



To: Arts Action Fund Members
From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund
Date: 14 December 2016
Re: Donald Trump and the Arts*

*Note: On 5/4/2016, Donald Trump became the **presumptive Republican nominee** for President.
On 7/19/2016, Donald Trump became the **official Republican nominee** for President.
On 11/9/2016, Donald Trump became the **President-elect** of the United States.



Name: Donald Trump
Party: Republican
Born: 14 June 1946, Queens, New York
Previous Public Offices Held: None
Other Jobs Held: Chairman and president of The Trump Organization, Chairman of Trump Plaza Associates, LLC, Chairman of Trump Atlantic City Associates
Educational Background: After attending Fordham University for two years, transferred to the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania where he earned a B.S. in Economics



2016 Presidential Campaign Information:
Declaration Location: Trump Tower, New York, NY, June 16, 2015
Campaign Website: <https://www.donaldjtrump.com>
Campaign Email: <https://www.donaldjtrump.com/contact/>
Headquarters Address: Unlisted
Headquarters Phone: 646-736-1779
Campaign Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DonaldTrump>
Campaign Twitter: [@realDonaldTrump](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump) 17.3 million followers

Positions on the Arts

Personal Arts Background

- Hosted the televised reality shows "The Apprentice" and "The Celebrity Apprentice" for a combined 14 seasons. (Source: [NPR](#))
- Earned a star on the Hollywood walk of fame for producing "The Apprentice". (Source: [The Fiscal Times](#))
- Has authored 16 books on financial advice. (Source: [trump.com](#))
- Featured in films and TV shows including "The Jeffersons", "The Nanny", "Sex and the City", "Monk", *Zoolander*, *The Little Rascals*, and *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York*. (Source: [IMDB](#))
- Considered going to film school. "He said he *'flirted briefly'* with attending film school at the University of Southern California but decided that real estate was his calling". (Source: [Forbes](#))
- Owns 24 domestic, 9 international, and 5 commercial properties, some of which have been designed by top architects. (Source: [trump.com](#))

Policy Views on the Arts and Education

- Trump opposes the Common Core Education Standards. At the 2015 South Carolina Tea Party Convention in Myrtle Beach, Trump said, *"I am totally against Common Core."* And again when asked at the 2015 Iowa Freedom Summit in Des Moines, Trump said, *"That's a disaster. That's bad. It should be local and all of that."* (Source: [P2016](#))
- Trump supports a well-rounded education. In March 2016, *The Washington Post* published Trump's answers to a series of arts-related questions. The full text of that interview is at the bottom of this memo. *"Critical thinking skills, the ability to read, write and do basic math are still the keys to economic success. A holistic education that includes literature and the arts is just as critical to creating good citizens."* (Source: [Washington Post interview](#))
- In September of 2016, Trump announced a plan to cap itemized deductions. Such a policy would harm charitable giving to nonprofit arts organizations which rely heavily on private donations to fund their programs. (Source: [The Non Profit Times](#), [donaldjtrump.com](#))
- Trump opposes the Education Department determining how education dollars are spent, for the arts or otherwise. In March 2016, *The Washington Post* published answers Trump provided to a series of arts-related questions. The full text of this interview is at the bottom of this memo. *"The states are best able to determine how education dollars are spent. The federal government needs to get out of the education business and let the states, local districts and parents determine what is taught in our schools."* (Source: [Washington Post interview](#))

Examples of Actions Taken on the Arts

- The Donald J. Trump Foundation has given at least \$465,125 to arts-affiliated organizations between 1994 and 2010. (Sources: [Smoking Gun 1999](#), [Smoking Gun 2004](#), [Smoking Gun 2011](#), [Smoking Gun 2012](#))
- Trump has only made one personal charitable contribution between 2008 and May 2016: A gift of less than \$10,000 to the Police Athletic League in New York. (Source: [The Washington Post](#))
- When asked about funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, Trump replied, *"The Congress, as representatives of the people, make the determination as to what the spending priorities ought to be."* (Source: [Washington Post interview](#))
- Trump destroyed a pair of Art Deco reliefs that were part of the façade of the Bonwit Teller Building, which Trump tore down to build Trump Tower. The Metropolitan Museum of Art wanted the reliefs for its collection. (Source: [Hyperallergic](#))
- In 1999, in response to a controversy over a painting called *The Holy Mary Virgin*, Trump told the *New York Daily News* that *"It's not art. It's absolutely gross, degenerate stuff. It shouldn't be funded by government... As President, I would ensure that the National Endowment of the Arts [sic] stops funding of this sort"*. In fact, the NEA did not provide any funding for the 1996 exhibit that Trump was referring to. (Source: [New York Daily News](#))

