida Cultural Alliance at FLCULALL@aol.com or call 561-848-6231. www.FLCA.net

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“World-class scientists demand the best in cultural, educational and recreational offerings when they’re deciding where to do their research.”

Dr. Richard A. Lerner, President Scripps Research Institute

“Policy makers across the country are finding that a relatively modest investment in culture frequently pays big dividends. Support for the production, distribution, and infrastructure of the arts is critical to success in tourism, attracting business interests, economic development, and quality of life issues.”

National Conference of State Legislatures

“74.9% of Florida visitors participate in cultural activities... It is important to understand the factors making Florida an attractive destination and to retain and enhance those factors.”

Florida Tax Watch Tourism Research Report

“New Cornerstone and other reports emphasized the role of arts, culture, and historic preservation in supporting Florida’s economy, helping advance key initiatives around the State.”

Florida New Cornerstone Revisited, 2007 Florida Chamber Foundation



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“Students with high levels of arts participation outperform arts-poor students on virtually every measure.”

U.S. Department of Education

“Arts education is a money- and time-saving option for states looking to build skills, increase academic success, heighten standardized test scores, and lower the incidence of crime among general and at-risk populations.”

National Governors Association

“This is a world in which a very high level of preparation in reading, writing, speaking, mathematics, science, literature, history, and the arts will be an indispensable foundation for everything that comes after for most members of the workforce. It is a world in which comfort with ideas and abstractions is the passport to a good job, in which creativity and innovation are the key to the good life, in which high levels of education - a very different kind of education than most of us have had - are going to be the only security there is.”

**National Center on Education and the Economy
The New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce's Tough Choices Or Tough Times**

3 Support the following key legislative issues that impact Florida's arts, arts education, and cultural resources and the citizens and visitors of our state they help educate, enlighten, and entertain.

The following legislative issues are not in any priority order:

- A.** Maintain all tax-exemptions for not-for-profit organizations to help them sustain much-needed quality services, programs, and jobs for the citizens and visitors of the State.
- B.** Identify and secure new state revenue sources to help (1) restore education funding lost in the previous and current years; (2) increase the state's financial investment in education; and (3) avoid additional cuts in education funding. A strong, sustained state investment in education is vital to better meet Florida's *Constitutional* obligation to provide a “uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality system of free public schools that allows students to obtain a high quality education.”
- C.** Identify, vet, and secure options to soften the implementation schedule of the Class Size Reduction requirements without any penalties for non-compliance until adequate state funding is provided for full implementation.
- D.** Protect equitable access and time for students to study the performing and visual arts (art, music, theatre, dance). These courses and programs must not receive disproportionate school and district cuts, be severely compromised, or completely eliminated from the curriculum to meet budget shortfalls. Research demonstrates that performing and visual arts education help improve student achievement, test scores, graduation rates, critical thinking skills, crime prevention, and workforce readiness for the new creative economy.
- E.** Continue to fund the annual appropriation for Arts for a Complete Education within the Department of Education budget.

Thank you for your consideration of these important state investment issues.

Arts and Culture — part of the solution
to many challenges that face our state — ask us how.

For additional information on these legislative issues, please e-mail the Florida Cultural Alliance at FLCULALL@aol.com or call 561-848-6231. www.FLCA.net

Endorsements (draft until the following endorsements and others are received):

- Center for Fine Arts Education
 - Florida Alliance for Arts Education
 - Florida Art Education Association
 - Florida Association for Theatre Education
 - Florida Association of Local Arts Agencies
 - Florida Association of Museums
 - Florida Craftsmen
 - Florida Cultural Alliance
 - Florida Dance Association
 - Florida Dance Education Organization
 - Florida Higher Education Arts Network
 - Florida Humanities Council
 - Florida Music Educators' Association
 - Florida Network of Arts Administrators
 - Florida Professional Theatres Association
 - Florida School Music Association
 - Florida Theatre Conference
 - Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs
 - VSA arts of Florida
- Plus others still receiving*