



Virginians for the Arts 2010 Legislative Elevator Speech

It is a long-standing goal of the General Assembly to fund the grant programs of the Virginia Commission for the Arts at a dollar per citizen of the Commonwealth.

The arts community knows that in these difficult times the arts must share in the state budget cuts.

The role of state government in supporting the arts remains important to communities across Virginia.

Last year the Commission helped to make possible 39,943 arts events attended by over 7.7 million people, including 1.9 million school children.

The arts contribute to the economy by providing jobs, helping to attract young professionals, and helping to revitalize both downtowns and Main Streets.

Virginia artists and arts organizations funded by the Commission strengthen the work of Virginia teachers through educational programs that address the state Standards of Learning.

We are asking for your commitment to (1) protect arts funding from reductions that are disproportionate to other areas of state government and (2) support a funding increase to reach the \$1 per capita goal when the economy and state revenues improve.