



Support Federal Funding for the Arts

- We urge you to support continued funding of the National Endowment for the Arts. The arts represent jobs and economic development. In the current economy it is important to preserve, not eliminate, jobs.
- By law 40% of the National Endowment for the Arts funds are invested in the arts through the state arts agencies in every state and territory. In the current year the Virginia Commission for the Arts budget is 17% Federal funds from the NEA.
- The Federal funds are mingled with the state appropriation for the Virginia Commission for the Arts and are distributed throughout Virginia.
- In addition to the \$803,600 from the NEA contained in the budget for the Commission in 2010, \$1,105,500 was awarded directly to individual arts and cultural organizations throughout Virginia.
- The \$4.6 million in funds invested in the arts through the Virginia Commission for the Arts has leveraged over \$13 million from individuals, over \$17 million from corporations, and \$7 million from Virginia local governments.
- The arts organizations funded by the Virginia Commission for the Arts represent 8,900 jobs in Virginia. These jobs will not be exported to India, China, or even to other states.
- Small businesses employ half of the American workforce and are responsible for the majority of new jobs created in this country in the last 20 years. Arts organizations are small businesses that provide jobs for actors, musicians, carpenters, stagehands, box office staff, bookkeepers, and marketing staff. These jobs provide a middle class income for thousands of people across the Commonwealth. Arts organizations also provide work for local printing firms, graphic designers, and travel agents.
- The arts are a part of what makes communities livable. Museums and performance halls bring in crowds of people and attract restaurants and other businesses to an area, thereby contributing to the economic health as well as the quality of life of the community.
- The arts can be key to revitalizing small town Main Streets as well as major urban areas. Rural areas are often home to some of Virginia's most distinctive cultural attributes, such as the traditional fiddle and banjo tunes of Appalachia or the decoy carvings of the Eastern Shore. The growing cultural and heritage tourism market seeks these authentic cultural experiences. Small towns and rural areas across Virginia are investing in cultural tourism initiatives to rebuild their economies.
- Despite all of the good news about how the arts are benefitting Virginia communities, there is no question that the majority of our arts organizations are struggling in this challenging economy. The funding from the Virginia Commission for the Arts, including the Federal funds that come to the Commission, is vital to the continued well-being and success of our cherished cultural institutions.