



**To:** Arts Action Fund Members  
**From:** Americans for the Arts Action Fund  
**Date:** 18 November 2015  
**Re:** Bobby Jindal and the Arts\*

\*Note: Bobby Jindal suspended his Presidential campaign on 11/17/2015.

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**Name:** Bobby Jindal

**Party:** Republican

**Born:** 10 June 1971, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**Previous Public Offices Held:** Governor of Louisiana 2008-present; Member of the U.S. House (LA-1) 2005-2008; Asst. U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services for Planning and Evaluation 2001-2003; Secretary of the LA Dept. of Health and Hospitals 1996-1999

**Other Jobs Held:** President of the University of Louisiana System

**Educational Background:** Brown University (B.S.), New College, Oxford (M. Litt)

#### 2016 Presidential Campaign Information:

**Declaration Location:** Pontchartrain Center, Kenner, Louisiana, June 24, 2015

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.bobbyjindal.com/>

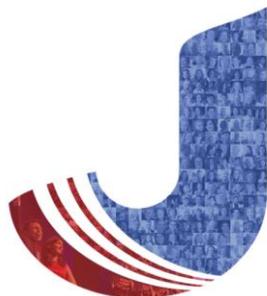
**Campaign Email:** [info@bobbyjindal.com](mailto:info@bobbyjindal.com)

**Headquarters Address:** P.O. Box 5101, Baton Rouge, LA 70821

**Headquarters Phone:** Unlisted

**Campaign Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/bobbyjindal>

**Campaign Twitter:** [@BobbyJindal](https://twitter.com/BobbyJindal) 227,000 Followers



## **Positions on the Arts**

### **Personal Arts Background**

- Jindal was moved by a religious musical and film that solidified his faith- "By the end of high school, Kent's simple fundamentalism had won out over the saints and rituals of the Romans. The exact moment can be traced to the intermission of a religious musical Jindal attended. The youth minister showed a "crude black-and-white film" depicting the crucifixion. 'Suddenly, God was tangible,' Jindal wrote. 'Seeing Christ's sacrifice convicted me of my sinfulness and my need for a savior... I asked seriously who was I that my Lord should suffer for my sake.'" (Source: [Esquire](#))
- Played songs from several Louisiana artists at his campaign announcement including "Callin Baton Rouge" by Garth Brooks. (Source: [Best of New Orleans](#))

### **Notable Quotes**

- *"Fundamentally, I don't think \$30 million for the federal government to buy new cars, \$1 billion for the Census, \$50 million for the National Endowment for the Arts is going to get the economy moving again as quickly as allowing the private sector to create jobs."* (Source: [CNN](#))

### **Policy Views on the Arts and Education**

- Jindal opposes Common Core Education Standards. (Source: [Breitbart](#))
- Opposed appropriating a portion of the post-recession stimulus package to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). (Source: [CNN](#))

### **Examples of Actions on the Arts**

- "The Jindal family has dedicated one wall of the Governor's Mansion to Louisiana children's artwork. Every month a new group of artwork is displayed to pay tribute to our state's young artists." (Source: [Office of the Governor](#))
- As Governor of Louisiana, Jindal proposed major cuts to arts funding in 2009: *"WWL-TV reported today the arts fund would be whacked a whopping 83% - effectively putting the program out of business. The arts, not health and education, are taking the largest cuts by a factor of 10."* (Source: [The LA Times](#))
- Approved capping state film tax credit program- put limit on tax credits for films thus making Louisiana a less appealing location for filming. (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- Joined with Electronic Art Inc. in 2011 to begin plans for a 94,000 sq-ft "Louisiana Digital Media Center", to house 600 video game developers and LSU's Center for Computation and Technology. (Source: [Louisiana Economic Development](#))
- First Lady Jindal announced winners of Louisiana Art Education Association's 2012 Youth Art Month Flag contest. (Source: [Office of the Governor](#))

- In April 2015, Jindal proposed incorporating \$12.8 million to fund the renovations of the art department's facilities at LSU. This addition to the budget may have been a response to the 2014 student protests of the poor condition of the buildings. The renovation would help recruit art students and faculty. (Source: [The Times-Picayune](#))

### **Congressional Voting Record on the Arts**

- Jindal received a C grade on the 2006 Congressional Arts Report Card (Source: [Americans for the Arts Action Fund](#))
- While Jindal voted *against* two amendments in 2005 that would have cut funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, he also voted *for* an amendment to cut the NEA, as well as an amendment that included nonbinding language proposing that the NEA be eliminated. (Source: [Americans for the Arts Action Fund](#))
- Jindal voted against an amendment to restore funding to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (Source: [Americans for the Arts Action Fund](#))
- Jindal did not sign any of several "Dear Colleague" letters in 2005 and 2006 that asked for more funding for the arts and arts education grants. (Source: [Americans for the Arts Action Fund](#))
- Jindal was not a member of the Congressional Arts Caucus. (Source: [Americans for the Arts Action Fund](#))

### **Arts and the Economy in Louisiana**

- The art industry generates \$5.5 billion in annual revenue which represents 1.1% of all business revenue statewide. (Source: 2011 [Creative Industries Profile](#))
- The industry has 4,271 businesses which account for 3.2% of all businesses statewide, those businesses employ 60,367 people. (Source: 2011 [Creative Industries Profile](#))
- The employees in the industry make \$1.6 billion in wages which represents 2.3% of all wages statewide. (Source: 2011 [Creative Industries Profile](#))
- The impact of the arts industry represent 4.3% of all statewide industries. (Source: 2011 [Creative Industries Profile](#))

### **Americans for the Arts Facts & Figures for Louisiana**

- Creative Industries: There are 34,157 people employed by 8,371 arts-related businesses. This represents 3.0% of all businesses and 1.5% of all employees in Louisiana. (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- Economic Impact: In St. Tammany Parish alone, non profit arts organizations and their audiences spent \$20 million in Fiscal Year 2010 and contributed \$2.7 million of revenue to state and local governments (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- In Fiscal Year 2016 the Louisiana Division of the Arts received \$2,240,935 in legislative appropriations (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))

## **Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts**

- During your time in Congress, you voted against cutting funding to the NEA but you also opposed increasing federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. As President, would you support increased public investment in the arts?
- As Governor, you provided tax incentives to the film industry to encourage investment in Louisiana. Would you support offering similar tax incentives on a national level to encourage artistic production in the U.S.?
- You have said in the past that experiencing a religious musical and film “solidified your faith”. In what other ways have the arts affected your life and career?