

Significance of the Arts & Arts Education

Minnesota State Senator Dick Cohen



The Legacy Amendment

- Constitutional amendment adopted by MN voters in 2008
- Increased state sales tax by $3/8^{\text{th}}$ of 1% beginning in 2009 through 2034

Division of Money

- 33% for Clean Water Fund
- 33% for Outdoor Heritage Fund
- 19.75% for Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund
- 14.25% for Parks & Trails Fund

President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities

- Created in 1982, works directly with National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute of Museum and Library Services



Why the Arts?

The Facts In Minnesota

- **95% of Minnesotans believe the arts are an important or essential part of the overall education of Minnesota children.** (MN State Arts Board, 2013)
- Between FY2010 and FY 2013, the Minnesota State Arts Board (MSAB) and Minnesota's eleven regional arts councils awarded **\$2,636,625 in grants to schools**, which was a total of **236 grants to 388 Minnesota schools**. Those grants supported activities or projects that **engaged 124,812 young people. For example:**
 - Highland Park Middle School, Saint Paul was awarded \$ 14,300
Integrated art/English residency for 120 6th graders where students will explore race, identity, and photography as a narrative art and discipline.
 - South Ridge School, Culver was awarded \$ 77,856
Frank Theatre, a Twin Cities based professional theater, will partner to build students' writing and reading skills, performing ability, and confidence through the use of theater games and writing exercises.

Why the Arts?

The Facts In Minnesota, cont.

- Between FY 2010 to FY 2012, MSAB awarded **Operating Support grants to approximately 150 arts organizations** that:
 - **Served 3,476 schools;**
 - **Provided 23,837 activities for youth** (i.e. matinees, classes, workshops, etc.);
 - **The total audience for these activities was 2,325,102.** (Note: This audience number is predominantly, but not exclusively, young people)
- FY2014-2015 Funding for the MN Arts Board:
 - HF 1183, Omnibus Legacy Bill: \$53,350,000
 - SF 1589, State Government Omnibus Bill: \$15,028,000
 - **TOTAL: \$68,378,000**

Promoting the Arts & Arts Education

Nationally

- Nationwide, State Arts Agencies provide investments of more than \$64 million in grants to promote arts education; more than 9,100 grants have a **significant arts education component**.
- In a national sample of 25,000 students, those with **high levels of arts learning experiences earned higher grades and scored better on standardized tests**, regardless of socioeconomic status.
- An 11-year national study that examined youth in low-income neighborhoods found that **those who participated in arts programs were much more likely to be high academic achievers**.

What Can State Legislators Do?

- Remember: supporting arts in education benefits **ALL** students by promoting critical thinking, social, and other fundamental & relationship-building skills.
- Support bills that promote arts, history and cultural heritage learning opportunities for all ages.
- Encourage collaboration with State Arts Agencies.
- Review the research. Many studies have been released that show students who study arts in education demonstrate stronger overall academic performance.

For More Arts Education Information

- Americans for the Arts: <http://www.artsusa.org/>
- Minnesota State Arts Board: www.arts.state.mn.us
- National Art Education Association: <http://www.arteducators.org/>
- National Assembly of State Arts Agencies: <http://www.nasaa-arts.org/>
- President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities: www.pcah.gov