

# 10 TIPS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR

- 1. Write to your legislator.** Ideal contact would be at least four times throughout the year.
- 2. Build a relationship with your legislator now.** Familiarize your legislator with your organization, school, program or issues by sending a packet of information. Mention successful programs and services involving the arts and arts education and the importance of public funding. Your legislator will be more able to discuss specific legislation if you educate them on the importance of public funding of the arts prior to session.
- 3. Inform your legislator that you will be sending information** pertinent to the legislative agenda for Arkansas's arts industry. Explain to the legislator the importance of the Arkansas Arts Council, Arkansans for the Arts, and arts education programs.
- 4. Let your legislator know if you are a participant** with Arkansans for the Arts and that you are aware of the Arkansas Legislative Arts & Technology Boot Camp; if you receive money from the Arkansas Arts Council, Department of Heritage, and/or National Endowment for the Arts as well as private funding from foundations or business support. Let your legislator know how you use public funding to serve your constituents.
- 5. Ask for your legislator's support** of public funding of the arts when he or she votes for the budget each fiscal year budget (normally in the spring).
- 6. Be sure to invite your legislator to your activities:** exhibits, theatre and musical performances, openings and receptions. Designate the legislator as a "special" guest. Give your legislator "in front of the curtain duties" such as introducing a performance or presenting a scholarship at a student awards banquet or give him/her a tour.
- 7. Seize the opportunity to show your legislators what you do** by adding the legislator's name to all mailing lists.
- 8. Provide artwork for your legislator to display.** Help legislators cover their offices with art to emphasize the vitality of the arts in their home community.
- 9. Get your organization's board wired** into Arkansans for the Arts advocacy network. Have their email addresses added to Arkansans for the Arts email action alert system and have them respond to alerts and other advocacy news.
- 10. Visit your legislator** during the 2022 Arts Advocacy Day at the Capitol in Little Rock.

Other ways to communicate your legislative message: writing letters to the editors of your newspapers, submitting articles to trade publications, attending public forums and meetings that concern arts issues and sharing your viewpoint.

## Find Your Elected Officials (links)

- [Arkansas House of Representatives](#)
- [Arkansas Senate](#)
- [Office of the Arkansas Governor](#)
- [Legislative Member of the Arkansas Legislative Arts & Technology Boot Camps](#)

-adapted from *Missouri Citizens for the Arts (MCA)*