

# Student Champions for the Arts

A Guide to Student Involvement in Arts Education Policy

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Passionate about the arts? Want to do something to support the arts but don't know where to start? Tired of leaving all the important decisions up to others? Want to know how kids and young adults can join the movement to support arts education?

You don't have to wait to become a full-fledged arts advocate. Whether you are interested in promoting arts education in schools, supporting the arts in your local community, exploring career opportunities in the arts, helping to make policy changes, or simply learning more about issues in arts policy, you can make a big difference, regardless of your age or experience.

The arts NEED advocates who are young, open-minded, excited, and eager. Like you! It may sound cliché, but you ARE the future. Yours are the voices your generation will follow. You can ensure that the arts have a long and vibrant life throughout the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

You can start now. The key is to take advantage of the wealth of resources available to you.

## Ten Things You Can Do for the Arts

- 1. Voice your opinion.**  
Submit a letter to the editor for publication in your local newspaper. Be sure to check your facts.
- 2. Contact a decision-maker.**  
Email, write, call, or visit your Congressman, Senator, State Legislator, or School Board Member regarding arts and arts education policy issues.
- 3. Start an on-campus club.**  
Create an arts advocacy/arts appreciation club at your school or join one if one already exists.
- 4. Volunteer with a community arts organization.**  
Donate your time and energy to a worthy cause and make a difference behind the scenes.
- 5. Get in touch with your Local or State Arts Council or State Alliance for Arts Education.**  
Ask what you can do to help the arts in your area.
- 6. Apply for an arts-related job or internship.**  
Explore your interests and add to your resume in the process!
- 7. Research the issues.**  
Stay informed in order to make your case more effectively.
- 8. Utilize your talents.**  
Put on a performance to raise awareness.
- 9. Raise money for donations to arts organizations.**  
Find out what they need and plan your fundraising strategy.
- 10. Build the audience of the future.**  
Attend performances and recruit others to join you—there's strength in numbers!

*Remember, what seems like a small step to you could be a giant leap for the arts!*

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For more information on getting involved, check out these Web sites!

## ADVOCACY

*Actively support and promote the arts with an emphasis on affecting policy or increasing government funding.*

### **American Music Conference**

<http://www.amc-music.org/advocacy/students.htm>

An advocacy site especially for students, with a link to sign a petition to congress!

### **Americans for the Arts**

<http://www.americansforthearts.org/issues/advocacy/>

Advocacy Toolkit with events and resources with links to voter registration, arts action lists, etc.

### **Crayola: Arts Advocacy**

<http://www.crayola.com/educators/advocacy/>

Helpful links to arts organizations and advocacy success stories.

### **Educational Theatre Association**

<http://www.edta.org/advocacy/>

Includes ways to start your own "Theatre for Life" advocacy campaign, plus issues and news in theatre advocacy.

### **Music Friends**

<http://www.musicfriends.org/>

Organization you can join to advocate for music education- free membership, sponsored by MENC, the National Association for Music Education.

### **SAA: Student Advocates for the Arts**

<http://www.studentadvocatesforthearts.org/>

Student group founded at Columbia University to provide a forum for students interested in arts advocacy, with chapters at many schools across the nation; or you can start a chapter at your own school!

### **VH1's "Save the Music"**

[http://www.vh1.com/insidevh1/savethemus/you\\_can\\_help/index.html](http://www.vh1.com/insidevh1/savethemus/you_can_help/index.html)

Advocacy kits to use in your community, donation forms, and more!

## CAREERS

*Plan your future: job opportunities in the arts*

### **Grammy In the Schools**

<http://www.grammy.com/foundation/gits/index.aspx>

"Guide to Careers and Internships in the Music Industry." Resources and links to websites for more information.

### **Music Achievement Council**

<http://www.musicachievementcouncil.org/>

Want to be a music teacher? Check out the Music Achievement Council's site for developing successful music education professionals.

### **National Symphony Orchestra**

<http://www.kennedy-center.org/nso/nsoed/students.html>

The National Symphony Orchestra's "Opportunities for Students" Web page features information about undergraduate and graduate programs specializing in performing arts degrees.

