

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 5, 2025

Arkansans for the Arts Hosts Arts Advocacy Day at the Arkansas State Capitol *Celebrating the Creative Economy!*

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – Arkansans for the Arts is excited to host Arts Advocacy Day on Monday, March 10, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Rotunda of the Arkansas State Capitol. This free event will highlight the vital role the arts play in Arkansas' economy, featuring speakers, student performances, and breakout sessions on the creative economy.

The event will begin with student performances at 10 AM and a press conference at 11:00 AM with members of the Arkansas Legislative Arts Caucus discussing the importance of supporting the arts. Throughout the event, booths from various state-wide arts organizations, including Play It Again, Arkansas!, ARTx3 Campus, Creative Arkansas Community Hub & Exchange, the North Little Rock Mobile Library Rover, Arkansas Repertory Theatre, and the Arkansas Arts Council, will be available for visitors to explore.

Additionally, performances from groups such as the Arkansas School for the Blind Choir and Instrumental Ensemble, Hot Springs World Class High School Dancers, and Arkansas Thespians will be featured. Student artwork from Little Rock Central High School will also be displayed, showcasing the talent of Arkansas' young artists.

"We are thrilled to bring together lawmakers, educators, artists, and students to celebrate the arts and their impact on our state," said Jean Lacefield, president of Arkansans for the Arts. "The arts are a critical driver of economic growth, cultural development, and community engagement in Arkansas. Arts Advocacy Day is an important opportunity to highlight these contributions and ensure the future of the creative economy in our state."

This event emphasizes how the arts drive economic development, foster community, and contribute to the \$3.5 billion arts and culture industry in Arkansas.

Arts Advocacy Day offers a unique opportunity for local artists, students, educators, and arts organizations to connect with lawmakers, community leaders, and the public to discuss the value of the arts in our state.

About Arkansans for the Arts

Arkansans for the Arts is the only statewide advocacy organization dedicated to advancing the arts and creative economy in Arkansas. The organization works to ensure the continued success of the arts, which make up over 8% of the state's workforce and contribute \$3 billion annually to Arkansas' GDP.

For more information, visit <u>www.arkansansforthearts.org</u>.