



*Ohio Arts Council*

## **2010-2011 BUDGET OVERVIEW AND TALKING POINTS**

**January 2009**

A team of Ohio Arts Council (OAC) staff has prepared this document to 1) provide a brief overview of the budget process, 2) frame a rationale about the ways in which support for the arts is good public policy, and 3) provide key talking points that illustrate the fundamental role the arts and arts education play in economic development, education and human development.

As we recently discussed in our workshop session with Kelly Barsdate of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, our rationale and talking points form a “menu” from which you can pull the most appropriate ideas and points depending on the individuals and groups you are visiting. Furthermore, you should make the ideas and the expression of those ideas your own while speaking with conviction and passion for the very important arts and cultural sector work that is occurring across our state.

The OAC and Ohio Citizens for the Arts (OCA) will issue regular updates on the state’s budget challenges and the OAC’s budget process as the news becomes available. This document may change in response to those evolving conditions.

### **Budget Process Overview**

Governor Strickland’s proposed budget will be introduced by early February. After its introduction in bill form to the House in early February, the bill will be referred to the Ohio House of Representatives Finance and Appropriations Committee. The subcommittee on Higher Education will hear testimony from various agencies, including the Ohio Arts Council, as late as March and make its recommendations to the full House Finance Committee upon consensus. The budget bill will then advance to the full House for consideration. Following House approval, the bill will move to the Senate Finance Committee, usually by April, and the OAC will once again testify. The main operating budget is then sent to conference committee in June to resolve conflicts between the House and Senate recommendations. Once both houses agree to the conference committee report, the bill is reviewed by the governor. He can sign, veto or line-item veto any item in the bill. A three-fifths majority of both houses is required to override a veto. A budget approved by the governor and both houses will be effective July 1.



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**2010-2011 BUDGET TALKING POINTS**

**Supporting the Arts and Arts Education is Good Public Policy**

In these challenging times, it is vitally important that state agencies support the prosperity and productivity of Ohio's people and communities. Economic forces—from the decline in manufacturing and agriculture, to an increasingly mobile and older population—are prompting all states to seek innovative economic development strategies that produce results.<sup>1</sup> Maintaining a strong arts and cultural infrastructure is a fundamental and useful strategy in adapting to a changing economy. The arts and cultural sector also preserves and illuminates Ohio's unique heritage and its legacy of creativity and innovation. And it makes our state a more desirable place to live, learn and work; helps stabilize and revitalize our communities, especially our downtowns; and contributes to an education system that prepares our students to join the global workforce and to face the complexities of living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The OAC recognizes and understands the magnitude of Ohio's current economic challenges. The agency is committed to working shoulder-to-shoulder with Governor Strickland and the 128<sup>th</sup> Ohio General Assembly to strengthen the state's economy and education system and to ensure that even the most vulnerable and underserved citizens are supported and have opportunities to live lives of hope, consequence and productivity.

The state's arts and culture sector will continue to play a potent role in creating jobs, generating tax revenues, stimulating consumer spending and improving education opportunities for all young people.

**Key Talking Points**

**1. The arts contribute to economic competitiveness and recovery across the state.**

- Creating jobs by attracting and retaining knowledge-based and creative businesses. Ohio has nearly 18,000 arts related businesses that employ nearly 88,000 people.
- Public support of the arts through the Ohio Arts Council leverages private dollars. Every dollar of public investment through the OAC is matched by \$52 of private sector and other public dollars.
- Arts and culture drive tourism which generates revenue for communities and the state.
- Every major city in Ohio and many smaller communities have at least one initiative that seeks to diversify local economies, revitalize downtowns and improve the quality of life of their citizens through arts and culture.

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<sup>1</sup> Ellis, Emily; "State and the Creative Economy." *State Policy Briefs*, 1(1), 2008.  
[http://www.nasaa-arts.org/artworks/creative\\_econ\\_brief.pdf](http://www.nasaa-arts.org/artworks/creative_econ_brief.pdf)

2. **The arts and arts education cultivate the kind of imaginative thinking, problem-solving skills and innovation that Ohio needs to prepare our children for the global workforce of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**
  - The future of American innovation and state's and country's prosperity hinges on our students' ability to 1) develop the skills and abilities that are demanded by the complexities and opportunities of modern life and are required to sustain our role as the world leader in innovation, and 2) understand the values that are the basis of our pluralistic and democratic society.
  - The important work of building the capacities of the imagination is achieved primarily with an education in and through the arts and has implications to all fields of study.
  - The arts are essential to invigorating the teaching of and deepening the learning experience in other fundamental school subjects.
  - Cultivating young people's creativity through the arts has important implications including increased literacy and academic success, an inventive and skilled workforce, improved health and well-being, enhanced social and cognitive development, and cultural understanding.
  
3. **Every child and every community matters. Public support of the arts ensures broad access to the arts for all so that the benefits of participating in the arts can be realized, especially for underserved populations and communities.**
  - Access to the arts for all is crucial at a time when the ranks of the economically disadvantaged in Ohio will likely grow dramatically. The arts have the power to maintain people's hope for a better future and can help create more engaged citizens—at every socioeconomic level.
  - The future of Ohio is tied inextricably to the future of our children. Important tools for ensuring a better tomorrow – like the arts and arts education – must be maintained; Ohio needs its young people prepared to carry the state to future prosperity and success.
  
4. **The OAC is well-run, transparent, efficient steward of public dollars and a leader in its field.**
  - The OAC has already instituted several austerity measures:
    - Through lay-offs and attrition the OAC has **reduced staff by 21%** during this last year.
    - Reduced 1) travel, 2) frequency of conferences and workshops and 3) reduced grant categories and review panel sizes for various programs.
    - Spread critical projects over two fiscal years to contain costs.
    - Streamlined operations by utilizing electronic forms of communications, publications and application processes.
  - The OAC consistently produces work of high quality and as a result receives a top funding award each year through the National Endowment for the Arts with special commendations noted for its work in arts education, folk and traditional arts and underserved communities. It is recognized nationally as a leader among all state arts agencies. While the NEA funding award is a small part of the OAC budget, it is critical to supporting and preserving the artistic and cultural assets of the state and serving Ohio's citizens.

**THE ARTS—PART OF THE SOLUTION!**