### **themusicedge.com**

[www.themusicedge.com](http://www.themusicedge.com)

"Launching pad for the ambitions of tomorrow's musicians:" geared for teen music enthusiasts.

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## PROFESSIONAL ARTS EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONS

*Organizations to learn about if you are interested in becoming an arts specialist*

### **American Alliance for Theatre and Education**

<http://www.aate.com/>

Students can join to learn about opportunities in theater education.

### **National Art Education Association**

<http://www.naea-reston.org/index.html>

Future visual arts educators-you can join!

### **National Association for Music Education**

<http://www.menc.org/information/infoserv/careersinmusic.htm>

Site about careers in music education

### **National Dance Education Organization**

<http://www.ndeo.org/index.asp>

“Voice of representation” for dance educators.

### **Theatre Communications Group (TCG)**

[http://www.tcg.org/frames/advocacy/fs\\_advocacy\\_tools.htm](http://www.tcg.org/frames/advocacy/fs_advocacy_tools.htm)

Tips on how to write a letter to your legislator, grassroots ideas, and an advocacy toolkit.

## COMMUNITY

*Support the arts in your own backyard: use these national organization links to find their local members near you.*

### **Afterschool Alliance**

<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/>

Features a how-to guide to help you start an afterschool arts program in your community.

### **Americans for the Arts**

<http://www.americansforthearts.org/services/research/directories.asp>

A compilation of directories for finding arts organizations and programs across the country.

### **Association of Performing Arts Presenters**

<http://www.artspresenters.org/advocacy/action.cfm>

Join the listserv, learn about legislation, and find instructions on how to write a letter to the editor.

### **DanceUSA**

[http://www.danceusa.org/our\\_members/community.htm](http://www.danceusa.org/our_members/community.htm)

Features links to DanceUSA members who are involved in community outreach in your state and lets you contact them to get involved; also advocacy news and issues.

### **National Assembly of State Arts Agencies**

<http://www.nasaa-arts.org/>

Links to your State Arts Agency and information on Arts and Learning resources and funding.

### **National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts**

<http://www.nationalguild.org/contents.htm>

Arts education service organization that provides music lessons and music exploration in local communities.

### **OPERA America**

<http://www.operaam.org/advocacy.html>

Sourcebook for opera awareness.

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Tips on how to write a letter to your legislator, grassroots ideas, and an advocacy toolkit.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

*Additional materials about arts education programming and more for your browsing pleasure*

### **ArtsEdge**

<http://www.artsedge.kennedy-center.org>

The Kennedy Center's arts education Web site.

### **Arts for Learning**

<http://www.arts4learning.org/>

Register (free), use their tools, and participate in discussions.

### **Artslynx International Arts Resources**

<http://www.artslynx.org/>

All kinds of links to arts information and resources.

### **Community Arts Network**

<http://www.communityarts.net/>

Exchange of ideas and reading materials about promoting arts in the community.

### **KCAAEN**

<http://www.kennedy-center.org/education/kcaaien/>

The Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network (KCAAEN) provides links to State Alliances for Arts Education awards, programs, and other resources for arts education.

### **Kennedy Center Partners in Education**

<http://www.kennedy-center.org/education/partners/>

The Kennedy Center Education Department program designed to build and strengthen partnerships between arts organizations and their local school systems, with a special emphasis on the professional development of teachers.

### **YouthNOISE**

<http://www.youthnoise.com>

Opportunities to volunteer, become an advocate, share information with other teens, or just browse.

## **POLICY AND RESEARCH**

*Stay abreast of arts education's role in the national arena and current events in arts education*

### **Arts Education Partnership**

<http://www.aep-arts.org>

Research studies that support the importance of the arts in learning, and links to many other resources.

### **National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)**

<http://www.arts.gov>

The national agency for supporting the arts.

### **United States Department of Education**

<http://www.ed.gov>

For all things education.



Formed in 1973, the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network (KCAAEN) is a program of the Kennedy Center Education Department. Its mission is to articulate and advance student learning in and through the arts by developing and providing arts education resources. The KCAAEN is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and the Kennedy Center Corporate Fund.

Stephen A. Schwarzman, Chairman  
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