Arts and the Economy in New York

- The total economic impact on New York State was \$25.7 billion. (Source: [Alliance of the Arts](#), 2007)
- Employment generated by the arts, both directly and indirectly, in New York State totaled 194,000. (Source: [Alliance of the Arts](#), 2007)
- Wages generated was \$9.8 billion. (Source: [Alliance of the Arts](#), 2007)
- Taxes to New York State generated \$1.2 billion. (Source: [Alliance of the Arts](#), 2007)
- Motion picture and television production generated a total impact of \$8.4 billion. (Source: [Alliance of the Arts](#), 2007)
- Nonprofit organizations generated a total impact of \$7.1 billion. (Source: [Alliance of the Arts](#), 2007)
- Commercial theater generated a total impact of \$2.2 billion. (Source: [Alliance of the Arts](#), 2007)
- Art galleries and auction houses generated a total impact of \$1.6 billion. (Source: [Alliance of the Arts](#), 2007)
- Arts-Motivated visitors had an economic impact of \$5.8 billion. (Source: [Alliance of the Arts](#), 2007)

Americans for the Arts Facts & Figures for New York:

- Creative Industries: There are 314,099 people employed by 52,451 Arts-Related businesses. This represents 5.1% of all businesses and 3.5% of all employees in New York. ([Americans for the Arts](#))
- Economic Impact: In Westchester County alone, non profit arts organizations and their audiences spent \$156 million in Fiscal Year 2010, and contributed over \$22 million to state and local governments. ([Americans for the Arts](#))
- In Fiscal Year 2016 the New York State Council on the Arts received \$46,174,000 in legislative appropriations. (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))

Actions on the Arts during the 2016 Presidential Campaign

- **Rotary Club in Manchester, New Hampshire**

On Monday, February 8th, 2016, Trump spoke at a Rotary Club gathering in Manchester, New Hampshire, where several Arts Action Fund members were present and attempted to ask Trump about his position on the arts. While he answered few questions, he did remark on his aesthetic goals for his proposed border wall with Mexico. To paraphrase Trump, he said "And I am going to have to add some designs to the wall because someday they might name it after me and I want it to look real nice." (Source: [Americans for the Arts Action Fund](#))

- **Arts Interview with *The Washington Post***

In March 2016, the Arts Action Fund helped *The Washington Post* reporter Alyssa Rosenberg develop a set of arts-related questions to ask presidential candidates. On March 28th, 2016, *The Washington Post* published the answers that Donald Trump provided below. (Source: [Washington Post interview](#))

Question: According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, in 2013, arts and cultural businesses were a \$704.2 billion part of the American economy, and produced a \$24.1 billion trade surplus. What policies do you think would best promote economic growth in this sector, and protect and expand this trade surplus, especially in light of continuing questions about access to the Chinese entertainment market?

Answer: As I have made clear on countless occasions, the free market will inform us on what enterprises will flourish and which ones will fail. In the context of my campaign, I have also said on countless occasions that we should make sure that our free trade is also fair. If Chinese entertainment markets are closed because of unfair practices, then we have an obligation to make sure that our companies and enterprises are not being taken advantage of.

Should the United States have a foreign policy doctrine that determines how the administration responds when artists, writers and journalists are detained, executed or kidnapped by foreign governments? If so, what should that doctrine consist of?

We do have a long history of taking care of American citizens when they are unjustly detained outside the United States. However, not all administrations have been as aggressive as they should have been. A compelling national interest is to protect American citizens wherever they might be. In my administration, this approach will be followed with the utmost earnestness.

There are many different tools a president can use to make foreign policy; what role would informational efforts and public diplomacy play in yours? What would your administration's strategy be for programs like Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty and the Voice of America? What do you think is the role of the State Department's under secretary for public diplomacy and public affairs? What about the role of Goodwill Ambassadors; who do you think best represents America's brand?

