



Ohio Arts Council

**Ohio Arts Council
2010-2011 BUDGET TALKING POINTS
January 2009**

Governor Strickland's proposed budget was introduced on February 2, 2009. The Ohio House of Representative's Finance and Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education will hear testimony from a number of agencies, including the Ohio Arts Council, as late as March and make its recommendations to the full Finance Committee upon consensus. The budget bill will then move to the full House for consideration. Following the House approval, the bill will move to the Senate Finance Committee, usually in April, and the OAC testifies again. The budget approved by the governor and both houses will be effective July 1.

The 128th Ohio General Assembly will continue to focus on Ohio's two most pressing challenges – the economy and education. Ohio has nearly **18,000 arts-related businesses** that are tracked through Dunn and Bradstreet. These businesses **employ more than 88,000 people**. The arts mean business. These creative knowledge workers need a strong foundation from which to grow their skills and interests. This connects directly to the need for high quality public education that includes the arts.

Key Talking Points:

The state's arts and cultural sector will continue to play a crucial role in creating jobs, generating tax revenues, stimulating the economy and improving education opportunities for all young people.

- 1. The arts contribute to economic competitiveness and recovery across the state by...**
 - Creating jobs that by attract knowledge-based and creative businesses.
 - Leveraging additional dollars through state support—every dollar of OAC funding is matched by \$52 of private and public sector support.
 - Driving tourism that generates revenue for communities and the state.
 - Every major city in Ohio and many smaller communities have initiatives that seek to diversify local economies, revitalize downtowns and improve the quality of life for their citizens through the arts and culture

- 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 21st century. The arts help...**
 - Cultivate young people's creativity which is shown to positively impact literacy and academic success, health and well-being, social and cognitive development.
 - Invigorate teaching practices and deepen the learning experience in other subjects.

- 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.**
 - The future of Ohio is tied inextricably to the future of our children. Arts and arts education are important tools for ensuring a better tomorrow. Ohio needs its young people prepared to carry the state to future prosperity and success.
 - Access to the arts for all people is crucial at a time when the ranks of the economically disadvantaged in Ohio will likely grow dramatically.