



Why a Florida Arts CCE (committee of continuous existence)?

Arts and Culture — Part of the Solution!

Study after study demonstrates arts and cultural resources are critical to help solve challenges that face our local communities, state, and country. Research proves arts and culture are part of the solution to build and diversify the new creative and innovative economy, expand job growth, increase student achievement, revitalize downtowns, sustain tourism, improve health and wellness, prevent crime, attract and retain new businesses, and enhance our quality of life.

Florida's Investment Declining

Since the Florida Legislature eliminated the Cultural Institution Trust Fund that helped support and sustain hundreds of not-for-profit and educational organizations' arts and cultural programs throughout the State, Florida's investments in and partnerships with this industry so vital to our State's economic diversification and development continue to decline. Florida's annual appropriations for matching arts and cultural grant programs have been cut by over 92% since 2006-2007. As of this year, Florida is investing only 14¢ per Floridian. We have gone from \$34.7 million in State grant-line-item appropriations to \$2.7 million in FY 2009-2010. Even at the state's highest appropriation level for the arts, the percentage invested in Florida's arts and cultural industry only represented a fraction of one-percent of the State's annual budget. Not having a dedicated revenue source and the turnover caused by eight-year term limits on legislators continue to present major challenges to sustain Florida's commitment to and investments in its arts and cultural resources. There will always be the need to constantly educate candidates and new legislators on the many critical roles Florida's arts and cultural resources play throughout the State.

Two Key Goals for 2010 Elections

GOAL 1: Identify leaders throughout the state to rebuild a strong and influential board for the Florida Arts CCE. We request of these powerful community leaders who would like to serve on the newly established and prestigious Board of Governors for the Florida Arts CCE the following:

- A.** They commit to the advancement of arts, arts education, cultural, historical, and humanities resources throughout Florida, not just in their local communities.
- B.** They contribute from \$2,500 to \$5,000 to the Florida Arts CCE every two years during each election cycle.
- C.** They are available to meet, until a face-to-face meeting is possible, through conference calls and e-mails. Together, working in consultation with the Florida Cultural Alliance's lobbying professionals, the new board will determine which legislative state candidates will receive Florida Arts CCE campaign contributions and/or endorsements in 2010.
- D.** They are willing to meet, call, or write targeted politicians, as needed, on key arts, cultural, historical, humanities, and arts education issues.

continued on page 2 of 2

Florida Arts CCE Goals for 2010 Elections continued from page 1

- E.** They will help identify and recruit other potential Arts CCE board members, and encourage others to make Florida Arts CCE contributions.
- F.** E-mail a brief bio and contact information (e-mail, telephone, and address) to the Florida Arts CCE at FloridaArtsCCE@gmail.com.

GOAL 2: Build the Florida Arts CCE campaign-contribution account to help make an impact on the 2010 elections. Encourage contributions of all sizes from individuals throughout the State who understand and support our industry's commitment to build greater understanding and support from Florida's legislative candidates and elected State officials.

Where To Mail Your Contributions

All contribution checks should be made out to Florida Arts CCE, and mailed to

Kelly Baker
Rampell & Rampell, Certified Public Accountants
223 Sunset Avenue, Suite 200
Palm Beach, Florida 33480

Florida Arts CCE Provides Leadership and Influence

State funding and policy support are critical to sustain and build the capacity of Florida's arts and cultural resources. They contribute to Florida's economic well being. The Florida Arts CCE serves as a leader to help the arts and cultural industry remain a player in the political arena of State government.

The Florida Arts CCE

- identifies candidates who demonstrate leadership to help sustain and increase the Florida's support of its arts and cultural resources, including funding and forward-thinking policies;
- makes campaign contributions to these candidates;
- endorses candidates and promotes these endorsements statewide;
- works in partnership with the Florida Cultural Alliance, Florida's official statewide arts advocacy organization, to coordinate educational efforts with policy makers.

Brief History of Florida Arts CCE

The late Robert M. Montgomery, a respected attorney and long-time champion of the arts, created the Florida ArtsPAC in 1992. The purpose was to help advance greater understanding and financial and policy support for Florida's arts and cultural resources among Florida candidates for State office and incumbents in the Florida Legislature. From 1994 to 2004, the Florida ArtsPAC made \$155,450 in campaign contributions to 199 candidates, and 13 committees of continuous existence. The last campaign contributions from the Florida ArtsPAC were made in 2004. It became a challenge to sustain broad statewide funding support for the Florida ArtsPAC. So, the Florida ArtsPAC stopped its activities until a renewed interest to reactivate its leadership role emerged in 2008. Florida Arts Council member Jim Shaw and others reinstated this effort by investing in the development of the Florida Arts CCE; and in 2008, 13 campaign contributions of \$500 each were given to legislative candidates.

**This is the time to rebuild and engage the Florida Arts CCE.
Please join our statewide efforts and make a contribution today!**

*For additional information,
contact Sherron Long at FloridaArtsCCE@gmail.com or 561-848-6231.*