No answer.

How should the United States respond to Internet censorship by foreign governments?

No answer.

Discussions of education policy have often focused on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, or STEM, as a set of core competencies, though in recent years, advocates, including the Congressional STEAM caucus, have argued that art and design should be added to this list. What guidance would your Education Department give states as they begin allocating funding for arts education, which is considered part of a well-rounded education under the Every Student Succeeds Act?

The states are best able to determine how education dollars are spent. The federal government needs to get out of the education business and let the states, local districts and parents determine what is taught in our schools.

Does the federal government have a role to play in funding the creation and performance of art, or in making art accessible to all Americans? Federal funding for the National Endowment for the Arts currently stands at \$148 million. Do you think that funding level is appropriate? What would you request in your first budget as president?

The Congress, as representatives of the people, make the determination as to what the spending priorities ought to be. I had the great fortune to receive a comprehensive liberal arts education from an Ivy League institution. What is most important is that we examine how one-size-fits-all approaches imposed by the federal government have corrupted the availability and efficacy of liberal arts education. Critical thinking skills, the ability to read, write and do basic math are still the keys to

economic success. A holistic education that includes literature and the arts is just as critical to creating good citizens.

What do you believe is the proper role for the Federal Communications Commission in a changing communications environment? Should it regulate online content? What is your position on the commission's net neutrality regulations?

If one believes in the free market system, then it is hard to imagine how the FCC is helping things with rules associated with net neutrality.

In 2014, the European Union established a "right to be forgotten" for its citizens. Should the United States adopt a similar practice? How would such a right interact with the First Amendment?

Again, this is something the people's representatives should discuss and debate. The First Amendment protects free speech, the establishment and practice of religion, the free press, the right to assemble (and associate) and the right to bring grievances. Seems that pretty much encapsulates how would approach seeking the "right to be forgotten."

In 2019, copyrighted works will begin entering the public domain in the United States under the terms of the Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act. Do you believe that the author's lifetime plus 70 years is the proper length for copyrights to last? How would you balance the rights of creators and their families with the needs of archives, libraries and other artists who rely on material in the public domain to create new work?

Your questions seem to imply that the President can make law. Even though some Presidents have acted that way, I will not. The Congress will make this determination as is their Constitutional obligation.

Do the voluntary content ratings systems adopted by the movie, music and video game industries give parents enough information to make decisions about what is appropriate for their children? If not, is some sort of government system warranted?

I think you answered your own question. Parents should make the determination about what their children should watch or not watch. If they do not have enough information upon which to base those decisions, they should insist that their elected representatives act on those needs.

One of the president's roles is to host events that involve arts and entertainment. Who would you ask to sing the National Anthem at your Inauguration? Who would you choose to give a reading? Are there particular artists the First Family would invite to the White House, or arts you would draw attention to as president?

First, there is no Constitutional obligation for the President to do what your question implies. That said, supporting and advocating for appreciation of the arts is important to an informed and aware

society. As President, I would take on that role. As for identifying people to sing, read or invite to the White House, I will not identify them to save them from the media storm that would surely come. It would not be fair to them.

A significant part of the presidency is communicating with the public, so how would your administration approach the media? Would representatives of the administration sit in on interviews between government officials and reporters? Under what circumstances would you initiate leak investigations? How would your administration handle whistleblowers? Will you allow news photographers the same access as official White House photographers?

You are asking for answers to hypotheticals that cannot be answered until such time as my administration is in place and is able to assess security and access issues. As for transparency, it will not take much to improve of this administration. I promise a transparent administration with as much access as is reasonable for circumstances. As for whistleblowers, we are proposing a total revamp of the Inspector General system to include putting in place an Inspector General for the entire Executive Branch. I will work with Senator Grassley and others to make sure we protect whistleblowers. We want better government and governance.

The federal government administers a large network of museums: the Smithsonian Institution. What will your priorities for the Smithsonian be during your time in office?

I will work with Congress to address the most pressing priorities of the people through our budgeting processes. Appropriate actions based on circumstances will determine outcomes for all agencies under the control of the federal government.”