



To: Arts Action Fund Members
From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund
Date: 2 February 2016
Re: Mike Huckabee and the Arts

***Note:** Mike Huckabee suspended his Presidential campaign on 2/1/2016.



Name: Mike Huckabee
Party: Republican
Born: 24 August 1955, Hope, Arkansas
Previous Public Offices Held: Governor of Arkansas 1996-2007; Chairman of National Governor's Association 2005-2006; Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas 1993-1996
Other Jobs Held: Pastor, Writer
Educational Background: Ouachita Baptist University; Southwestern Baptist University Theological Seminary



2016 Presidential Campaign Information:

Declaration Location: Arkansas Community College, Hope, Arkansas, May 5, 2015
Campaign Website: <http://www.mikehuckabee.com/home>
Campaign Email: <http://www.mikehuckabee.com/contact-gov-mike-huckabee>
Headquarters Address: Huckabee for President
P.O. Box 3357
Little Rock, AR 72203
Headquarters Phone: 1-844-780-6785
Campaign Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mikehuckabee>
Campaign Twitter: [@GovMikeHuckabee](https://twitter.com/GovMikeHuckabee) 441,000 Followers

Positions on the Arts

Personal Arts Background

- Winner of 2005 Public Leadership in the Arts Award for State Arts Leadership presented by Americans for the Arts and The United States Conference of Mayors. (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- Huckabee grew up playing music, having received a guitar as a child and joined bands as a teenager (Source: [Mike Huckabee Exploratory Committee](#))
- "As governor, he formed his own rock band and with tongue placed firmly in cheek, proclaimed the new band's name to be "Capitol Offense." (Source: [Mike Huckabee Exploratory Committee](#))
- Mike Huckabee has performed on-stage with a variety of performers including *Alabama*, *REO Speedwagon*, *Grand Funk Railroad*, and Arkansas' own *Collin Raye*. Capitol Offense opened for artists ranging from Dionne Warwick and Willie Nelson to Percy Sledge and the Charlie Daniels Band." (Source: [Mike Huckabee Exploratory Committee](#))

Notable Quotes

- "*The arts aren't extraneous, extracurricular or expendable. They are essential.*" (Source: [Education Commission of the States](#))
- "*We know our nation is up to the challenge, but we must mobilize, inform, educate, and inspire education and policy leaders to recognize the vast potential returns that can be realized by investing now in arts education.*" (Source: [Education Week](#))
- "*The arts are critical, not only as a link to student productivity, but also as a key to a competitive workforce.*" (Source: [Mike Huckabee Exploratory Committee](#))
- "*The benefits are too numerous to mention here, but one significant consequence of participating in the arts is that children learn teamwork. Imagine a child in the band who realizes his instrument may not be the loudest – it may not even be the one playing the primary melody – but when the conductor calls for that one moment when that child can shine, it's meaningful.*" (Source: [2004 Speech at the Education Commission of the States](#))
- "*For every one of you in this room today who has ever heard applause for something that you did and did well, I don't have to tell you that self-esteem is not the result of somebody saying, "Here, here is your self-esteem, feel better about yourself." It is the result of being allowed to be good at what you are gifted to do – then self-esteem takes care of itself.*" (Source: [2004 Speech at the Education Commission of the States](#))

Policy Views on the Arts and Education

- In 2004, Huckabee became chair of the Education Commission of the States (ECS), where his chosen initiative was entitled "The Arts – A Lifetime of Learning". During his two-year term he frequently and vocally advocated for arts education. (Source: [ECS.org](#))
- "A tremendous body of evidence indicates a correlation between arts and academics as kids develop both the left and right sides of their brains. Through the arts, children are able to

increase their capacity for spatial reasoning and their ability to think creatively.” (Source: [2004 Speech at the Education Commission of the States](#))

- “Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee (Rep.), himself a musician, has been outspoken in his support for arts education on the campaign trail enthusiastically calling arts education a ‘*Weapon of Mass Instruction*’”. (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- In 2007, Huckabee told the Des Moines Register that the ‘*dumbest*’ things schools have done was cut arts and music education. (Source: [Youtube](#))
- Huckabee opposes Common Core Education Standards. (Source: [DailyCaller](#))
- Huckabee helped secure changes to Arkansas’s Fine Arts Curriculum Framework in 2008. (Source: [Arkansas Department of Education](#))

Examples of Actions on the Arts

- Huckabee signed a bill that required every public elementary school in the state to provide at least 40 minutes of instruction in music or visual art every week. As of June 2005, instruction increased to one hour each week for elementary schools, and participating teachers had to be certified to teach art and music. (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- Created the Future Art and Music Teachers Pilot Program, which gives students in grades 11 and 12 in at least six schools in the state an opportunity to teach music and visual art to K-6 students. This is perhaps the only state program of its kind in the U.S.” (Source: [ECS.org](#))
- Huckabee served as the moderator for ArtsSpeak 2012, an event at the 2012 Republican National Convention that brought artists together with top elected officials to discuss the future of the arts and arts education in America. (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- “The Arkansas School for Mathematics and Sciences has been expanded to include the arts, making the state one of only a handful offering a year-round, rigorous program for students gifted in the arts.” (Source: [Children’s Music Workshop](#))

Arts and the Economy in Arkansas

- 34,888 employees make up the creative industry that earned \$927 million in wages. (Source: 2007 [Growing Arkansas’ Creative Economy](#))

Americans for the Arts Facts & Figures for Arkansas

- Creative Industries: 3,693 arts-related businesses employed 15,064 people. This represents 3.0% of all businesses and 1.4% of all employees in Arkansas. (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- Economic Impact: In the Northwest Arkansas area alone, non profit arts organizations and their audiences spent \$45 million in Fiscal Year 2010 and contributed \$3 million of revenue to state and local governments ([Americans for the Arts](#))
- In Fiscal Year 2016 the Arkansas Art Council received \$1,660,391 in legislative appropriations (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))

Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts

- As Governor, you signed a law that made it mandatory for elementary school children to receive arts or music education every week. What kind of improvement in overall education test scores did you see in those children?
- As President, would you support continued funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities?
- Do you believe there is a role for the government to help incentivize the arts industry in order to strengthen our national economy?

Actions on the Arts during the 2016 Presidential Campaign

Statement about arts education at the Iowa State Fair ([watch the video here](#))

On August 15, 2015 Mike Huckabee answered a question about arts education at the “Soap Box” at the Iowa State Fair by saying he is “passionate” that every child should have access to an arts education, although he believes such a mandate should not come at the federal level.

(Source: [Arts Action Fund video](#))